Statement by

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on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement

Thematic debate “Nuclear Weapons”

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Mr. Chairman,

1. I am honored to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

2. The Movement reaffirms its principled positions on nuclear disarmament, which remains the agreed highest priority for the UN in the area of disarmament in accordance with the Final Document of SSOD-I. The Movement remains extremely concerned at the threat to humanity posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible use or threat of use.¹

3. The situation in the realm of nuclear disarmament continues to be characterized by an alarming impasse. The Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) have not made progress in eliminating their nuclear weapons. The role of nuclear weapons in security policies of NWS has not diminished. NWS are modernizing their nuclear arsenals and planning research on new nuclear warheads, or have announced their intention to develop new delivery vehicles for nuclear weapons, as provided for in the military doctrines of some NWS, including the United States Nuclear Posture Review. The Movement is deeply concerned by this dismal state of affairs as a result of non-compliance by NWS with their legal obligations and unequivocal undertakings.²

4. The international community has waited too long for the realization of the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the launching of negotiations on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament. It has become obvious that the existing approach adopted by NWS, the so-called step-by-step approach, has failed to make concrete and systematic progress towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Despite the tangible and indisputable positive developments on nuclear non-proliferation in the past decades, forward movement on nuclear disarmament continues to be held hostage to misguided notions, including strategic stability. It is time to take a new and comprehensive approach on nuclear disarmament.³

5. NAM reiterates that the convening of the United Nations High-level International Conference on Nuclear Disarmament, as decided through the General Assembly resolutions, would provide an important opportunity to review progress made in nuclear disarmament and to further promote this noble objective.⁴

¹ Para 3 (first part)- NAM Statement General Debate. First Committee. 8 October 2018
² Para 3 (second part)- NAM Statement General Debate. First Committee. 8 October 2018
³ Para 4 - NAM Statement General Debate. First Committee. 8 October 2018
⁴ Para 5 - NAM Statement General Debate. First Committee. 8 October 2018
6. The Movement welcomes the multilateral efforts towards nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Moreover, the Movement takes note of the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 7 July 2017 at the UN conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination. It is hoped that, when entered into force, the Treaty would contribute to furthering the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.\(^5\)

7. NAM stresses the importance of enhancing public awareness about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons and the necessity for their total elimination, including through the observance of 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.\(^6\)

8. NAM once again renews its strong call upon the NWS to fully and urgently comply with their legal obligations and unequivocal undertakings to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear weapons without further delay, in a transparent, irreversible and internationally verifiable manner.\(^7\)

9. The Movement also calls on the NWS to immediately cease their plans to further modernize, upgrade, refurbish, or extend the lives of their nuclear weapons and related facilities.\(^8\)

10. NAM reaffirms the urgent need for conclusion of a universal, unconditional, non-discriminatory and legally binding instrument to effectively assure all non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances as a matter of high priority, pending the achievement of the total elimination of nuclear weapons. NAM expresses concern that despite this long-standing request by non-nuclear-weapon States to receive such legally binding assurances no tangible progress has been achieved.\(^9\)

11. NAM reaffirms that the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the assurance that they will never be produced again, is the only absolute guarantee against the catastrophic humanitarian consequences arising from their use.\(^10\)

12. Furthermore, NAM calls upon the NWS to reduce immediately the operational status of nuclear weapons, including through complete de-targeting and de-alerting in order to avoid the risks of unintentional or accidental use of such weapons.\(^11\)

\(^5\) Para 6 - NAM Statement General Debate. First Committee. 8 October 2018
\(^6\) Para 7 - NAM Statement General Debate. First Committee. 8 October 2018
\(^7\) Para 9 - NAM Statement General Debate. First Committee. 8 October 2018
\(^8\) Para 10 - NAM Statement General Debate. First Committee. 8 October 2018
\(^9\) Edited Para 11 - NAM Statement General Debate. First Committee. 8 October 2018
\(^10\) Para 12 - NAM Statement General Debate. First Committee. 8 October 2018
\(^11\) Para 13 - NAM Statement General Debate. First Committee. 8 October 2018
Mr. Chairman,

13. The Movement reaffirms its principled positions on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects. NAM believes that nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing and are essential for strengthening international peace and security. Non-proliferation derives its legitimacy from the larger objective of nuclear disarmament. Pursuing non-proliferation alone while ignoring nuclear disarmament obligations is both counterproductive and unsustainable. NAM emphasizes that proliferation concerns are best addressed through multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory agreements.\(^{12}\)

14. NAM States Parties to the NPT regret the failure of the 9th NPT Review Conference to reach consensus on a final outcome document despite the efforts made by NAM delegations, and calls upon the NWS to demonstrate political will to enable the 2020 Review Conference of the NPT to have concrete recommendations towards achieving nuclear disarmament, the ultimate objective of the NPT.\(^{13}\)

15. NAM reiterates the essential contribution of nuclear-weapon-free zones in furthering nuclear disarmament, and calls for the establishment of such zones where they do not yet exist, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the states of the region concerned, especially in the Middle East. In this context, NAM strongly supports the proposal tabled on the convening of a conference for the States of the Middle East, under the auspices of the United Nations and based on consensus, to negotiate a legally-binding Treaty on the establishment of such a zone. In this context, the co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East are urged, in fulfilling their relevant obligations, to fully support the successful convening of the conference and conclusion of the treaty.

16. NAM reaffirms the inalienable right of each State to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy, including the sovereign right to develop full national nuclear fuel cycle, for peaceful purposes without discrimination. The Movement once again reaffirms the sovereign right of each State to define its national energy policies. NAM stresses that any decision on multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle shall be made by consensus and without prejudice to the inalienable right of each State to develop a full national nuclear fuel cycle.\(^{14}\)

17. NAM strongly rejects, and calls for the immediate removal of any limitations and restrictions on exports to developing countries of nuclear material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes, consistent with the provisions of relevant

\(^{12}\) Para 14 - NAM Statement General Debate. First Committee. 8 October 2018
\(^{13}\) Para 15 - NAM Statement General Debate. First Committee. 8 October 2018
\(^{14}\) Para 18 - NAM Statement General Debate. First Committee. 8 October 2018
multilateral treaties. In this regard, NAM stresses that the technical cooperation and assistance provided by the IAEA in meeting the needs of its Member States for material, equipment and technology for peaceful uses of nuclear energy shall not be subject to any conditions incompatible with its Statute.\textsuperscript{15}

18. NAM also stresses the significance of achieving universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), including by all NWS, which, inter alia, should contribute to the process of nuclear disarmament.\textsuperscript{16}

19. This year, the Movement is once again tabling a draft resolution to update "Follow-up to the 2013 High-Level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament." NAM will appreciate the support by everyone on this resolution.

20. Finally, NAM reiterates that riding the world of nuclear weapons is a collective responsibility for which display of political will is essential. While NAM has and will continue to play its role actively to that end, it is high time that the NWS actualized their undertakings too.

Thank you.

\textsuperscript{15} Para 20 - NAM Statement General Debate. First Committee. 8 October 2018
\textsuperscript{16} Excerpt Para 27 - NAM Statement General Debate. First Committee. 8 October 2018
Thank you Mr Chairman,

1. Please allow me to congratulate you and your colleagues on your appointments in the First Committee Bureau. Singapore aligns itself with the statement delivered by Thailand on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Mr Chairman,

2. The United Nations Charter articulates countries’ commitment to “save succeeding generations from the scourge of war”. Disarmament and non-proliferation are thus at the heart of our core work here at the United Nations, and also at the heart of securing our common future.

3. Singapore is heartened by recent developments to defuse tensions on the Korean Peninsula. We were honoured to play our part in supporting efforts to promote peace on the Korean Peninsula by hosting the Summit between US President Donald Trump and DPRK State Affairs Commission Chairman Kim Jong Un on 12 June 2018. We welcome the continued dialogue between the DPRK and all concerned parties on the realisation of lasting peace and stability on a denuclearised Korean Peninsula. We urge all parties to continue engaging in dialogue, and to continue fulfilling their international obligations under the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions.
Mr Chairman,

4. As articulated in the Secretary-General’s Agenda for Disarmament, there is a pressing need for us to resume constructive dialogue on nuclear arms control and disarmament, and to also take concrete action to halt the use and testing of nuclear weapons.

5. First, as a global community, we must preserve and strengthen the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and work towards its universalisation. The NPT remains the cornerstone of the global disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Following the second Preparatory Committee held earlier this year, there remains a clear divide between Nuclear Weapon States and Non-Nuclear Weapon States. We hope all countries will continue to engage each other substantively to bridge differences of opinion ahead of the 2020 NPT Review Conference.

6. Second, we reiterate our longstanding view that there are multiple pathways to a nuclear weapon-free world. In this context, we believe that a realistic and complementary role for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) within the existing disarmament architecture has to be found. The Secretary-General has stated that the underlying “frustrations and concerns” over the TPNW “must be acknowledged and addressed”. Meaningful progress will only be made when all relevant parties join in the effort. We thus welcome the Secretary-General’s commitment to intensify efforts to facilitate dialogue between Member States to find a common path.

7. Third, all countries should sign and ratify the Comprehensive-Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), in particular the remaining Annex 2 states. Its entry into force is long overdue. Singapore supports the Joint Ministerial Statement on the CTBT adopted last month and welcomes Tuvalu’s signing and Thailand’s ratification this year. We urge States that have already signed and ratified the CTBT to refrain from actions that go against the object and purpose of the Treaty, pending its entry into force.
8. **Fourth**, we must make progress in establishing Nuclear Weapon Free Zones. Singapore reaffirms our commitment to the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Treaty, which entered into force over two decades ago. Singapore will continue to work closely with Nuclear Weapon States to resolve outstanding issues, and work towards Nuclear Weapon States’ collective signing and ratification of the Protocol to the SEANWFZ Treaty without reservations.

9. **Fifth**, we must support other initiatives that contribute to nuclear non-proliferation, such as the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI). Singapore is committed to the PSI and its Asia-Pacific Exercise Rotation activities. We hosted Exercise *Deep Sabre* in 2016 and the Operational Experts Group (OEG) meeting in 2017. This year, we also participated in the PSI High-level Political Meeting and OEG meeting in Paris in May, and in Exercise *Pacific Shield* in Yokosuka in July.

Mr Chairman,

10. We must not allow today’s complex geopolitical dynamics to hijack opportunities for constructive discussions and practical cooperation. In the words of the Secretary-General, “the existential threat that nuclear weapons pose to humanity must motivate us to accomplish new and decisive action leading to their total elimination”. Singapore looks forward to working with all to achieve this goal.

11. Thank you.