Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Indonesia

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Thematic Debate: Nuclear Weapons
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Mr. Chairman,

Indonesia reaffirms the statement made earlier on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

On 26 September at the General Assembly High-level Plenary on the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, we heard, one more time, strong calls from all corners of the world to eliminate nuclear weapons. It is clear that the overwhelming majority of the international community not only considers nuclear weapons as the greatest threat to humanity but also demands the states possessing these weapons to take urgent and concrete action.

Nuclear disarmament remains Indonesia’s highest priority.

It is in this context that Indonesia is an ardent supporter of the Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapon. We believe that the instrument could significantly contribute in the effort to break the ongoing stalemate in multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, as well as addressing the real threat of catastrophic humanitarian impacts in the event of detonation of nuclear weapons.

Towards this end, we stand ready to work together with relevant NGOs and civil society partners to ensure the early entry into force of TPNW and its universalization. This year, Indonesia together with Austria, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ireland, Mexico, Nigeria, South Africa, and Thailand proposes a new draft resolution on this matter, we seek all of your support for a consensus adoption of the resolution.

Indonesia’s commitment to the new Treaty, however, should never be interpreted as its diminishing commitment towards the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). On the contrary, as a faithful party to the NPT, Indonesia believes that the NPT is a cornerstone instrument in the prevention of global nuclear proliferation, in nuclear disarmament with the eventual objective of achieving total elimination of nuclear weapons, and in promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Balanced progress on all three NPT pillars is critical to preserve the Treaty’s credibility as well as to ensure a successful 2020 Review Conference.

On nuclear weapons free zones, Indonesia emphasizes the importance of a Middle East Zone Free from Nuclear and other Weapons of Mass Destruction, and urges the convening of the long-delayed Conference.

We welcome the recent ratification of the CTBT by Thailand and urge the Annex II Countries that have not yet signed and ratified the Treaty to do so. We underscore the necessity to bring the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) to enter into force.
Mr. Chairman,

We believe that, to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapon, there are some additional measures that need to be pursued.

Pending the achievement of total global nuclear disarmament, and as a state which has renounced the nuclear weapon option, we would like to emphasize that security assurances is one of the additional measures that should be concluded as a matter of urgency.

For countries that never took or have rescinded the nuclear weapons path, it is important that we are given unambiguous, legally binding, and universal security assurances by the nuclear weapon possessor States.

Indonesia believes that, given geographical limitations, the establishment of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones is not sufficient to guarantee the security assurances, and neither is the declaration by states that possess nuclear weapons. These zones and unilateral declarations may constitute efforts to provide security assurances. However, they cannot serve as a substitute for universal legally binding security assurances that are designed to convince states not to pursue the nuclear weapon option.

Indonesia, consequently, wishes to underline the urgent need for an early agreement on a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument to assure states that do not possess nuclear weapons against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

Indonesia continues to attach immense importance to the work of the Conference on Disarmament (CD). We deeply regret the long and protracted stalemate in the Conference. We believe that members of the CD need to show their flexibilities and go beyond their long-held positions to find areas of commonalities, as well as address the issue of trust deficit among members.

In this context, we welcomes the recent decision by the CD on the establishment and work of the Subsidiary Bodies. As an expression of our commitment to nuclear disarmament, Indonesia agreed to be the coordinator of Subsidiary Body 1 on the prevention of nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament. We believe that these small steps will contribute to the resumption of negotiations in the CD.

However, it is regrettable that the CD failed to reach consensus on the report of Subsidiary Body 4 on Negative Security Assurance. As a country that renounce its nuclear option, we would like to reiterate the importance of the issue for Indonesia. We that the CD will resume its work in 2019 at the earliest and agree on a balance and comprehensive programme of work to fulfil its mandate.
Mr. Chairman,

The international community’s collective wisdom against nuclear weapons benefits the NWS too. Because unlike the cold-war era, the world is today more multi-polar, complex and unpredictable. Threats also come from nefarious non-state actors in some places. It is a context in which the danger of nuclear conflict, either by design, accident or miscalculation grows.

The shift away from the centrality of nuclear weapons in the security doctrines of NWS, therefore ought to be a logical outcome. The emphasis should be much greater instead on strengthening multilateralism and working harder to enhance collective security, rather than on the modernization of nuclear weapons programs. The focus must shift from the principle of “undiminished security for all” to “increased security for all”.

Mr. Chair,

Progress in nuclear disarmament is unacceptably slow. We believe that pursuing nuclear disarmament would inevitably contribute to non-proliferation. Indonesia believes that a secure international environment and nuclear disarmament are mutually reinforcing. We need to redouble our efforts to achieve the shared goal of a nuclear free world. This is high time for all states to show their good faith in nuclear disarmament.

Thank you.