Statement by Indonesia

Thematic Debate: “Regional disarmament and security”

First Committee

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Mr. Chairman,

Indonesia associates with the statements made on behalf of NAM as well as ASEAN. We would like to additionally underline the following:

As crucial as the responsibilities of the states possessing nuclear weapons are in undertaking concrete and urgent elimination of their nuclear weapons, the regional organizations and groups have an important agency too to push for the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction as well as other disarmament and non-proliferation imperatives.

The value of regionalism lies in its inclusivity, rules-based nature and emphasis on mutual benefit and action. The regional countries can and some are indeed playing a vital role to advance peaceful co-existence with the principle of undiminished security for all at lowest level of armaments.

Indonesia has and will continue to lead as well as contribute to all meaningful measures that instill both regional and global peace and security. Nationally and through various ASEAN mechanisms, Indonesia remains determined to play its role effectively to that end.

Indonesia reiterates its commitment to preserve the Southeast Asian region as Nuclear Weapon Free Zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction, as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter
and the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ). We call for the full and effective implementation of the SEANWFZ Treaty, as reflected in the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together. The extension in the Plan of Action for another 5 years (2018-2022) is also positive, in this regard. A more positive response by the Nuclear Weapon States, however, is also needed to resolve all outstanding issues in accordance with the objectives and principles of the SEANWFZ Treaty.

Indonesia also supports other existing and more nuclear-weapon-free zones, including the essential and long-delayed establishment of such a zone in the Middle East.

Last but not least, we thank the UN Regional Centers for Peace and Disarmament (UNRCPD), including the Asia-Pacific Centre, for their important work. It would be remiss if we did not also commend the relevant NGOs and civil society groups for their critical activism and awareness-expansion on nuclear weapons elimination and other disarmament imperatives. Political will may not always be given but with sustained effort and working together better, opportunities can be generated to bring about the required change.

Thank you.