STATEMENT
BY
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AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
DURING
THE GENERAL DEBATE
ON
ALL DISARMAMENT ISSUES
FIRST COMMITTEE
74th SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

New York, October, 2019

[Check Against Delivery]
Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I congratulate you (Amb Sacha Llorenti of Bolivia), for assuming the Chairmanship of this Committee. Let me also congratulate the other members of the Bureau on their election. I assure you of the support and cooperation of my delegation and look forward to fruitful deliberations under your leadership.

Kenya aligns itself with the statements delivered earlier by the distinguished representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the distinguished representative of Zambia on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. Chairman,

We attach great importance to matters of international peace and security and believe that none of the global challenges we face can be resolved by any one nation, however powerful. Multilateral cooperation, both at Regional, Sub-regional and international levels is, therefore, imperative.

Kenya is deeply concerned by the widening chasm that separates commitments and action in the field of disarmament and arms control. The increasing production of weapons and their great destructive firepower, including nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction is a big threat to a peaceful and secure world.

My delegation reaffirms its longstanding commitment to nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, and a world free of nuclear weapons and remains unwavering in calling for their total ban.

Mr. Chairman,
The advancement of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) has presented enormous political, economic and social opportunities. To continue to enjoy these transformational benefits, it is important to maintain an open, secure, stable, accessible, and peaceful cyberspace. Threats to cybersecurity have a direct impact on the safety, well-being and human rights of all.

We must stop terrorists and criminals from appropriating cyberspace and using it to plan terror attacks, recruit and radicalize our youth, launder money and commit other international crimes.

In this regard, we welcome the increased attention devoted to cyber matters at the UN. The General Assembly in its 73rd Session adopted two resolutions on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in context of international security with a view to affirm the efficacy of international law in cyber space and to promote responsible state behavior in Cyberspace.

As a result, two consultative mechanisms – the Groups of Governmental Experts (GGE) and the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on the subject are now in progress. We welcome the envisioned close coordination between the two processes. The complementary nature of their mandates provides a great opportunity to augment the progress on the work already done towards the building of international norms in cyberspace.

It is our hope and expectation that even as the various deliberations continue, the use of information and communication technologies for common good by member states is encouraged and supported. Where necessary, providing research and data for guiding policies, laws and for
training as well as other capacity building initiatives at national levels.

Kenya remains fully committed to the promotion of international norms in cyberspace within the UN framework for the advancement of a free, secure, stable and interoperable global cyber ecosystem.

Mr Chairman,

My delegation notes with concern that illicit transfer and trade in Small arms and Light Weapons (SALW) continues to pose a serious threat to international peace and security. The effects of the widespread availability of small arms and their misuse have for long, contributed to many unnecessary conflicts especially in Africa.

These have resulted in the displacement of millions of people from their homes as refugees or as internally displaced persons. Terrorism, wildlife poaching, piracy, cattle rustling and other serious criminal activities that threaten international peace and security are also the consequence of the proliferation of small arms and their easy availability.

Mr Chairman

Kenya has taken important measures to implement the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons. These include strengthening the policy and legislative frameworks to address loopholes in the law and to ensure proper national stockpile management of small arms and light weapons. In addition, with support from international partners including the UN, Kenya hosts the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light weapons that remains at the forefront of regional efforts
to mitigate the risk posed by proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

We shall continue to play our part in this endeavor. This is why we accepted, with appreciation, the move by the African Group to nominate Kenya to Chair the 7th Biennial Meeting of States (BMS7) on Small Arms and Light weapons on 15-19 June 2020 to review progress in implementing the UN Program of Action on small Arms and Light Weapons and the International tracing instrument. Together, we can do more in current efforts to implement the Program of Action.

The United Nations must do more to collectively address the proliferation of Small arms and light weapons by ensuring that best practices, information sharing and best tools are applied in order to conclusively address this problem.

**Mr Chairman,**

In conclusion, Kenya looks forward to engaging further and more comprehensively on important issues during the thematic debates. Allow me to thank all member states for the goodwill expressed for Kenya's candidacy for the UN Security Council seat for the 2021-22 Non-Permanent seat as we collectively pursue a common, multilateral path towards international peace and security.

I thank you.