STATEMENT BY

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First Committee
"General Debate"

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Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you for your election as Chairman of the First Committee and the other members of the Bureau and assure you of my delegation’s full cooperation and support.

Cambodia would like to align itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and by the distinguished representative of Myanmar on behalf of ASEAN.

Mr. Chairman,

It is indeed a great concern that while conflicts are arising, multilateralism is weakening. This presents a dangerous situation, which requires immediate actions by the Member States to stop this trend. It is imperative that we all must renew our strong commitment to a complete disarmament without which the world cannot be safe and people’s lives remain in danger.

Cambodia appreciates the comprehensive Agenda for Disarmament launched by Secretary-General António Guterres in 2018 with some practical actions: “disarmament to save humanity, disarmament that saves lives, disarmament for future generations, and strengthening partnerships for disarmament”. Member States should take concrete steps and measures to implement this important Agenda.

Over the past few years, the world is facing security uncertainty through nuclear test incidents or the threat of use of nuclear weapons. Contrary to the efforts to totally eliminate nuclear weapons, some States are trying to modernize their system. Cambodia believes that Member States should establish a mechanism to ensure that nuclear weapon must not be used in any circumstance and we should make our utmost efforts to work towards achieving a legally binding instrument on nuclear disarmament.

Next year marks the 50th anniversary of the entry into force of Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Therefore, States should not only reaffirm their commitment, but also take practical actions toward nuclear disarmament. It is my delegation’s hope that the 2020 NPT Review Conference will produce fruitful outcome for the benefits of the global security and for all humankind.

The adoption of Treaty for Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) in 2017 set an important milestone in nuclear disarmament regime. Cambodia believes that TPNW does not undermine the NPT, but complements it and also strengthens other nuclear disarmament instruments.

Mr. Chairman,

Since its adoption in 1996, the CTBT still remains the long-awaiting treaty to be entered into force. While we are anticipating the Treaty to become universal, states should refrain from conducting nuclear-weapon test or any other nuclear explosion which would undermine the objective of the Treaty. While welcoming new countries that have just signed and those who have just ratified, Cambodia calls on the remaining countries to sign and ratify the CTBT without delay.

Cambodia joins other Member States to recognize that while we are strongly opposed to nuclear weapons, all States have the rights to use nuclear energy for development purposes.
Mr. Chairman,

To join regional and global efforts to eliminate weapons of mass destruction, Cambodia adopted law of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, bio-chemical weapons, radioactive weapons and chemical weapon. The law bans the production, recycling, transfer, and transportation of all kinds of these weapons in the country. Importantly, based on this law, the Royal Government of Cambodia has established the authority, National Authority for Chemical Weapons, for controlling and investigating the chemical substances as well as a laboratory for observing these substances.

The increasing of illicit trade of conventional weapons is still one of the biggest challenges that we are facing today. While recognizing the sovereign right of each country to use them, we must also ensure their regulation. By proper implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons, we can control the flow of weapons as well as to prevent them from going to the hand of any non-actor states.

The Ottawa Convention is of great important to Cambodia. My delegation highly appreciates the contributions of all States Parties and relevant stakeholders to this Convention towards a "Mine-Free World". Cambodia has received enormous assistance in this field and looks forward to fruitful outcome of its Fourth Review Conference to be held in Oslo in late November this year.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, we have the shared responsibilities to ensure that our wonderful planet is safe, our people are safe and our children are safe. And they all live in peace and enjoy development and prosperity. Therefore, let’s disarm to make our world a better place to live for generations to come.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.