STATEMENT BY

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ON

FIRST COMMITTEE GENERAL DEBATE ON ALL DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AGENDA ITEMS

DURING THE

SEVENTY FOURTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

15TH OCTOBER 2019
NEW YORK
MR. CHAIRMAN,

I request to be aligned to the statements delivered by Indonesia and Zambia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Group respectively. I also take this opportunity to congratulate you and the Bureau on your deserving elections.

As we envisage to galvanize multilateral efforts to eradicate poverty, focus on climate action whilst not leaving anyone behind, this international vision may not be tenable if the threat posed by nuclear weapons and other destructive weapons are not addressed through international security agenda items of the General Assembly and the First Committee in particular.

Looking back, the picture of international peace and security has changed very little and remains worrisome as compliance to disarmament by Member States continues to move at a snail’s pace. This has also been compounded by reduced assessed financial contributions to the United Nations in various categories by some Member States.

It is paramount that we all meet our obligations under various international treaties and conventions that ban, prohibit manufacturing, testing, trading and proliferation of all forms of weapons. My country Zambia remains committed to supporting all well intended treaties and protocols and I am pleased to inform this committee that Zambia was among a number of states that signed the TPNW on 26th September 2019. In the same vain, we make an appeal to those who have not signed yet to do so and finally ratify for the treaty to come into force after reaching the required ratification threshold.

With the prohibition of nuclear weapons on the horizon, allow me to quote President Ronald Reagan words, “Our moral imperative is to work with all our powers for that day when the children of the world grow up without fear of nuclear war.”
MR. CHAIRMAN,

The time is now for the world to completely shift the paradigm from armament issues and concentrate on SDGs that bind us to finding everlasting solutions that will help us eradicate poverty, climate change effects and other negative political, economic and social discourse related matters.

With the aforesaid in mind, the colossal sums of funds used in nuclear weapons research, manufacturing and testing could definitely save many lives if used for poverty eradication and health care compliances.

My delegation has not lost hope and is convinced that the Global Zero Campaign launched for no First Use Campaign by the nine nuclear weapons states, together with other disarmament initiatives will bear positive results as we set the platform for comprehensive elimination of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

These positive and collective disarmament agreements should not only be restrictive to nuclear and chemical weapons but all armaments that are manufactured with full intent to fuel instability of nations in all regions of the world.

As the United Nations heads towards the semi sesquicentennial deliberations to mark the 75th United Nations General Assembly Session, we should be getting closer to a world free from armaments that are designed to destroy the environment, human race and international peace and security.

I thank you.