STATEMENT BY

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DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY
Mr. Chair

Allow me first and foremost to echo on those who previously congratulated you, Mr. Chair and Members of the Bureau for your election, and I also seize this occasion to wish you success in guiding our work and deliberations in the course of this session, as well as to find common ground and last long solutions for most of draft resolutions and decisions that will be put forward for actions.

Mr. Chair

The Republic of Angola aligns its speech with statements by the Non-aligned Movement and African group as we attach great importance on the multilateral efforts towards the disarmament of nuclear weapons as they pose high risk and threat to humanity; so, we advocate the need for their total elimination.

Mr. Chair

As you may recall, in 1961, the UN General Assembly first adopted a resolution, which called upon the Member States to consider and respect the African continent as a de-nuclearized zone. In 1964, the
Organization of African Unity issued the Declaration on the De-nuclearization of Africa, which was subsequently endorsed by the UNGA. To this end, the African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty, well known as the Treaty of Pelindaba, was signed in Cairo on 11 April 1996 by 47 out of 53 African States. The Republic of Angola signed the Treaty on the same date and ratified it on 20 June 2014.

Most of the regions have Nuclear Weapons Free Zones; therefore, we appeal to the Middle East region and others to quickly embark on the same spirit.

Mr. Chair

On the conventional weapons, the Republic of Angola has been participating at the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Conferences of States Parties and trusts that the conference helps to call on States Parties and Signatories need to implement the Treaty fully and its universalization, through domestic procedures and activities, in this regard the Angolan authorities are fully committed to ratifying the treaty in the near future.
As you might all be aware, after 30 years of fratricide war, our country was strongly affected by serval types of land mines, thanks to the commitment of the government and partners, such as Non-governmental organizations, international community and Red Cross it was possible to conduct a successfully demining process to enabled the facilitation of free movement of people and goods, the rehabilitation of railways and roads networks and the boost of the agriculture and livestock.

Mr. Chair

On the same vein, the Republic of Angola together with 19 African countries, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Network on Explosive Weapons and other civil society organizations, met in Maputo, Mozambique, from 27-28 November 2017, to share knowledge and evidence on the distinctive pattern of harm caused to civilians by the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, and to explore steps to address this harm at a political and operational level.

Mr. Chair

The successful conclusion of the VIII Review Conference of the
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which took place on May 2010, succeeded in approving a Plan of Action with concrete measures to be undertaken by States Parties in the three main thematic pillars of the Treaty (disarmament, no-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy).

Despite the renewed signs of commitment to nuclear disarmament, there is still much to be done. More than forty years after the entry into force of the No-Proliferation Treaty, the continued existence of numerous stockpiles of nuclear weapons and the risk of nuclear proliferation keep alive the possibility of the use of such weapons, be it intentional, accidental or by miscalculation, with catastrophic consequences for all humankind. This possibility only increases with the emergence of new countries with nuclear weapons and access to explosive nuclear technology by no-state actors such as terrorist groups.

There is hope that such developments can be reversed as soon as possible, in light of the commitments made or reiterated at the 2010 Review Conference to ensure the credibility and future sustainability of the international nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime.
Mr. Chair,

The opening ceremony of the signing of the Treaty of Prohibition Nuclear Weapons, on September 20th, 2017, it was a clear illustration of the commitment of many nuclear weapons States and others to contribute greatly to the total eradication of nuclear weapons and for the international peace and security. Thus, the Republic of Angola signed the treaty during the High-Level week of the 73rd Session of the General Assembly.

Mr. Chair,

Angola believes that the International Community should continue to prioritize the nuclear disarmament process as there is an urgent need for concrete measures to reflect a clear commitment to the complete elimination of such weapons, following the obligations assumed by nuclear powers under the NPT.

Thank you.