Statement by
Mr. Pangeran Ibrani Situmorang
Counsellor
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia

on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement

Thematic Debate: “Nuclear Weapons”
First Committee
74th Session United Nations General Assembly
New York
17 October 2019

Mr. Chairman,

1. I am honored to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

2. NAM reiterates its concern at the threat to humanity posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons as well as the lack of progress shown by Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) in eliminating their nuclear weapons. NAM expresses concern at the plans by NWS to modernize their nuclear arsenals including new delivery vehicles, as provided for in the military doctrines of some NWS, including the latest United States Nuclear Posture Review, that set out rationales for the use of such weapons against non-NWS.

3. NAM is concerned that the strategic dialogue between the NWS has remained limited and there are no negotiations underway for further strategic nuclear arms reductions beyond the expiration of the New START Treaty in 2021. NAM calls for the renewal of commitments agreed within the framework of said Treaty. NAM also expresses its concern over the termination of the INF Treaty and its serious
Check against delivery

implications on international peace and security as well as efforts towards nuclear disarmament.

4. Reaffirming NAM principled positions on nuclear disarmament, which remains the agreed highest disarmament priority for the UN, NAM strongly calls upon the NWS to comply with their legal obligations and undertakings urgently, and eliminate their nuclear weapons totally, in a transparent, irreversible and internationally verifiable manner. All modernization or extension to their nuclear weapons related facilities should also cease immediately.

5. Pending the achievement of total elimination, a universal, unconditional, non-discriminatory and legally binding instrument to effectively assure all non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons must be concluded, as a high priority.

6. A UN High-level International Conference on Nuclear Disarmament, as decided through the General Assembly resolutions, should be convened. Noting also the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, NAM hopes that when entered into force, it would contribute to furthering the global objective of nuclear weapons’ total elimination.

7. Non-proliferation derives its legitimacy from the larger objective of nuclear disarmament. Both are mutually reinforcing and essential. NAM emphasizes that proliferation concerns are best addressed through multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory agreements.

Mr. Chairman,

8. NAM States Parties to the NPT regret the failure of the 9th NPT Review Conference to reach consensus on a final outcome document despite efforts made by NAM delegations, and call upon NWS to demonstrate political will to enable the 2020 Review Conference to have concrete recommendations towards achieving nuclear disarmament, the ultimate objective of the NPT.

9. Welcoming the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and other WMDs, which will convene its first session in
November 2019 under the chairmanship of Jordan, NAM calls upon all States of the Region to participate actively in this conference, negotiate in good faith, and conclude a legally-binding Treaty on the establishment of the Zone.

Mr. Chairman,

10. NAM reiterates its firm belief that non-proliferation policies should not undermine the inalienable right of States to acquire, have access to, import or export nuclear material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes.

11. NAM reaffirms the inalienable right of each State to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy, including the sovereign right to develop full national nuclear fuel cycle for peaceful purposes without discrimination. It is the sovereign right of each State to define its national energy policies. Any decisions on multilateral approaches to nuclear fuel cycle shall be made by consensus.

12. NAM recognizes that the primary responsibility for nuclear safety and nuclear security rests with individual states. Any multilateral norms, guidelines or rules in nuclear security should be pursued within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency. NAM continues to note with concern that undue restrictions on exports to developing countries of material, equipment and technology, for peaceful purposes persist; and emphasizes that measures and initiatives aimed at strengthening nuclear safety and security must not be used as a pretext or leverage to violate, deny or restrict the inalienable right of developing countries to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination.

13. NAM also stresses the significance of achieving universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), especially by all NWS, which, inter alia, should contribute to the process of nuclear disarmament. NAM expresses concern at the decision of the US to not seek ratification of the CTBT, as announced in its 2018 Nuclear Posture Review, taking into account the special responsibility of NWS for the realization of entry into force of the CTBT.
Mr. Chairman,

14. NAM is tabling a draft resolution to update "Follow-up to the 2013 High-Level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament." NAM will appreciate support by all member states on it.

15. Finally, while noting the statements by NWS of their intention to pursue actions in achieving a world free of nuclear weapons, NAM reaffirms the need for their urgent concrete actions to achieve this goal in accordance with their nuclear disarmament legal obligations and commitments. NAM remains committed to cooperate for the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Thank you.

Words: 858