



**Statement by
H.E. Ambassador Adiyatwidi Adiwoso Asmady
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic
of Indonesia to the United Nations**

at

**The General Debate of
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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

325 East 38th Street, New York, NY 10016 • Tel. (212) 972-8333 • Fax. (212) 972-9780

www.indonesiamission-ny.org

email: ptri@indonesiamission-ny.org

Mr. Chairman,

Let me first congratulate you on your election to the chairmanship of the Committee. We also felicitate with the members of the Bureau on being elected. My delegation assures you all, Mr. Chairman, of its full support and cooperation in the promotion of our collective agenda under your very capable leadership. I would also like to commend the Secretariat for launching the "Quickfirst" website. I am certain it will facilitate our work.

My delegation welcomes the restructuring of the DDA into the Office of Disarmament Affairs as part of the Secretary-General's commitment to revitalizing the international disarmament agenda. In this regard, I wish to congratulate Ambassador Sergio Duarte upon his appointment as High Representative of the Secretary General for Disarmament Affairs, and affirm the continued support of the Indonesian delegation for the work of the new Office.

Indonesia associates itself with the statement made by my delegation on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and by the delegation of Myanmar on behalf of ASEAN.

Mr. Chairman,

The future of multilateral diplomacy, regrettably, remains uncertain despite the earnest efforts of the majority of Member States. The CD has not been able to resolve its substantive program of work for almost a decade now. The 2007 substantive session of the UNDC ended without substantive recommendations. The open-ended working group on SSOD IV could not agree on the objectives and agenda of an SSOD IV. And the first Prepcom for the 2010 NPT Review Conference found itself mostly wrangling on procedural, rather than substantive issues.

It is imperative that lessons be drawn from the setbacks in the disarmament and non-proliferation field. The Secretary General sums up this grave situation aptly when he states: "The existing stalemate on these life and death matters is simply unacceptable. We need to break it through far-reaching ideas, and renewed political will that would propel us forward". All those hopeful for peace and stability in the world can only endorse this call. We hope that action in this respect will be intensified.

Mr. Chairman,

The NPT continues to play a crucial role as the landmark international treaty aimed at preventing the spread of nuclear weapons, promoting cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and furthering the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament. States parties should spare no effort to fully implement its provisions and pursue its universality. In this regard, those who are

outside the regime should be encouraged to join the treaty, rather than be rewarded with the benefit of nuclear cooperation.

It would be more logical if nuclear cooperation could be rendered exclusively to parties to the treaty. Any cooperation with non-state parties does not only undermine the NPT regime but also provides less incentive for those state parties willing to comply fully with the provisions of the treaty, particularly where those faithful parties are faced with incremental obstacles to pursuing peaceful uses of nuclear energy by the unilateral imposition of strict restriction on export of nuclear materials.

The NPT review process serves as an important opportunity for assessing progress in implementing the global nuclear non-proliferation norms. We hope that whatever was achieved in the first Prepcom will be built on in future Prepcoms in order that we might have a successful Review Conference in 2010.

Nuclear weapons and other WMDs, be they in the possession of States or non-state actors, are a threat to humanity. As long as these dangerous devices exist, the risk that they will be used, by accident or by design, will continue to haunt international peace and security. The best way to do away with the danger of nuclear weapons is their complete elimination. This eventuality is not beyond the world's reach.

However, despite encouraging signs from former leaders in some nuclear weapon states (NWS), some of these countries continue to disregard their disarmament obligation. Their remains the lack of leadership on the part of the NWS in this area. In general, we perceive that NWS are not doing enough to live to their disarmament commitment.

Hence, we will not relent in urging them to continue to take the necessary steps to achieve further progress on nuclear disarmament in a verifiable and irreversible manner, including perhaps by requesting the ICJ to render its advisory opinion on the nuclear disarmament obligation of states.

Mr. Chairman,

The debates remain focused on proliferation risks, as in the cases of North Korea and Iran. In this context, we welcome the positive developments in the Six-Party Talks process, particularly the agreement among the parties earlier this month, on a second phase actions for the implementation of the joint statement. Similarly we also welcome the recent agreement between Iran and the IAEA on a work plan to resolve outstanding nuclear issues. Both are encouraging signs that peaceful means are being given premium in resolving differences. We hope this trend will continue.

To most people, to deliberate about non-proliferation and disarmament is to look at different sides of the same coin. They are mutually reinforcing. Consequently, concerns about them should be addressed in a balanced, comprehensive, and non-discriminatory manner. This is the most sensible

and workable approach, and indeed the only one likely to make headway on both the disarmament and non-proliferation issues.

The challenges of today and the future will only be effectively addressed if they are tackled multilaterally with the UN at the centre stage, and in line with the existing multilaterally agreed conventions and agreements on disarmament and non-proliferation. Crucially, there has to be full conformity with international law, and the principles of the UN Charter.

On CTBT, we regret that it continues to languish due to the refusal of some NWS to adhere to it. As a signatory to the CTBT, Indonesia believes that the prohibition of nuclear tests, be they explosive or non-explosive, constitutes an effective measure towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We are aware of our responsibility, and will continue the process of ratification of the CTBT, which is underway.

Mr. Chairman,

We recognize the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free-zones as a positive measure towards the strengthening of global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In this regard, the States parties to the Bangkok Treaty (Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone), which are the 10 ASEAN Member States, intend to table a resolution at this session of the First Committee entitled "Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty)". We hope that our resolution will receive wide support from member countries.

The peaceful uses of nuclear energy under the IAEA regulations are necessary, particularly for developing countries, in improving the well-being of their peoples. We believe that the international community should not be skeptical of the activities of certain states—which are parties to the NPT—in building peaceful nuclear programs as long as they will not be diverted into military purposes. This is the inalienable right of all states, and it is fully guaranteed by the NPT. It is important to recognize that the IAEA is the sole competent authority for the verification of compliance with the obligations under the Safeguards Agreements and the Additional Protocol.

Mr. Chairman,

The concerted effort by the P6 and the thematic discussions under the 7 coordinators in the Conference on Disarmament (CD) are efforts that have been invested in the Conference in 2007. However, Indonesia regrets the inability of the CD to agree on its program of work despite the substantive discussions and informal consultations that have been conducted this year.

It is our view that each Member State should demonstrate flexibility in order to make the CD work. However, we also realize that it is imperative to address all core issues in a balanced and comprehensive manner taking into account the priorities of all Member States. Along this line, Indonesia hopes that the CD will agree on its program of work, and start negotiations immediately.

We feel strongly that the focus on the threat of weapons of mass destruction and their proliferation should not dilute the attention on the regulation and reduction of conventional weapons. The proliferation of these weapons, particularly the illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), continue to seriously threaten peace and security in too many regions of the world.

In February this year, the Government of Indonesia deposited its instrument of ratification at the United Nations, thus becoming the 153rd State Party to the Mine Ban Convention. By joining the Mine Ban Convention, Indonesia is once again manifesting its firm commitment to achieving a global disarmament regime in general, and to creating a mine-free world in particular. It is our fervent hope that this step will be followed by other countries that remain outside the Convention, most particularly in the Southeast Asia region, which is considered to be one of the most mine-affected regions of the world.

Finally Mr. Chairman, more than ever, there is a need for the Member States to muster greater political will, and intensify their efforts to overcome the impediments in the global disarmament and non-proliferation agenda in all its aspects. We assure every one of our support and cooperation in continuing to take tangible steps.

Thank you.