



**Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Eswatini
to the United Nations**

**Statement by
H.E. Mr. Melusi Martin Masuku
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the Kingdom of Eswatini to the United Nations**

**During the Thematic Debate of the
First Committee on Cluster 1: Nuclear Weapons**

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Mr. Chairman,

As this is the first time that we are taking the floor, permit me to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your able stewardship of our deliberations thus far. Let me assure you of our full support.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and Morocco, on behalf of the African group. However, we wish to add the following;

Total elimination of nuclear weapons remains the single absolute guarantee toward complete nuclear disarmament. Continued possession of nuclear weapons, constitutes a threat to global peace and the future survival of humanity. There exists therefore, an urgent need to rid our planet of the use or threat of the use of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

If we are to make headway toward nuclear disarmament and contribute to international peace and security, this is a prerequisite. It is for this reason that, the Kingdom of Eswatini welcomed the adoption of the landmark Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), on 7 July 2017. Eswatini considers this as an essential building block in the international legal framework in order to achieve a total ban of nuclear weapons.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, in our view therefore complements the existing nuclear non-proliferation regime, and we thus see the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as its foundation.

Similarly, the importance of nuclear-weapon-free zones across the world and to the overall objectives of the NPT cannot be overlooked. Nuclear Weapon Free Zones contribute a significant milestone towards achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation objectives, thereby enhancing global and regional peace and security and to this end, we reaffirm our commitment to the Treaty of Pelindaba.

We applaud the efforts of the Secretary General in organising the 5th General Assembly Plenary Meeting on the "International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons" held on 26 September 2018.

We therefore wish to underscore the importance of this Day as an integral part of the multilateral disarmament effort where the world reaffirmed its commitment to global nuclear disarmament as a high priority.

I thank you!