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STATEMENT BY

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**TO THE UNITED NATIONS
DURING
THE GENERAL DEBATE ON**

ALL DISARMAMENT ISSUES OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

OF THE

**72ND SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY.**

New York, 5 October, 2017

[CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY]

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to congratulate you H.E Ambassador Mohammed Hussein Ali Bahr AlUloom(Iraq) for assuming the Chairmanship of this Committee. Let me also congratulate and welcome the other members of the Bureau who will assist you in steering the work of the Committee on their election. I assure you of the support and cooperation of my delegation and look forward to fruitful deliberations under your leadership.. I also congratulate Ms Izumi Nakamitsu for assuming her new role as the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and her comprehensive briefing during the opening session.

Kenya aligns itself with the statements delivered earlier by the representatives of Indonesia and Nigeria, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement(NAM) and the African Group, respectively.

Mr. Chairman,

Our delegation reaffirm Kenya's longstanding commitment to nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and to a world free of nuclear weapons.. Allow me to reiterate Kenya's vision for a nuclear free world.

My delegation welcomes, the adoption and opening for signature of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 7th July 2017. This is the first legally binding international instrument that comprehensively prohibits nuclear weapons, with the goal of ensuring their total elimination.

The overwhelming majority of UN member states support this treaty even if Nuclear weapons states were absent during its negotiation and adoption. The treaty is a critical milestone in achieving the goals and purposes of the UN. This is why its full implementation and that of other international conventions and treaties banning nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction must remain a priority for Member States.

Mr. Chairman,

We are concerned by the continued increase in military expenditures on acquiring nuclear weapons or modernizing current stocks and their delivery mechanisms. The international security situation in the Korean peninsula over nuclear and ballistic missile tests has heightened fears and anxieties of a nuclear catastrophe. We call on all parties to embrace peaceful political dialogue and to avoid war-like rhetoric as there would be no winners in any nuclear confrontation. It would be a loss to all humanity.

My delegation greatly values the immense contribution and important work of the Conference on Disarmament, and that of the Disarmament Commission. We welcome the historic adoption of the recommendations on Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons earlier this year. We see this development as an indication that with sufficient political will, progress in disarmament can be achieved

Kenya strongly believes that disarmament and development are interconnected. Disarmament must be accompanied by efforts to build or rebuild economic, social, and governance structures that foster political participation and social integration and equality. Further, resources saved on disarmament should be transferred effectively to the programmes and efforts that require them most such as poverty alleviation, Health and Education and the implementation of 2030 Agenda.

Mr Chairman,

My delegation emphasises that illicit transfer and trade in Small arms and Light weapons(SALW) is a serious threat to international peace and security. Kenya has taken important measures to implement the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons. These include strengthening the policy and legislative frameworks to address loopholes in law and to ensure proper national stockpile management of small arms and light weapons.

The effects of widespread availability of small arms and their misuse, have for long, contributed to many unnecessary conflicts especially in Africa. These have resulted in displacement of millions of people from their homes as refugees or as internally displaced persons. Terrorism, wildlife poaching, piracy, cattle rustling and other serious criminal activities that threaten international peace and security are also consequences of proliferation of small arms and their easy availability.

The United Nations, must do more collectively to address the proliferation of Small arms and light weapons by ensuring that best practices, information sharing and best tools are applied in order to conclusively address this problem.

Mr Chairman,

Kenya welcomes deliberations by the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the context of International Peace and Security. We appreciate the efforts by the GGE to reach consensus on common understanding on existing and potential threats posed by the use and misuse of information, communication and technology. We must stop terrorists and criminals from appropriating cyberspace and using it to plan terror attacks, recruit and radicalize our youth, launder money and commit other international crimes.

It is our hope and expectation that even as the GGE deliberates on possible measures to address the threats, the use of information and communication technologies for common good by member states is encouraged and supported. Where necessary, research and data can be appropriated for guiding policies, laws and for training and other capacity strengthening initiatives at national levels of members.

In conclusion, my delegation looks forward to working with you during this session of the First Committee to achieve a successful outcome. We will comment more appropriately and comprehensively on some of the issues as they arise during the thematic debates.

I thank you.