



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations
866 U.N. Plaza, Rm 304, New York, NY 10017

STATEMENT

BY

**AMB. ANTHONY ANDANJE
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO UNITED NATIONS
IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

DURING THE

GENERAL DEBATE

OF THE

FIRST COMMITTEE

ON

**ALL DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
AGENDA ITEMS (ITEMS 87 - 104)**

Monday, October 13, 2014
United Nations, New York

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Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by congratulating you on your election as Chairman of the First Committee. I assure you of my delegation's support and co-operation.

My delegation fully aligns itself with the statements made by the distinguished representatives of Indonesia and Nigeria, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Group, respectively.

Mr. Chairman,

Kenya attaches great importance to matters of international peace and security. We firmly believe that none of the global challenges we face today can be resolved by any one nation, however powerful. Multilateral co-operation is therefore, imperative.

I reiterate Kenya's commitment to strengthening peace and security through nuclear disarmament.

The ongoing General Debate provides us with the opportunity to reflect on developments on the disarmament and international security agenda. More significantly, I believe we must assess where we stand on the key issues, what we need to do to reinvigorate the disarmament machinery, and to consider the new approaches to advancing our objectives.

Mr. Chairman,

This year we have marked some important milestones. It is exactly 44 years since the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) came into force. More recently, on September 26, 2014, we commemorated the International Day for the Global Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. However, we have achieved nothing in nuclear disarmament that could underline the significance of honoring these events.

Military spending is not actually being cut at all, but increasing at an alarming rate. Kenya is convinced that the NPT requires disarmament and not increased armament. However, the modernization of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems, the pursuit of pre-emptive strike doctrines and the threat of use of nuclear weapons does not create an atmosphere conducive to nuclear disarmament. Despite the rhetoric on arms reduction initiatives, the reliance on nuclear weapons attests to the central role they continue to play in security policies. This is counter-productive.

It puts into question the implementation of the NPT Action Plan adopted at the 2010 NPT Review Conference, especially the disarmament pillar.

The nuclear weapon states have made little or no attempts to fulfill their obligations to disarm under Article 6 of the Treaty. Others are non-signatories despite our appeals to them sign on.

Considering that the Third Session of the NPT Preparatory Committee held in April 2014 was inconclusive, the prospects for a favorable outcome in the 2015 Review Conference seem distant. It is unlikely that the Action Plan will have been implemented before the Conference. This raises the question of the credibility of the NPT regime. These are some of the realities we believe we have to address. Not doing so would be delusional.

Mr. Chairman,

Kenya is fully committed to the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate Small Arms and Light Weapons. These weapons pose a grave threat to peace and security in our region. We believe they deserve our attention.

My delegation welcomes the recent adoption by consensus of the Outcome Document of the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States. We urge Member States, particularly the major arms producers, to ensure that the sale of small arms and light weapons is limited to Governments or to entities duly authorized by them.

I am pleased to report that Kenya has taken practical measures, that we believe will contribute significantly to the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national level.

Clear legislative and administrative procedures for arms management and control have been put in place. In addition, a policy framework has been developed in accordance with the provisions of the Programme of Action on guidelines on legislative, institutional and regulatory measures governing the control and management of small arms and light weapons. We also have an elaborate centralized stockpile management system for purposes of accountability.

Despite these efforts, Kenya is deeply concerned with the enormous security, and socio-economic consequences arising from the illicit

manufacture, transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons. These arms still end up in the hands of extremists who are continuing to carry out acts of terrorism on our continent.

Kenya underlines the need for a balanced, full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action, and the International Tracing Instrument, and stresses the importance of international co-operation and assistance to combat the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

Kenya believes that the conferences that have been held over the last two years on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons use are a small step but nonetheless a significant one. They add a new dimension to the debate on nuclear disarmament. Many delegations will recall that not too long ago in the Conference on Disarmament (CD), a refrain heard quite often was: ***"If the CD is unable to live upto to its mandate, we will move the disarmament negotiations elsewhere"***.

However, since the Oslo and Nayarit Conferences, there seems to be a change of heart. The CD is now the preferred multilateral fora for pursuing multilateral nuclear disarmament. These are some of the inescapable contradictions that we have to live with.

The fact that there is overwhelming support by Governments, NGOs and Civil Society groups for the humanitarian consequences conferences demonstrates the growing opposition to the constant threat nuclear weapons pose. People are beginning to stand up. Very soon they will say *"enough"*. Every citizen of the world community has the right and duty to oppose the existence of nuclear weapons. Naturally, the talk of banning nuclear weapons is the next logical step. It should not cause anxiety.

It is the conviction of my delegation that the humanitarian conferences can help de-legitimize nuclear weapons not only in the minds of people but also the mainstream media.

Kenya therefore, looks forward to participating in the Conference on the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons to be held in Austria later this year. My delegation urges those nuclear weapon states that have stayed away from past conferences to summon the courage and participate in this important endeavour.

It is a collective responsibility that requires states to show leadership.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation welcomes the establishment of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Developments in the field of Information and Telecommunications in the context of international security. While we appreciate the need to reach consensus on common understandings, on the existing and potential threats in the spheres of information security and possible measures to address those threats, it is our hope that the use of information and communication technologies by States will not be undermined.

In conclusion, **Mr. Chairman**, I would like to emphasize that in order to achieve our goals in nuclear disarmament and international security, it will require genuine commitment to build on our shared interests. There are opportunities and constraints that accompany multilateralism but we must realize the potential it offers to advance national security interests. However, we cannot achieve this without addressing the need to demilitarize international relations, reduce military budgets and end the creation of a new generation of weapons in space. If we fail to do so, disarmament will be just a pipe-dream.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation looks forward to working with you and others to bring this session of the First Committee to a successful conclusion. We will comment more comprehensively on some of the issues before us during the thematic debate.

Thank you for your attention.