



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations

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STATEMENT

BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT NAIROBI (UNON)**

TO THE

FIRST COMMITTEE

ON

**AGENDA ITEMS 89-105:
"GENERAL DEBATE ON ALL DISARMAMENT
AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AGENDA ITEMS"**

Monday, October 10, 2016
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Mr. Chairman,

I would like to begin by congratulating you on your assumption of the Chairmanship of this session of our Committee.

I assure you of the support and cooperation of my delegation. We look forward to fruitful deliberations under your leadership.

Kenya aligns herself with the statements delivered early last week by the representatives of Indonesia and Nigeria, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Group, respectively.

Mr. Chairman,

Considering that many of the concerns and interests of my delegation have been comprehensively highlighted in the statements by the Non-Aligned movement and the African Group, in the interest of brevity, I will spare everyone the agony of repetition.

Nevertheless, I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm Kenya's longstanding commitment to nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the achievement of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Unfortunately, nuclear disarmament has stalled. This is reflected by the 20-year paralysis in the Conference on Disarmament (CD). The CD's continued existence as a meaningful international forum for nuclear disarmament has been irretrievably undermined.

The CD Member States are unable to agree on what are the most pressing arms control measures and all other urgent matters. There is no forward movement on any front.

There is a total lack of progress on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, a fact underlined by the failure of the NPT Review Conference in May, 2015.

Nuclear Weapon States that are party to the Treaty have not demonstrated any willingness to honour their obligations. Good faith is absent.

As regards the Convention on the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, some Nuclear Weapon States have not yet signed the Treaty, whereas the other remaining States, listed in Annex 2 of the Treaty have yet to join despite the impassioned appeal by Mr. Ban Ki-moon last month.

Mr. Chairman,

Kenya considers these developments depressing.

We are convinced the situation is further compounded by the growing chasm between the rhetorical façade of commitment to disarmament and reality.

It is indeed surreal.

Military expenditures are being ramped up to maintain and modernize nuclear weapons. New land, sea and air strategic delivery systems are being built. We see an unprecedented expansion of nuclear capabilities.

This is in spite of the fact that the current global stockpile of nuclear weapons is powerful enough to obliterate the world.

Clearly, what we are seeing underway is an arms race and not disarmament. Nuclear Weapon States are determined to maintain the status quo.

And above all, their overwhelming military dominance.

The developments outlined are taking place against the background of a deepening geopolitical crisis, increasing tension and confrontation in the world.

Policies prioritizing the pre-emptive use of nuclear weapons are being promoted and are an integral part of the global strategy of military alliances.

It is apparent, our efforts to advance our collective nuclear disarmament goals are receding.

Mr. Chairman,

Today, the world faces innumerable challenges. Kenya believes there is absolutely no justification in spending obscene amounts of money – trillions of dollars when there are many issues of higher priority that deserve our attention.

An issue such as climate change is an immediate emergency. It has a far-reaching global impact both geographically and for generations to come.

The refugee crisis that is the cause of social dislocation in some regions of the world is another urgent problem. Global inequality is reaching new extremes. OXFAM recently pointed out that, ***"Power and Privilege is being used to skew the economic system to increase the gap between the richest and the rest"***.

My delegation believes disarmament and development are inter-related. Not only can disarmament further the cause of development; we are convinced development can further the cause of disarmament.

We must not succumb to the relentless pressure to increase military expenditure at the expense of social programmes, education and health. Resources spent for weapons are also a drain to national economies.

The release of resources from military spending should be used to address social priorities such as the growing gap of inequality, the underlying economic and social causes of conflict, and climate change.

I thank you.