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Statement by

H.E. Dr. Desra Percaya, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia

on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

at the Thematic Debate of the First Committee
Other Weapons of Mass Destruction Cluster

New York, 21October 2013

Mr. Chairman,

I feel great privilege in speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

While being mindful of the threat posed to mankind by existing weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, and stressing the need for total elimination of such weapons, NAM underlines the need to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction, and supports the necessity of monitoring the situation and triggering international action, as required.

Recalling the long-standing determination of the international community to achieve the effective prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical and biological weapons, NAM renews its previous calls upon all States to observe strictly the principles and objectives of the 1925 Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, and reaffirms the vital necessity of upholding its provisions. NAM also calls upon those States that continue to maintain reservations to the Protocol to withdraw them.

NAM States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC):

- call for the universalization of the Convention as well as its full, balanced, effective and non-discriminatory implementation.
- reaffirm the importance of international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention and underlines the importance of effective implementation of the decision on the components of an agreed framework for the full implementation of article XI of the Convention.
- while stressing that cases of non-compliance endanger the credibility and integrity of the Convention, strongly call upon all concerned possessor States to take every necessary measure to ensure their strict compliance with their obligations under the Convention and the decision on the Final Extended Deadline that was adopted by the 16th Session of the Conference of States Parties, according to which the destruction of remaining chemical weapons shall be completed in the shortest time possible, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

- while expressing disappointment that, to date, the obligation of total destruction of all chemical weapons has not been met, reaffirm that verification of the destruction of all the remaining chemical weapons stockpiles, as well as old chemical weapons and abandoned chemical weapons, should continue to be the top priorities of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).
- declare their firm conviction that international support to provide special care and assistance to all victims suffering the effects of exposure to chemical weapons is an immediate humanitarian need requiring urgent attention by the States parties and the OPCW, and in this context welcome the establishment, at the sixteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention, of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons and a voluntary Trust Fund for this purpose.

NAM States Parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC):

- reaffirm that the possibility of any use of bacteriological agents and toxins as weapons should be completely excluded, and reaffirm the conviction that such use would be repugnant to the conscience of humankind.
- call for balanced, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all its provisions and stress the significance of the establishment of its verification mechanism. The lack of a verification system continues to challenge the effectiveness of the Convention.
- recognize the particular importance of strengthening the Convention through multilateral negotiations for a non-discriminatory legally binding protocol, and universal adherence to the Convention, and in this regard, urge the party rejecting the resumption of the negotiations for such a protocol to reconsider its policy towards this Convention in light of persistent requests by other parties.
- call for the implementation of the decisions related to the Article X of the BTWC, especially by emphasizing the need for enhancing international cooperation, assistance and exchanges in toxins, biological agents equipment, science and technology for peaceful purposes.

Mr. Chairman,

In the context of resolutions adopted by the Security Council in the areas covered by multilateral WMD treaties, including resolutions 1540 (2004), 1673 (2006), 1810 (2008) and 1977 (2011), NAM underlines the need to ensure that any action by the Security Council does not undermine the UN Charter, existing multilateral treaties on weapons of mass destruction, and international Organizations established in this regard, as well as the role of the General Assembly. NAM cautions against the continuing practice of the Security Council to utilize its authority to define the legislative requirements for Member States in implementing its decisions. In this regard, NAM stresses that the issue of acquisition of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors should be addressed in an inclusive manner by the General Assembly, taking into account the views of all Member States.

Finally, NAM emphasizes that the exercise of political will by all States and their working together cooperatively are very important for attaining a WMD-free world.

Thank you.