



**PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**STATEMENT BY MR KELVIN ZEE
DELEGATE TO THE 64TH SESSION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON AGENDA ITEM 96,
ON GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT
FIRST COMMITTEE, 8 OCTOBER 2009**

Mr. Chairman,

1 Our congratulations to you on your election as Chairman of the First Committee and to the members of the Bureau for their election as well. My delegation looks forward to working closely with you in the next few weeks.

Mr. Chairman,

2 We continue to face increasingly complex challenges in our quest for peace and security. At the core remains the continued existence of nuclear weapons and two key attendant consequences, namely, the threat of nuclear conflict, and the dangers of proliferation, which increases the potential threat of nuclear terrorism. During the 64th session of the General Assembly, Singapore intends to work with the international community in addressing these specific concerns.

3 On the first attendant consequence, we believe that the world can never be truly safe from nuclear conflict without total and complete nuclear disarmament. As a non-nuclear weapon state, Singapore has been deeply concerned over the moribund state of nuclear disarmament efforts. Thus, we were heartened by President Obama's landmark speech of April 2009 in Prague, where he declared that the US was committed to "seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons". In addition, President Obama proclaimed that the US had a "moral responsibility" to act and take the lead. We note that part of this vision was subsequently developed through the US initiative in the Security Council that resulted in the unanimous adoption of Resolution 1887 (2009). We applaud the Resolution for revitalizing the global commitment towards nuclear disarmament. We consider the move by the US and the action of the Security Council to be useful measures in generating positive momentum in the run-up to the 2010 NPT Review

Conference. We note that the NPT is at a critical phase, with many challenges to overcome, and Singapore pledges to play our part to help the NPT Review Conference reach a successful outcome. In this context, my delegation welcomes the chairmanship of the NPT Review Conference by Ambassador Libran Cabactulan of the Philippines, a fellow member state of ASEAN.

4 Second, to support the cause of nuclear non-proliferation, Singapore remains committed towards strengthening our national legislation and export controls system to ensure that we can effectively play our part in preventing dual-use technologies and WMD-related items from falling into the wrong hands. In today's interconnected world, determined terrorists can easily and effectively reach beyond national borders, and are harder to confine to any single geographical location. It is also more difficult to distinguish between what is and what is not a weapon. Technological advances have made the proliferation of WMD, as well as related systems and materials, much easier. The free flow of information, materials and personnel between countries compounds the difficulty of preventing proliferation in today's environment. As one of the world's busiest transshipment hubs, as well as being a responsible member of the international community, Singapore takes our responsibilities seriously. We have implemented a robust export controls regime that now monitors items from all four major multilateral export controls list: the Australia Group; the Missile Technology Control Regime; the Nuclear Suppliers Group; and the Wassenaar Arrangement. Furthermore, in support of these efforts, Singapore participates in the Container Security Initiative and the Proliferation Security Initiative. These have been and continue to be, concrete demonstrations of our firm commitment towards non-proliferation.

Mr. Chairman,

5 Along with sustainable development and respect for human rights, the desire for peace and security remains one of the fundamental pillars upon which the UN was built. Thus the UN must be ever vigilant and continue to play a leading role to find resolutions for the security issues on the agenda, and in finding pragmatic and practical ways for us to cooperate with one another. My delegation would like to express our confidence that under your able leadership, this Committee will be able to work together for effective disarmament and non-proliferation regimes. Thank you.

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