



**Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania**

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

**STATEMENT BY  
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AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE 2016**

**SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF THE  
DISARMAMENT COMMISSION**

**NEW YORK, 04 April 2016**

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**Mr. Chairman**

The United Republic of Tanzania joins in congratulating you on your assumption of the Chair of the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC), as well as the other members of the Bureau on their deserved election.

We also align ourselves with statements delivered by Indonesia and Uganda on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and African Group respectively.

In addition, allow me to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

The Commission meets at a time when a number of global challenges continue to demand its attention and action.

It is in this context that the General Assembly has called for result-oriented discussions in the Commission's work. Such outcome is essential in strengthening international peace and security.

Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons remains a matter of significant concern to the United Republic of Tanzania. It is our firm belief that nuclear risks, including nuclear accidents or strategic miscalculations, pose an enduring threat not only to States but also to humanity.

We continue to reject the faulty logic that somehow nuclear weapons are a guarantee to peace. On our part we have never felt at peace on account of nuclear arsenals being held either by our friends or their allies.

In an unstable global environment where increasingly some non-State actors seek the elimination of governments, there is no guarantee that such heinous actors cannot resort to whatever means they may lay their hands upon.

This Commission has a responsibility it cannot evade if it is to sustain its legitimacy and relevance. The General Assembly has called on the Disarmament Commission to examine and make recommendations to the various problems in the field of disarmament and promote implementation of decisions. Recommendations to the General Assembly for decisions or action need to be made; and the primary task in this regard rests with the Commission.

We therefore wish to reaffirm our belief in the relevance and centrality of the Disarmament Commission as a sole, specialized and deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery. We however note with concern that the Commission has not submitted any substantive recommendations to the General Assembly in the course of the past 15 years.

The inability or unwillingness of the Commission to propose credible recommendations to the General Assembly illustrates a deeper sense of mistrust in promoting our collective goals and aspirations. Regrettably, this lack of progress undermines our purported commitment to disarmament and stands in the way of any meaningful progress.

In the meantime, we continue to recognize the ever-present danger of nuclear weapons and reiterate the importance of achieving total and irreversible disarmament. We see the use of such weapons as only having catastrophic humanitarian and environmental consequences.

We endorse the call for the full adherence of the NPT and underscore the importance of the establishment of Nuclear Weapons Free Zones as a step towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Pending their extinction, we renew our call upon all Nuclear Weapon States to provide unconditional and legally binding security assurances against the use of nuclear weapons under all circumstances, including in the context of the Nuclear Weapons Free Zone instruments.

In terms of reducing the risk of nuclear proliferation, we concede that:

- Nuclear facilities must be safeguarded within or above the highest degree of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) systematic safeguards.
- The right of use to peaceful nuclear technology as its vast potential for social economic, and development.

In addition, the United Republic of Tanzania is cognizant of the grave threat posed by existence of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) to the peace and security of

our nation, our continent and our global community, especially if they were to fall in the hands of non-state actors. We therefore call States to take appropriate steps to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of any kind in their respective countries.

In conclusion, we also reiterate our concern regarding the threat presented by the trafficking of conventional arms. Regulation of conventional arms is of utmost importance to prevent conflicts, displacement of people and increased poverty. In this regard Tanzania signed Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) ON 3 June 2013 and strongly supports the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects (PoA). In the same vain we wish the proposed agenda items for the upcoming Sixth Biennial Meeting of States (BMS6) to be convened from 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 to include:

- Joint and simultaneous operations between Member States as a contribution to curbing illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.
- Enhancing information sharing among Member States on the prevention of proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

**I thank you.**