NATIONAL STATEMENT BY

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THE REPRESENTATIVE OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK

AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

OF THE 76th SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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1. At the outset, Brunei Darussalam extends its warmest congratulations on your appointment as Chairman of the First Committee. We align with the statements by Thailand on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

2. In this regard, we continue to uphold the principles enshrined within the UN Charter particularly the maintenance of international peace and security. This is reflected through our membership to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and by being party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT); Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT); Biological and Toxins Weapons Convention and Chemical Weapons Convention.

Mr Chairman,

3. Allow me to focus on five points. Firstly, the total elimination of nuclear weapons is our best hope to prevent further nuclear tragedies. We maintain that the NPT’s effectiveness relies on the commitment of States Parties to implement its obligations. Thus, it is essential for all State Parties to renew their commitment on the NPT and we look forward to the resumption of the 10th NPT Review Conference in 2022.

4. As a vital step towards global nuclear disarmament which complements the existing non-proliferation and global nuclear weapon related instruments, we welcome the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and hope that its First Meeting of State Parties next year would mark another important milestone.

5. However, it is regretful that as we commemorate the 25th anniversary of the CTBT, it still has not entered into force. Therefore, we also join in the call on states that have not done so to ratify the Treaty as soon as possible.

6. Secondly, we commend the IAEA’s valuable contributions in advocating for peaceful uses of nuclear energy and we have undertaken similar efforts such as in pursuing nuclear medicine services for The Brunei Cancer Centre and provisioned nuclear medicine treatments for its patients. Furthermore, we have amended the IAEA Small Quantities Protocol as a global
reassurance that nuclear materials in Brunei Darussalam are limited and only used for peaceful means including in the health sector.

7. Thirdly, on regional disarmament, we underline the importance of the full and effective implementation of the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ) towards ensuring a peaceful and stable region. We continue to engage Nuclear Weapon States and intensify ongoing efforts of all parties to resolve all outstanding issues in accordance with the objectives and principles of the Treaty.

8. We also maintain our support to the establishment of a nuclear-weapons-free-zone in the Middle East and we hope the people of the Middle East may live in peace, prosperity and free from weapons of mass destruction.

9. Fourth, amid advancements in information and communications technology (ICTs) that resulted in accelerated connectivity, all countries big and small alike face evolving cyber security threats. These have become more complex with malign actors creating disinformation and undermining a rules-based cyberspace.

10. On this note, Brunei Darussalam reiterates its support towards efforts that promotes a secure, inclusive and responsible state behaviour in cyber space including the new Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on security in the use of ICT (2021-2025), built upon the work of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) and OEWG on the developments in the field of ICTs.

11. At the national level, Brunei Darussalam’s commitment to a rules-based cyberspace is reflected with the establishment of the Cyber Security Brunei (CSB) agency in 2020. Among others, it aims to increase awareness of cyber threats in both public and private sectors especially the protection of the Critical Information Infrastructure (CII) in the country and enhance law enforcement capabilities in addressing cyber threats through the services of the National Digital Forensics Laboratory.

12. This year, the CSB was further supported with the establishment of a Cyber Defence Unit which reflects the supportive role of the defence forces and Whole-of-Government approach of Brunei Darussalam.

13. Subsequently, we have witnessed how outer space has transitioned from a domain of exploration to commerce and security. Brunei Darussalam is pleased to share that it has published the 2021 Defence White Paper (DWP) this year which acknowledged the importance of the space domain.
14. It noted how outer space can become increasingly contested as nations’ reliance on space technologies such as satellites continue to grow. This inclusion reflects our commitment to the peaceful uses of outer space and efforts to Prevent an Arms Race in Outer Space.

Mr Chairman,

15. As COVID-19 has impacted our daily lives and continue to challenge our national, regional and global mechanisms and structures, we must remain future-ready and vigilant of evolving security challenges and threats.

16. Thereby we remain committed to the work of the First Committee, as a platform for sustained dialogue in strengthening our shared resolve for future-ready efforts that will contribute to a peaceful and prosperous world. Thank you.

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