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Statement

By

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At

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Mr. Chairman,

My delegation wishes to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your elections to preside over the work of this Committee. I assure you of my delegation’s full support and cooperation throughout this Session.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Group, respectively.

Mr. Chairman,

As the world is still grappling with COVID-19, its effects continue to pose serious threats in all fronts, including on peace and security. The impacts of the pandemic on security and on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including the work of disarmament have become a source of great concern which call for our collective efforts to address them in an urgent and swift manner.

Ethiopia, Mr. Chairman, holds the view that strengthening multilateralism, and its core principle of negotiation, is crucial and contributes to the effective non-proliferation and arms control. It, therefore, strongly believes in the importance of the Conference on Disarmament as the only multilateral negotiating body on disarmament. It is hence critical that the Conference agrees on a balanced and comprehensive work programme by consensus if it is to effectively discharge its responsibilities. In this regard, my delegation believes that our deliberation on various agenda items in this Committee this year must at its core reiterate the clarion call on all States to uphold international norms and fully implement our obligations and commitments for disarmament.
Mr. Chairman,

Ethiopia is also seriously concerned over the increasing illicit trade, transfer, manufacture, possession and circulation of small arms and light weapons, and in their excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread. The challenge has become so grievous in the most volatile corners of the world, including the Horn of Africa.

Ethiopia reiterates the need to redouble political commitment and mobilize the necessary resources to the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons. It is also imperative to enhance support for regional and sub-regional initiatives to tackle this problem.

Eliminating the illicit movement and traffic of these weapons is within reach and Ethiopia calls on the international community to redouble its efforts to control and eliminate illicit trade, transfer, manufacture, possession and circulation of these weapons.

Mr. Chairperson,

Access, exploration and use of outer space is an absolute right of all States. Prevention of weaponization and arms race on outer space is therefore of paramount importance.
The inability of most states with underdeveloped national space science and technology capability to have a meaningful participation on the use of the outer space must be addressed. This calls for a responsibility on the States to prevent any harmful use of outer-space and the international community support developing countries enhance the development of the space sector.

Ethiopia is endeavoring to benefit from the sector and hence has established the Space Science and Technology Institute, prepared and implementing its comprehensive national space policy and launched two satellites to support its national development agenda. We therefore call on accelerating international cooperation, especially in training and technology sharing to further develop the sector and benefit from its use. Ethiopia also reiterates the need to ensure transparency and accountability on the use of outer-space and prevention of weaponization of the global asset.

Mr. Chairperson,

On the matter of non-proliferation of weapons, Ethiopia, as a party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, believes that the full implementation of this legally binding instrument is critical. It also stresses the right of all States to develop, produce and use nuclear technology only for peaceful purposes. In this regard, it supports the outcomes of the Stockholm Initiative and believes that the upcoming review Conference of the NPT would be an opportunity to deliver on the expectation of the international community towards a world free from nuclear weapons. Ethiopia also calls upon all States to reaffirm their commitment to the Treaty.
Africa, as a region, remains a nuclear-free Continent and adopted the Pelindaba Treaty that is ratified by 41 States. This enables us in the Continent to strengthen and ensure sustainable peace and security, and show our commitment to free-nuclear world while use our resources to address our pressing development needs.

Mr. Chairperson,

Ethiopia fully supports the effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Chemical weapons have always been causing irreversible damage to humanity. As a victim of chemical weapons attack, and a State Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention, and as a country which neither possess chemical weapon nor chemical weapon industry, Ethiopia reiterates its commitment to intensify its cooperation with the OPCW.

With strong commitment for the universalization of the Convention and its full implementation, Ethiopia has designated the National Authority for Convention and adopted comprehensive national legislation for its effective implementation.

On the issue of anti-personnel mines, Ethiopia has made a time-bound commitments to implement Article 5 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and submitted its second-round extension request at the Fourth Review Conference of the States Parties held in Oslo. We will intensify our efforts to reach the set targets by 2025.
Ethiopia also reiterates the need to adopt a common position on the way we approach the issue. Ethiopia appreciates the work of Open-Ended-Working-Group on the developments in the Field of Information Communication Technology in the Context of International Security. Ethiopia will support the work of the Chair of Working Group, Singapore, and looks forward to a common position on the approaches to follow in adopting a global instrument. My delegation would also like to underscore that

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, my delegation reaffirms Ethiopia’s commitment to discharge all its treaty obligations and looks forward to a productive deliberation of the Committee.

I thank you.