STATEMENT BY

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OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT THE

FIRST COMMITTEE GENERAL DEBATE ON ALL DISARMAMENT
AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AGENDA ITEMS

DURING THE

SEVENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

11th October 2021
New York
CHAIRPERSON,

Since it is the first time I am taking the floor, I wish to congratulate you and the other members of the bureau on your deserving election.

At the outset I wish to state that my delegation aligns itself to the statements presented by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Group respectively. I also take this opportunity to congratulate you and the Bureau on your deserving elections.

As we galvanize multilateral efforts to eradicate the Covid-19 pandemic, poverty and focus on climate change, this international vision may not be realized if the threat posed by nuclear weapons and other destructive weapons are not addressed through international security agenda items of the General Assembly and the First Committee in particular.

Looking back, the picture of international peace and security has changed very little and remains worrisome as compliance to disarmament by Member States continues to move at a slow pace. This has also been compounded by reduced assessed financial contributions to the United
Nations in various categories by some Member States also worsened by the Covid-19 which has ravaged the world economy.

It is vital that we all meet our obligations under various international treaties and conventions that ban, prohibit manufacturing, testing, trading and proliferation of all forms of weapons. Zambia remains committed to these treaties and protocols and I am pleased to inform this committee that Zambia was among a number of states that signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) on 26th September 2019 which came into force and took full effect on 22nd January 2021.

With the prohibition of nuclear weapons on the horizon, allow me to quote President Ronald Reagan words, “Our moral imperative is to work with all our powers for that day when the children of the world grow up without the fear of nuclear war.”

CHAIRPERSON,

The time is now for the world to completely shift the paradigm from armament issues and concentrate on Sustainable Development Goals that bind us to finding everlasting solutions that will help us eradicate
pandemics such as Covid-19, poverty, climate change effects and other negative political, economic and social discourse related matters.

With the above-mentioned in mind, the huge sums of funds used in nuclear weapons research, manufacturing and testing could definitely save many lives if used for poverty eradication and health care compliances.

For decades, arms control and disarmament conferences have been held at various world International Peace and Security platforms with a thin ray of hope for the total elimination of Nuclear Weapons from the face of the earth. Instead, we see nations developing nuclear arsenals for probable defensive and retaliation and in some cases for offensive purposes. The counter measures offer little hope of physical protection of a nation against annihilation of a population.

CHAIRPERSON,

These positive and collective disarmament agreements should not only be restrictive to nuclear and chemical weapons but all armaments
that are manufactured with full intent to fuel instability of nations in all regions of the world.

As the United Nations commemorates the 76th General Assembly Session, these deliberations should make an impact towards sending us to a world free from armaments that are designed to eradicate life from the surface of the earth.

I thank you.