



**PERMANENT MISSION OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**NATIONAL STATEMENT BY  
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK**

**AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE  
OF THE 71<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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*Please check against delivery*

Mr Chairman,

First and foremost, on behalf of the delegation of Brunei Darussalam, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to you on your assumption as Chairman of the First Committee and also to the other members of the bureau on their elections. We assure you of Brunei Darussalam's utmost support for your leadership in making this Committee a success.

My delegation wishes to associate itself with the statement delivered by Myanmar on behalf of ASEAN.

Mr Chairman,

For a small developing nation such as Brunei Darussalam, this platform certainly gives us an expanded reach on the global scale. We are extremely grateful and honoured to have the opportunity to be a part of the discussion on issues that are of importance to promoting and maintaining global peace, security and stability.

Fitting to the meaning of "Darussalam" as the abode of peace, we have been tremendously blessed with a peaceful and stable environment.

However, peace and stability are by no means durable certainties on their own. Creating the conditions for peace is one thing; sustaining it is another.

Taking into account the increasingly complex, interweaved and unpredictable threats and challenges the global community is facing today, the noble duty to generate a sense of security for our people to feel safe and confident is undoubtedly getting tougher and more demanding.

We, in Brunei Darussalam, are also not immune from these challenges. We are, therefore, conscious of the need for vigilance and diligence in protecting our peace, security, and stability.

Mr Chairman,

It is in this context that Brunei Darussalam reiterates its unequivocal support for disarmament efforts and the non-proliferation of all types of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) at both the regional and global level.

As a testimony to our steadfast commitment in eliminating the risks associated with nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, Brunei Darussalam is a party to most of the major regional and global instruments pertaining to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Regionally, Brunei Darussalam is a State Party to the Treaty of the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (SEANFWZ), in which we take this opportunity to reiterate our hope for the early accession of all Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) to the Protocol to the Treaty on SEANFWZ without reservations.

Globally, we are a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and we are also parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT); the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT); Biological and Toxins Weapons Convention (BWC) and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

We note, however, that translating such ideals into reality for the greater good of humanity has been a colossal challenge. We are concerned with the substandard pace of progress in global disarmament and non-proliferation efforts.

The 20th anniversary of the CTBT this year serves as a stark reminder that, while it is a significant mechanism in strengthening international stability, more work lies ahead to achieve universal ratification of the Treaty. To this end, we must continue to use every opportunity and engage in dialogue, especially with those States possessing nuclear weapons, in order to realize our joint goal of a safer and more secure world.

Mr Chairman,

Despite the extent of the challenges we face collectively, Brunei Darussalam is pleased to note that the degree of determination is stronger than ever to move forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, as can be seen through the efforts of the Open-ended Working Group earlier this year in recommending an open and inclusive approach leading to the conclusion of concrete and effective legal measures.

In recent years, we note that there has been added momentum in increasing awareness of the humanitarian consequences of any nuclear fallout, be it intentional or accidental. The thought of such possible devastation should make us all work harder to achieve our shared vision of a nuclear-weapons-free world. Brunei Darussalam, therefore, endorsed the Humanitarian Pledge at the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons.

However, we remain deeply concerned with the advancement of other weapons of mass destruction, particularly with regard to chemical and biological weapons.

Brunei Darussalam joins the international community in condemning the use of chemical weapons in wars and conflicts, which often causes great loss of lives and violates human rights and international law. Brunei Darussalam also remains concerned on the illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and its potentially devastating impact on peace and security of member states.

Mr. Chairman,

We need to remind ourselves that our pursuit for lasting peace is for the greater good of humanity. With peace and security, we will be able to effectively fulfill our other common aspirations of sustainable development and prosperity.

In conclusion, as part of our wider efforts to preserve and spread the values of a culture of peace, Brunei Darussalam will continue to support international cooperation, peaceful settlement of disputes, dialogue as well as confidence-building measures towards the achievement of our shared vision of lasting global peace, security and stability. Thank You.

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