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**PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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STATEMENT BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS

2017 Substantive Session of the  
United Nations Disarmament Commission

New York, 04 April 2017

**Thank you, Madame. Chair.**

Madame Chair, allow me to express my congratulations to you for assuming the Presidency of the 2017 Substantive Session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission. My delegation believes that under your able guidance we will proactively move forward to fulfill the mandate of this Commission.

I wish to align myself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement in the room yesterday.

**Madame Chair,**

The negotiations through the UN multilateral machinery remain important to address disarmament matters. Three main bodies needed to be given momentum namely the Disarmament Commission, the Conference on Disarmament and the General Assembly. UNDC is a deliberative body within the UN multilateral machinery that allows for in-depth discussions on specific issues of disarmament, leading to submission of concrete recommendations to the General Assembly.

Regrettably, for the past decades we have been unable to submit such recommendations and thus, unable to fulfill the mandate of this Disarmament Commission. It is our collective responsibility to overcome the impasse that has plagued UNDC since the turn of the century. At this point in time, in order to achieve such result, all UN Member States should display the necessary political will to reach agreement on recommendations. We urge all UN Member States to exhibit increased political will, flexibility, and cooperation during this new cycle.

**Mr. Chairman,**

For its part, Cambodia reaffirms its principled position on nuclear disarmament and emphasizes that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects is essential to strengthening international peace and security and promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels.

We emphasize the importance of the principles of transparency, irreversibility, and international verifiability in NWS's (Nuclear Weapons States') fulfillment of nuclear disarmament obligations. Moreover, in view of the central role of the United Nations as a universal multilateral framework for consideration of disarmament issues, non-proliferation agreements should be addressed through inclusive, open, non-discriminatory processes, and should not impose restrictions on access to nuclear technology, materials, and equipment for peaceful purposes required by developing countries.

While considering that the NPT remains the cornerstone to address nuclear weapons, we must undertake genuine consultations at the Prepcom leading to fruitful outcomes of the forthcoming 2020 Review Conference. My country continues to uphold the principles and purposes of the treaty, and our commitment towards total elimination of nuclear weapons must be resolute.

Our ultimate goal is for a world without nuclear weapons, and therefore I believe that the negotiation to form an instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination at this General Assembly last week should be a value for us.

Given the concerns over the threats of security and peace through nuclear and missile tests, it is imperative that we work to strengthen the relevant international instruments, including the NPT and to put the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in to force.

As a state party to the Chemical Conventions, Cambodia has attached its importance to the universal validity of this multilateral instrument, which bans the development, production, stockpiling, use or transfer of chemical weapons and enhances collective security through the verified elimination of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction. The establishment of a National Authority in the country is a clear indication for Cambodia to work cooperatively to strengthen the global chemical weapons ban. All we need is capacity building to the relevant authorities who work on this field.

**Madame Chair,**

Once again, I would like to underscore the need for full support of the United Nations Disarmament Commission so that it can effectively implement its mandate.

**Thank you**