

Statement delivered by
Mr. Tsigabu Girmay Kideya,
Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations
At
The General Debate of the First Committee of the 80th Session
of the United Nations General Assembly
General Debate

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Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by extending my delegation's warm congratulations to you and other members of the Bureau on your election to guide the work of this Committee. We are confident that, under your able leadership, our deliberations will be both productive and impactful. Please be assured of the full support and cooperation of my delegation throughout the course of the Committee's work.

I also express my delegation's appreciation to Ambassador Maritza Chan Valverde for her able and skillful leadership during the 79th session.

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

Mr. Chairman,

The current global security landscape is mired into complex challenges which pose serious threats to international peace and security. The fact that the international community fails to make concrete progress on disarmament makes our collective task of ensuring international security difficult.

Today we witness the threat of nuclear weapons, intensified arms race, and continued modernization and stockpiling of weapons of mass destruction, including conventional weapons. We all agree the only way to curb these challenges is by committing to the full implementation of all relevant international treaties and conventions.

It should be our collective responsibility to make sure that the disarmament machinery does in fact work by restoring its credibility and effectiveness. Conference on Disarmament is and should remain the single multilateral

negotiating forum for disarmament. In this regard, we urge for renewed political will and commitment to overcome the deadlock that has long hindered CD's substantive work.

Ethiopia also believes that continued discussion between Nuclear and Non-Nuclear-Weapon States must be strengthened to accelerate progress in our collective efforts to realize a nuclear free world. We must therefore stride in our endeavor to achieve successful outcome at the next year's NPT Review Conference.

As a State Party to the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, Ethiopia reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the Pelindaba Treaty and work with all to ensure a region free of nuclear weapons and use nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes to promote our Continent's socio-economic development.

Mr. Chairman; Peaceful use of outer space is critical for future of humanity and to ensure sustainable

development. Ethiopia therefore underscores the need to excel in our efforts to harness outer space for the benefits of humanity and work to prevent arms race in outer space through the establishment of a legally binding instrument. This should be done by reinforcing existing international legal framework, in accordance with the United Nations treaties governing outer space activities. We also call on the United Nations to enhance its efforts to ensure that the necessary support, particularly to African countries is made available to enable them develop their capacities in space science and technology. In the same vein, we should not fall short in our collective efforts of strengthening transparency and confidence-building measures and ensure equitable access to the space technologies, particularly by developing countries. We also believe by harnessing emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence within globally agreed frameworks, we can make effective use of innovation to ensure sustainable peace, equity and development.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, Ethiopia reaffirms its steadfast commitment to fulfilling its international treaty obligations and to contributing constructively to the deliberations of this Committee. We remain hopeful that this session will yield concrete progress in advancing global peace and security for present and future generations.

I Thank you.