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## **STATEMENT**

**Delivered by**

**H.E. Carolyn Rodrigues Birkett, Permanent Representative of  
the Co-operative Republic of Guyana to the United Nations**

**at the**

**2023 Session of the Disarmament Commission**

***April 3, 2023***

Guyana aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Chair, and the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the various Working Groups, on your election to lead this substantive session of the Commission. My delegation looks forward to cooperating with you to ensure the successful conclusion of this UNDC cycle.

We meet at a time of great global tension and shocks which have shaken our multilateral system in complex and unpredictable ways. Yet, we must find a way to work together; to rebuild trust and goodwill and to collectively chart a new course for general and complete disarmament.

In the words of the Secretary General, “it is the choices we make, or fail to make, today that could result in either a further breakdown, or a breakthrough to a greener, better, safer future.”

As members of this global community, we each have a duty and obligation to ensure that progress is maintained toward the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Guyana remains fully committed to this goal and to achieving concrete progress in the Disarmament Commission. We are deeply concerned about the threat posed to humanity by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible use or threat of use. We remain firm in our conviction that nuclear weapons have no place in our world. Their existence is contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations and to the spirit of the Charter.

Guyana also shares the view that the only viable path toward securing the future we want is to rebuild trust and goodwill and to promote multilateralism and cooperation as core principles defining our engagement in this process. Towards this end, we urge all delegations to recommit to advancing the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments, leading to the total and complete elimination of nuclear weapons through concrete, measurable, and timebound actions, and to work together within all existing multilateral framework to preserve international peace and security.

We further underscore our firm support for the universalization and effective implementation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which categorically prohibits these weapons of mass destruction and contributes to achieving the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons. We urge all States that have not yet done so, to ratify the TPNW and put an end to the regressing on nuclear disarmament.

In turning to the issue of Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures (TCBMs) in Outer Space Activities, my delegation welcomes the inclusion of this item and looks forward to engaging in the discussions on recommendations on TCBMs for outer space activities. We view TCBMs as vital in augmenting the safety, sustainability and security of day-to-day space operations and acknowledge the important contribution that they make toward the development of mutual understanding relating to activities in outer space. Nevertheless, we do wish to emphasize the paramount importance of complying with existing arms limitation and disarmament agreements relevant to outer space, including bilateral agreements, and the existing legal regime concerning the use of outer space.

In closing, Mr. Chair, I reaffirm my delegation's full support to the UN Disarmament Commission and to working with you and all Member States to achieve our collective objectives.

Only by working together can we effectively build the future we want and further the cause of global peace and security.

I Thank You!