Statement of Ambassador GIRMA ASMEROM
Permanent Representative of the State of Eritrea to the UN
During The “General Debate” of the First Committee
69th Session of UN General Assembly

Mr. Chair,

At the outset let me congratulate you, and the other members of the bureau, on being elected.

Mr. Chair,

While my delegation fully aligns itself with the statements made by the distinguished representatives of Indonesia and Nigeria on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Group, I would like to emphasize the following:

First, international and regional security and disarmament issues can be best addressed when negotiated multilaterally through transparent, comprehensive and non-discriminatory instruments. Eritrea supports the various international instruments that aim at a complete, verifiable and irreversible disarmament, covering all weapons. Our shared future and increasing complexities of international security must compel us to demonstrate the necessary political will to agree on the core agenda and to immediately commence the substantive discussions on disarmament matters.

Second, conventional weapons continue to bring untold tragedies to millions of people worldwide. Much of the destruction, instability,
underdevelopment, spread of extremism and terrorism in our region are by-products of or exacerbated by the unregulated and illicit movement of small arms and light weapons. The United Nations Programme of Action remains an important document in our effort to combat the illicit transfer of Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Eritrea welcomes the outcome document from the fifth biennial meeting of states in June 2014.

Eritrea stresses the need to maintain the fundamental elements of the Program of Action including states’ primary responsibility in combating illicit trade and use of Small Arms and Light Weapons, respect for national ownership, priorities and capacities.

Eritrea is actively working with Countries of the region under the umbrella of RECSA to implement the Program of Action in the fight to eliminate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

Third, nuclear weapons continue to endanger human species, global economic and social progress and hurdle international security agenda. Eritrea welcomes the first UN General Assembly Ministerial Plenary Meeting to commemorate the “International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons” held on 26 September 2014.

Eritrea as signatory to the Pelindaba Treaty, which established Africa as nuclear free zone, highly supports the establishment of nuclear free zones in other parts of the world.

Eritrea is also signatory to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and considers its entry to force will have a critical role in the total elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

Eritrea supports peaceful use of nuclear technology and commends the development work conducted by the IAEA in different countries, including Eritrea.

Fourth, advancement in science and technology are main drivers of human progress. At the same time, and as witnessed in recent years, modern
technology have the potential to be used for illegal purposes by states and non-state actors, to undermine the economy and security of nations.

Eritrea sees the urgent need to energize our efforts to develop common understanding between states about the ways and means to collectively address the use of technologies for destructive purposes.

Mr. Chair,

Last but not least, we must not forget issues such as aggression and occupation that undermine international peace and security. Countries big or small should not be allowed to occupy territory of other countries and they must be urged to respect the UN Charter and their treaty obligations.

I assure you Mr. Chair, of Eritrea’s full support as you steer the work of this important committee to a successful completion.

Thank you.