Statement

by

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at
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in

The General Debate of the First Committee of the 60th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

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On behalf of the delegation of Jordan, I would like to join others in expressing my country’s condolences to the government and people of Indonesia for the victims that fell as a result of the perpetrated terrorist attacks in Bali, which we strongly condemn.

Allow me to congratulate you, Sir, on your election as Chairman of this Committee as well as to also congratulate the other members of the Bureau on their election, and to assure you and them of my delegation’s full support and cooperation. Allow me also to extend my delegation’s sincere gratitude to your predecessor, Ambassador De Elba of Mexico, for all the effort he had exerted in conducting the work of the First Committee during the last fifty-ninth session. Similarly, I would like to extend my delegation’s thanks and appreciation to the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Nobuyasu Abe, and the staff of the Department of Disarmament affairs for their tireless efforts in advancing the goals of international peace and security and disarmament. We assure him, that the DDA, if anything is far from sitting idle and should be commended.

This said, Mr. Chairman, my delegation wishes to associate itself with the statement made by the H.E. Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Indonesia, on behalf of the Movement of the Non-Aligned outlining the group’s position on issues to be discussed during the work of this session.

We meet once again in the first committee in an effort to address concerns of international peace and security in as much as they are related to disarmament, non-proliferation and the threat posed both by weapons of mass destruction and by those of conventional arms, in the wake of the recent failed history of disarmament diplomacy, and the continued non-compliance with and the non-entry into force of key multilaterally negotiated disarmament instruments, it becomes of vital importance that we continue our deliberations on how to overcome the current impasse and proceed in moving ahead to execute our mandated agenda.

Like all others, we deeply regret that an opportunity to strengthen the international resolve on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament was missed at the 2005 Seventh NPT Review Conference since the threat posed by nuclear weapons on international peace and security and the devastation they would cause if used, or in case of accident are far too serious to ignore. It is therefore unfortunate that the necessary political will to build on previous undertakings and commitments could not be mustered. This regrettable failure, however, along with the unfortunate absence of any reference to disarmament and non-proliferation in the 2005 World Summit Outcome document and the continued deadlock of the Conference of
Disarmament based in Geneva does not absolve us from our multilateral obligations and commitments in the nuclear field.

On the contrary, in the wake of these disappointments, the international community should continue to strive to attain the goals of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament as set out in the international non-proliferation regime. Universal adherence to the NPT should still be pursued, as also the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). Nuclear Weapon States should work towards eliminating their large nuclear stockpiles and the nuclear weapons remaining in their arsenals so that a tangible progress towards nuclear disarmament and towards halting the horizontal and vertical proliferation of nuclear weapons may be foreseeable. They should also fully comply with all their obligations and commitments under Article VI, including the 13 practical steps, to which they have agreed in the 2006 NPT Review Conference.

Furthermore, the deadlock in the Conference of Disarmament must be overcome so as to allow for negotiations on a convention banning the production of fissile material and on one prohibiting the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, transfer, threat or use of nuclear weapons and providing for their elimination. Equally important is the drafting of a binding document providing comprehensive security guarantees to the non-nuclear-weapon States parties in the NPT.

The creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones is pivotal for maintaining the international non-proliferation regime and consolidating international peace and security. Jordan welcomes these established world over, and reiterates that establishing a zone free from nuclear weapons in the Middle East region is of utmost importance. Israel’s accession to the NPT is therefore vital in this regard since it would defuse existing tensions, bring about tangible progress on other bilateral tracks of the peace process, enhance confidence-building measures between all parties and have an overall positive impact on regional peace and security. Implementation of IAEA safety measures on its un safeguarded nuclear facilities would furthermore prevent the occurrence of potential nuclear accidents and the risks of radiological contamination.

As party to all international disarmament-related instruments, which prohibit weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, Jordan adheres fully to its obligations under them. In this regard it welcomes last months Fourth Conference to facilitate the entry into force of the CTBT and views its adopted declaration and set of measures as another important step towards demonstrating our collective commitment to Nuclear Disarmament and Nuclear Non-Proliferation. It also looks forward to the 2006 Sixth Review
Conference of the Convention of Biological and Toxin Weapons and the Third Review Conference of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, as they also provide opportunities to reiterate our commitments and enhance our undertakings in these areas.

The attainment of general and complete nuclear disarmament, the complete prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and their destruction, the non-proliferation and elimination of weapons of mass destruction, the eradication of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and the elimination of anti-personnel landmines are among the many important issues requiring our urgent attention. Our work in the First Committee therefore presents an opportunity to continue our examination of all these issues, and if properly seized would offer a way to overcome many obstacles as we tackle the serious and complicated problems that touch on our very existence and development.

With this in mind, Jordan supports efforts to reform, rationalize and reinvigorate the work of the First Committee, the main international forum for addressing issues of international security and disarmament as part of the reform in the General Assembly and is of the view that if change or review in the agenda or the machinery of disarmament is to be made, then the best way for it to proceed would be through the convening of a fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (SSOD-IV), in line with the Final Document of the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to that same issue.

The numerous challenges and threats posed by the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons are serious with devastating consequences. Their link with trans-national organized crime, terrorism and trafficking in narcotics exacerbates their danger making them a matter of concern for all countries and regions. As such, they require a collective response, since no state alone can address their risks and ramifications. The program of action therefore provides a necessary framework for our collective response at the national, regional and global levels.

For all these reasons, Jordan supported the work of the Open-Ended Working Group mandated with the task of elaborating an International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely Manner I illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons. It therefore welcomes its consensual outcome and comments its Chairman Ambassador Anton Thalmann of Switzerland for his genuine efforts.
The broad-based consultations that had taken place in June of this year on further steps to enhance international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons in which Jordan had also participated were again a step in the right direction. In this context, we look forward to elaborating the mandate of the Group of Governmental Experts and to further our work in this area and enhance our efforts in combating illicit brokering.

This year, the Second Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the United Nations Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects provided us with an opportunity to reiterate our commitment to that Program. Jordan submitted its national report as the subject to that meeting and joined other States in sharing their experiences and findings.

Next year, the 2006 Review and Preparatory Conferences will provide us with an opportunity to further strengthen the Program of Action. Jordan looks forward to participating actively in those coming events and hopes for their successful outcomes.

It is satisfying to note that the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction continues to be adhered to and that there is steady progress in its implementation. Yet the increasing number of civilians who fall victim to anti-personnel mines in all situations including conflict and post-conflict situations on the one hand and the negative socio-economic impact of mines on development in mine infected areas on the other remain a matter of concern and necessitate our continued and intensified action if we are to alleviate human suffering or to achieve a mine free world. Jordan therefore welcomes the outcome of First Review Conference, held in Nairobi from 29 November to 3 December and the adopted plan of action that would hopefully bring about further progress in this field.

In this context, Jordan stresses the need for the international community to mobilize resources and to provide necessary assistance to landmine clearance operations as well as for the rehabilitation of victims including their social and economic reintegration in landmine-affected countries so as to enable Member States to live up to their obligations under the convention.

Jordan was among the first to sign and ratify the Ottawa Convention, and as a State party has taken effective steps to comply with its provisions. By March 2003, it had destroyed all its stockpiles of anti personnel mines. It is
presently of the hope that it may be able to satisfy its treaty obligations by May 2009. It is currently playing an active role with its partners in promoting the Ottawa Convention in our region and will continue to do so as it attaches great importance to attaining the universality of this convention.

Jordan welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) since it answered to the urgent need to address the threats posed by the possibility of Non-State Actors gaining control of and access to weapons of mass destruction by providing a series of effective measures to protect the international community from such a possible danger complemented ongoing efforts seeking to close existing loopholes in the international non-proliferation regime. In line with its obligations under this resolution, Jordan has submitted its reports on its implementation.

Out of a firm conviction to combat terrorism in all its forms and that there is a need to address the threat posed by terrorists acquiring nuclear weapons within the framework of the UN and through international cooperation consistent with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and international law, Jordan welcomes the recent adoption of International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. It also stresses that one of the best safeguards and means for stopping weapons of mass destruction from reaching terrorist groups and non-State actors would be through formulating a comprehensive international convention on the issue. Such a convention would also keep Security Council resolutions from being used in place of implementing international instruments, which are the only true expression of the collective and comprehensive will of all States. Moreover, it is important to remind that the most effective way to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction would be through the total elimination of such weapons.

Finally Mr. Chairman, let me conclude by reiterating our full support and cooperation in bringing your work and our deliberations towards to a successful end.