Statement by Mr. Reza Najafi
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In The Name of God
The Compassionate, the Merciful

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

Nuclear disarmament is the highest priority on the disarmament agenda. It forms a fundamental part of the package agreed within the framework of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in 1968. Therefore, the continued existence, development and deployment of thousands of nuclear warheads continue to threaten international peace and security and are sources of horror, distrust and threat.

Although the international community has taken note of the recent New Start Agreement in April 2010, provisions of this treaty do not go beyond the decommissioning of nuclear weapons, and its parties do not have any obligation to destroy their nuclear weapons. Moreover, no multilateral verification mechanism has been envisaged in the aforementioned treaty. It therefore does not take into account the principles of “increased transparency”, “diminishing role for nuclear weapons” and “irreversibility”, which were agreed by the nuclear-weapon States at the 2000 and 2010 NPT Review Conferences.
Mr. Chairman,

As a result of the blatant violations of the legally binding commitments under Article VI of the NPT, unfortunately, the integrity of the NPT has been endangered, and the confidence of non-nuclear weapon States in the credibility of the Treaty has been eroded. The world “will not wait indefinitely” for nuclear weapon States to live up to their international obligations regarding their nuclear weapon programs.

There is no doubt that the NPT is the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts, and the full implementation of the Treaty in a balanced and non-discriminatory manner would safeguard the world from the potential devastation of nuclear weapons. But our collective efforts towards the universalization of the NPT and an enhanced commitment and adherence to it on a global scale are still to be materialized. Accordingly, inter alia- in the very important region of the Middle East, the Zionist Regime still remains out of the Treaty while being helped and supported technologically and financially by certain Nuclear Weapon States in a blatant contravention of the Articles II and III of the NPT.

In this context, the obligations of the States Parties to the NPT on the firm and complete prohibition of the transfer of all nuclear-related equipment, information, material and facilities, resources and devices, and assistance in the nuclear, scientific or technological fields to the States that are not party to the Treaty, must be observed.

We are greatly disappointed, Mr. Chairman, that despite the successful conclusion of the last Review Conference in May 2010 in forwarding a program of action for the establishment of a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in the Middle East, the early reaction of the Zionist Regime and its main protégé dimmed the success of this forthcoming roadmap. As a result of that Conference, 189 countries of the world, called on the Zionist Regime, the only name mentioned in the Conference’s document, to accede promptly to the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon party and bring all its nuclear facilities under the IAEA Safeguards. The Conference in 2012 on the establishment of
a nuclear weapon free zone in the Middle East is a very suitable forum to see this regime acceded to the NPT without any condition.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me touch upon some other items under this cluster.

The doctrines of nuclear deterrence or conditioning the nuclear disarmament to any multilateral process for maintaining the so-called international and regional balance and security are not the viable and credible justifications for the retaining of such weapons in the NWSs’ arsenals, and will neither bring about peace nor international security, but constitute only impediment to progress towards total elimination of nuclear weapons.

We would like to reiterate that the deployment of hundreds of nuclear weapons in non-nuclear-weapon States especially in the European Union Region including Belgium as well as other parts of the world including Japan, and training the fighter-bomber pilots of the hosting countries to prepare for handling and delivering the nuclear bombs against other States are serious concerns to International community and contravene both the letter and spirit of the NPT. It is obvious that both the Nuclear Weapon and the hosting States are in clear non-compliance with the NPT.

Instead of threatening the others and crying wolf at other countries’ behavior, these States especially the EU member states hosting nuclear weapons, themselves should comply with the NPT and observe their obligations.

It is unacceptable that the Nuclear Weapon States and those remaining outside the NPT continue to retain and even earmark tens of billions of dollars to modernize their nuclear arsenals, imperiling the regional and international peace and security, in particular in the Middle East. This is a dangerous and destabilizing trend of vertical proliferation. It also constitutes non-compliance by the Nuclear Weapon States, in particular the US with their obligations under Article VI of the Treaty.
Mr. Chairman,

The decisions and actions adopted by the previous NPT Review Conferences are not to be overshadowed or forgotten by the passage of time, but to be enhanced and strengthened. In this regard, by stressing on the validity of the 1995 Middle East Resolution and on the necessity for the full implementation of the 13 practical steps agreed in the 2000 Review Conference, the Islamic Republic of Iran maintains that any attempt to undermine these decisions should be deplored.

It should be clear that the indefinite extension of the NPT in 1995 does not imply the indefinite possession of nuclear weapons by the Nuclear Weapon States. It should neither be interpreted as, nor result in, an indefinite extension of the lack of implementation of nuclear disarmament obligations. It also does not foresee the indefinite preservation of the status of non-members to remain outside the Treaty and defeat the potential for realizing its universality in particular in the Middle East region.

The Islamic Republic of Iran would like to reiterate its longstanding position that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. We continue to believe in the need for negotiations on a phased program for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified time limit which could start in 2011, the year of which the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran called it the year of “Nuclear Disarmament”. Therefore, the other States, international and national, governmental and non-governmental organizations are called for their active support for and participation in the “Nuclear Disarmament Year”. In this regard, the Islamic Republic of Iran itself is planning to hold the Second International Conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation in next spring in Tehran to commemorate the efforts done and to encourage the other States and organizations to pool up their minds and pressures for the sake of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons.
We fully support the positions of NAM for the start of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament for the conclusion of a nuclear weapon instrument. Such negotiations must lead to legally prohibit, once and for all, the possession, development, stockpiling and use or threat to use of nuclear weapons by any country and provide for the destruction of such inhumane weapons by 2025. Pending the conclusion of a Nuclear Weapons Convention, the nuclear weapon States must honor their obligations under the NPT and immediately cease to do any kind of development and research on nuclear weapons and any modernization of nuclear weapons and their facilities, refrain from making any threat of use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon States, withdraw and destroy the nuclear weapons in the territories of other countries, and stop maintaining their nuclear weapons in the trigger-alert situation.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, let me reiterate once again that the Islamic Republic of Iran as a victim of the weapons of mass destruction, would pursue vigorously the goal of a world free from weapons of mass destruction, but there is no doubt that the Non-Nuclear Weapon States could not accept any new obligation pending the full implementation of outstanding nuclear disarmament undertakings by the Nuclear Weapon States.

Thank you Mr. Chairman,