Statement of the
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Before the First Committee
Disarmament & International Security

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Delivered by

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Mr. President,

At the outset, the Delegation of the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is pleased to present its sincere congratulations on your election as President of the First Committee as well as to the distinguished members of the Bureau. We affirm our support to you; and we are confident that the wisdom, experience and capability will enable you to lead the work of the First committee to explore the prospects of a new phase characterized by the determination to achieve the results aspired by the international community’s members. These aspirations are wrapped with much hope in getting rid of the specter of fear from the development, production and possession of more destructive weapons which would increase the deterioration of security of many human societies; and endanger the international peace and security. Moreover, the Delegation of my Country supports the statement delivered by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia believes that there are real challenges facing the international security and regional stability due to the weak credibility of international treaties and conventions previously adopted. The Kingdom is deeply concerned about the current disarmament and nonproliferation status at both international and regional levels; in particular, the reluctance of respect to the core terms of reference enshrined in international treaties’ agenda, UN resolutions and international respective decisions. Despite the universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and the common belief of many of concerned parties that this Treaty is a cornerstone in building the international disarmament and non-proliferation system, the international efforts in the multilateral framework remain under the required level. Accordingly, the current status which is fraught with ambiguity and uncertainty requires the consideration of serious paths of constructive negotiations aiming to reach consistency and harmonization between the two pillars: Prevention and disarmament of nuclear weapons to enhance international security and stability; and meeting the human right of accessing peaceful nuclear usage for the purposes of advancing the development of many countries.
Mr. President,

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia believes that the continuation of the current status would render the situation more dramatic. The lack of tangible progress in the implementation of the decision of making the Middle East a nuclear-free zone may push towards a nuclear arms race. This race should not be allowed to happen not only through the adoption of administrative and precautionary measures, but also through taking bold strategic steps able to eliminate the tension in the region such as through Israel's accession to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the dismantling and destruction of any nuclear weapons that have been produced outside the scope of the treaty and the placement of all nuclear facilities in the region under the comprehensive safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Furthermore, the remainder of Israel as a non-member of the NPT and its refusal to subject its facilities to international inspection represent an obstacle to achieving the goal of making the Middle East weapons of mass destruction-free zone.

Mr. President,

While the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia recognizes the right of states to peaceful use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes in accordance with standards and procedures of the International Atomic Energy Agency and under its supervision, it seriously considers the commitments and respect of the Islamic Republic of Iran to its obligations concerning the prevention of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the region; and hopes that such commitment would be shown in concrete action that eliminates the doubts about its nuclear program; and contributes to resolving the crisis between Iran and the international community through peaceful means.

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is committed to achieving world peace and stability. It welcomes the ongoing efforts in this context and is a party to several international agreements, conventions and treaties. Moreover, the Kingdom submitted its official report to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 concerning the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the prevention of their access by irresponsible hands. In furtherance of this resolution, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia held in December 2010 a workshop emphasizing the role of the Kingdom aimed to reduce the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the recognition of those efforts at the national level. Meanwhile, the Kingdom would also like to refer and commend the (New Start) Treaty between the United States and Russia to reduce their nuclear arsenals.
Mr. President,

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia attaches great importance on the issue of illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons. It is of the view that the United Nations program to combat illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons is a starting point and a basis on which to build. This program highlighted issues that harm the stability of the countries and affect peace and security at the national and regional levels. Accordingly, the Kingdom adopted a series of administrative precautionary measures and policies to promote confidence-building through enhancing cooperation mechanisms to address this devastating crisis at all levels.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is of certain belief that the international will is able to reach concrete solutions to all problems raised before the Committee.

Thank you Mr. President.