Republic of Iraq

Statement by H.E. Mr. Hamid Al Bayati
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations
At the General Debate of the First Committee

New York, 8 to 16 October, 2012
Mr. President,

At the outset I would like to congratulate you for your election as the Chair of the Committee. We are confident that your experience and management of the work of this committee will enable us to reach the positive results which we all strive to achieve.

Mr. President,

My Delegation supports the statement delivered by the delegation of Iran on behalf of the members of the Non Aligned Movement and supports the statement delivered by Egypt on behalf of the Arab Group.

My Government strongly believes in the responsibility to respect and implement disarmament and non proliferation conventions and treaties. It also affirms its respect for International Arrangements related to disarmament, arms control and non proliferation. My Government took many steps, aimed at regaining Iraq’s regional and international roles, which resulted in the adoption of Security Council Resolution (1957) on 15th December 2010, which lifted all the measures imposed on Iraq in the Disarmament area.

On this occasion I am pleased to inform you that the Iraqi Government has issued the law No (48) 2012 on National Monitoring Board to prevent the Proliferation of Nuclear, Chemical and Biological weapons. This step comes in the framework of Iraq’s implementation of one of the obligations under Article 7 of the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Security Council’s Resolution 1957. Moreover, the Iraqi Council of Representatives has approved the law on the Model Additional Protocol to the Comprehensive Safeguards System of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and ratified by H.E. the President of the Republic of Iraq, noting that Iraq voluntarily implemented the protocol since 17 February 2010. Iraq also signed on the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban treaty in August 2008 and it is now before the Council of Representatives for approval.

My Government emphasizes that the universal adherence to the International conventions relating to the weapons of mass destruction especially nuclear weapons, and compliance without discrimination, as well as the total elimination of these weapons are considered as basic elements which provide the International community with real guarantees against using of such weapons or threatening the use of them, and achieve also the international peace and security. I would like to point out that Negative Security Assurances are a key element and an important step in this way in addition to being a just and legitimate demand for non nuclear countries that voluntarily abandoned military nuclear choices by joining the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT). However, this treaty could not be considered an alternative to the goal of total elimination of nuclear weapons. My Government calls on continuing of the efforts to put a legally binding instrument to provide those safeguards for Non Nuclear-Weapons States with guarantees against the use or threat to use nuclear weapons by Nuclear States and defining the means by which we can achieve a progress towards this goal, which could provide incentives for States out of the NPT to join it.
In this context, we affirm Iraq’s commitment to the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion issued on 8th July 1996, which emphasizes that the use or the threat to use nuclear weapons contradicts the provisions of International law on armed conflicts and reaffirm the obligation of States to proceed negotiations resulting in a comprehensive nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict international monitoring.

My Government calls on Nuclear- Weapons States to bear its responsibility to fulfill explicitly and without delay the obligations imposed by Article 6 of the NPT, In addition to the pledges made by those States in the Review Conferences of the treaty of 1995 and 2000.

Mr. President,

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to stress on the legitimate right of States to obtain nuclear technology for all peaceful purposes that serve their development projects, and support their economies and the diversity of energy sources.

Mr. President,

The complete elimination of all weapons of mass destruction especially nuclear weapons is considered one of the requirements to achieve peace and security in the Middle East, as stated in Security Council Resolution 487 and Security Council Resolution 687 (1991) and related General Assembly Resolutions adopted annually. My delegation also affirms the importance of implementing the resolutions of the Review Conference of 2010 that called to hold the Conference On the Establishment of a Middle East Free Zone of Nuclear Weapons and all other Weapons of Mass Destruction in 2012 with the participation of all countries of the region, and calls on taking the Resolution of the 1995 conference as its reference. We stress on the importance of the participation of all countries of the region in the 2012 conference and their support for the regional and international efforts to reach the desired goals. We call on the Secretary General of the United Nations and the Co- Sponsored countries of the resolution of 1995, to closely collaborate with the countries of the region and to make all the necessary preparations for the 2012 Conference. In this regard, we welcome the efforts of the facilitator H.E. Ambassador Jaakko Laajava and the Government of Finland for hosting the Conference in Helsinki. We would also like to emphasize the importance of the joining of Israel to the NPT and subjecting its nuclear facilities to the Comprehensive Safeguards System of the IAEA.

Mr. President,

On the other hand, my delegation would like to express it disappointment for the failure to reach an agreement on the text of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) during the negotiations held in July, which is considered the first international treaty to regulate trade in conventional weapons. We call on the continuation of the efforts, in the light of the common ground, to reach an affective and balanced text that meets the needs and interests of exporting and importing countries.
My Delegation affirms the importance of the continuation of efforts aimed at implementing the program of work adopted by United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its aspects, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 24/56. This program is considered the essential framework for the measures taken within the activities assumed by the International community to prohibit the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. At the same time, we emphasize the importance of voluntary implementation of the International Tracing Instrument, and the necessity of providing the international support for developing countries to improve their capabilities and enable them to implement the instrument through identifying and tracing illicit small arms and light weapons in order to eliminate them to serve all mankind. We welcome the progress made by the United Nations Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate Illicit Trade in Small and Light weapons since its adoption in 2001.

Mr. President,

The Disarmament Conference is the sole negotiations forum to discuss disarmament issues, and it is very important to respect the regulations of the conference and its procedural rules which are necessary to the success of any work agreed on. On this occasion, Iraq express its hope in reaching an agreement regarding the program of work to overcome the failure suffered by the conference (CD) and to resume its substantive work and negotiations according to its mandate.

My country also supports holding the Fourth Extraordinary Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (SSOD4), which would allow the opportunity to highlight the most important aspects of disarmament from a perspective which is more consistent with the current world situation and calls on the international community and public opinion to support the elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

In conclusion, I would like to express my delegation’s wishes of success to your esteemed committee and to achieve the desired results from its meetings, to reach a mutual understanding among all Member States regarding the essential issues.

Thank you....