Statement of

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Before the First Committee on Nuclear Disarmament and International Security

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Delivered By

H.E. Ambassador / Abdallah Y. Al-Mouallimi
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the UN

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Mr. President,

It gives the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Delegation great pleasure to congratulate your Excellency for your election to preside the work of the 1st Committee, and we are confident that your distinct experience and capabilities will bring successful outcomes to the current session. We also extend our congratulations to the rest of the distinguished members of the bureau.

Moreover, the Delegation of my Country aligns itself with the statement of the Arab Group and the statement of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. President,

As the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a founding member of the United Nations, and one of the first signatories to its charter, it has always been keen to participate in every effort and endeavor which contribute to maintaining international peace and security, promote the performance of this international body, and bring it closer to achieving its noble goals and objectives stipulated in its Charter which we all strive to realize. The Kingdom still keeps its firm belief that the UN's ability to carry out its functions is mainly related to the steadfast political will of the Members to put those principles into actual implementation, in addition to the development and reform of the UN principal organs to make them more representative and suited to all emerging variables which took place during the past eras of the UN’s history.

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia supports all positions calling for the establishment of nuclear-free zones all over the world, and expresses its deep regret for the postponement of the Conference on creating a Middle East free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction which was scheduled to be held in Helsinki, (continued)
Finland in the end of 2012. Moreover, the Kingdom emphasizes the need to hold the postponed conference as soon as possible during 2013. Convening this conference is the responsibility of the entire international community and its delay consists a breach of the review process and the commitments agreed upon in the 2010 Review Conference on the NPT, as well as casting doubts on the process of consensus and compromise within the framework of multilateral relations in the field of disarmament.

This postponement is the responsibility of Israel who did not declare its acceptance to attend the conference. As a result, the progress towards ridding the Middle East of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction is hindered.

In this regard, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stresses the need to achieve the universality of the NPT and to place all nuclear facilities in the Middle East under the comprehensive safeguards the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). In addition, the Kingdom stresses the need for Israel to accede to the Treaty and to place all its nuclear facilities under the IAEA safeguards.

Mr. President,

The crisis of the Iranian nuclear file constitutes one of the most important challenges to international peace and security in general, and to the security and stability of the Gulf region in particular. In this context, my Country supports the ongoing efforts of the G5+1 to peacefully resolve this crisis, and in a manner that guarantees Iran and all countries in the region the right of peaceful use of nuclear energy according to the criteria and procedures of the International Atomic Energy Agency and under its supervision. On the other hand, we urge Iran to respond to these efforts and to implement the relevant Security Council's resolutions by cooperating with IAEA inspectors to monitor its nuclear facilities in order to put an end to this crisis.
The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is of the view that all countries have the inalienable right to peaceful use of nuclear energy. My Country supports international efforts aimed at establishing a culture of universal security, sustainable effective supervisory mechanisms, and the establishment of binding legal instruments and standard guidelines for the peaceful use of nuclear energy through the promotion of international cooperation and exchange of best practices in this field. Moreover, the Kingdom calls for the universality of the "Convention on Nuclear Safety", to include all countries that have nuclear power programs or seeking nuclear energy in the future. Meanwhile, the Kingdom is deeply concerned about the existence of regional nuclear activities that are not subject to the relevant safeguards and international conventions.

Mr. President,

We would be remiss if we do not express our appreciation to the efforts made by the Security Council, and, in particular, the efforts of the Committee established pursuant to its resolution 1540 (2004) to control and prevent the provision of any form of support to non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery. We reiterate the importance of implementing the mentioned Resolution in order to limit terrorist organizations' access to WMD; and to intensifying supervision on nuclear services providers to ensure that they are not providing any illegitimate entities with nuclear materials or technology.

My Country has shown in several occasions its quick response to all efforts dedicated to achieve international peace and stability. The Kingdom promptly submitted its report to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution (1540), and organized three events to support the work of the Committee, the recent of which was a three-day workshop attended by officials from the UN and other relevant bodies. In addition, the Kingdom has also signed the Safeguards Agreement and its 2005 Small Quantities Protocol, and ratified the agreement which entered into force in 2009.
Mr. President,

In conclusion, I emphasize that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will always be at the forefront of any international efforts that aim to achieve international peace and security, and to realize our aspirations about security, stability, and prosperity.

Thank you.