Statement by
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Before

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Preparatory Committee to the 2015
NPT Review Conference

Cluster I specific issue:
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Sir Chairman,

At the beginning, I would like to extend my congratulations to you on your appointment as Chairman to this second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference. We look forward to working with you in order to achieve the ultimate goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world. In this regard, nuclear disarmament, as the first pillar of the Treaty, remains one of Egypt’s highest priorities, a priority which we have constantly promoted in all international disarmament fora.

Egypt associates itself with the working papers on nuclear disarmament submitted to this session by the Non-Aligned Movement and New Agenda Coalition. Indeed, these working papers make several important suggestions that must be considered seriously. Such ideas as the immediate commencement of serious negotiations to develop a plan to achieve an overall reduction of the global stockpile of nuclear weapons of all kinds, and to continue to reduce the role of nuclear weapons and their importance in military and security policies, constitute the building blocks of a world free of nuclear weapons.

We stress our concern at the threat to humanity posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons, and reaffirm that the total elimination of nuclear weapons, which represents the primary objective of the NPT, is the only guarantee against the use or threat of use of such weapons. This objective is dependent upon the full implementation by the nuclear-weapon States of their unequivocal commitment made in 2000 under Article VI and the achievement of universal adherence to the Treaty. International peace and security can never be attained with the existence of such weapons and the continuing vitality of our Treaty depends on bringing about a permanent end to all nuclear weapons as required by the NPT.

Mr. Chairman,

For non-nuclear weapon States (NNWS), the NPT is firmly anchored on the premise that the achievement of nuclear disarmament is the ultimate objective. Based on that commitment, the NNWS have renounced the military nuclear option. Both nuclear weapon states and non-nuclear weapon states reaffirmed the inalienable right to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and nuclear applications.
Moreover, the reaffirmation of the commitment to the total elimination of nuclear weapons was fundamental to the decision, which was adopted without a vote, to indefinitely extend the NPT in 1995.

Egypt recalls that the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences, respectively, agreed on 13 practical steps and on an action plan on nuclear disarmament which includes concrete steps for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Accordingly, Egypt strongly calls for prompt and full implementation of Article VI of the Treaty along with the 2000 and 2010 outcomes to advance systematically and progressively towards a nuclear-weapon-free world.

Whilst we acknowledge that modest progress has been made, such as the START treaty that was signed two years ago between the United States and the Russian Federation, much in the field of nuclear disarmament has yet to be realised.

The negotiation of a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified time frame ending in 2025, including a Nuclear Weapons Convention, is necessary and should commence without any further delay. Egypt reaffirms the importance of the application of the principles of transparency, verifiability and irreversibility by the nuclear weapon States in all measures relating to nuclear disarmament. Towards this end, the new Agenda Coalition, which Egypt has the honour to be a member of, presented a working paper to the first prepcom on the application of verifiability in nuclear disarmament. It has also presented a working paper to this prepcom on transparency in nuclear disarmament.

In addition, the Conference on Disarmament should agree on a balanced and comprehensive programme of work that should include the three actions related to the CD in the 2010 Action Plan. This includes the immediate commencement of negotiations on a verifiable multilateral treaty banning the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons and other explosive devices on the basis of document CD/1299 (the Shannon report) and the mandate contained therein while ensuring both nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation objectives. This necessitates the inclusion of dealing with stockpiles of weapon usable materials.

We also remain deeply concerned by the strategic doctrines of nuclear-weapon States that continue to rely upon and set out the rationales for the use of nuclear weapons, thereby undermining previous commitments made under the NPT. As one NGO – Reaching Critical Will – has aptly put it, the nuclear doctrines of the nuclear-weapon States are “Still assuring destruction forever”. It is equally a matter of serious concern and is unacceptable that some 30 non-nuclear weapon States party to the Treaty rely upon nuclear weapons for their security through defense arrangements with their nuclear-weapon State sponsors.
Egypt emphasizes, in particular, the prime importance of and the urgent need for full and prompt implementation of the commitments by all nuclear-weapon States under action (5) of the 2010 Review Conference “action plan on nuclear disarmament”. In this context, we further recall that nuclear-weapon States committed to accelerate concrete progress on the steps leading to nuclear disarmament.

Mr Chairman,

We are informed that the nuclear-weapon States have been engaged in discussions on “definitions” regarding nuclear weapons, it should be noted that though welcome such a step clearly is insufficient and inadequate. Were the non-nuclear-weapon States to engage in discussions on definitions of non-proliferation, that would be characterized as impractical and time wasting.

Moreover, Egypt calls upon the nuclear-weapon States to submit comprehensive substantive reports about their undertakings under action (5) of the 2010 Review Conference to the Preparatory Committee in 2014, in order to enable the 2015 Review Conference to take stock and consider the next steps for the full implementation of article VI of the Treaty in realization of the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

Egypt recalls that the 2010 Review Conference reaffirmed and recognized the legitimate interest of all non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty in receiving unequivocal and legally binding security assurances, from the nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, as this is in their security interest and is a legitimate right.

Accordingly, we are of the view that pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, nuclear-weapon States must refrain from the threat or use of nuclear weapons against any non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty. Egypt reiterates that efforts to conclude a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on security assurances to all non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty should be pursued as a matter of priority and should be materialized without further delay. Furthermore, Egypt calls upon those nuclear-weapon States that have not as yet signed on to the relevant Protocols of existing nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties, to do so unequivocally and without further delay.

Mr. Chairman,
It is important to note that this session of the Preparatory Committee, and indeed the review cycle for the 2015 NPT Conference, comes with continued high expectations from peoples around the world to move rapidly towards total nuclear disarmament, thereby enhancing global peace and security.

Egypt together with more than 70 States delivered a statement on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. This statement, which is gaining the world’s attention makes clear the unacceptable consequences of any nuclear detonation, whether by design, miscalculation or accident. Given that the only guarantee that nuclear weapons are never to be used again is their total elimination, the continued existence of nuclear weapons represents a threat to humanity. We have repeatedly heard that the nuclear weapon States are well aware of the danger to humanity, yet their lack of action towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons, and thus the elimination of the threat to humanity, is lacking. Egypt therefore urges all NPT States Parties to give serious consideration to the issues raised in this joint statement.

Indeed, 2013 is posed to be seminal in carrying forward the discussion on nuclear disarmament. Several multilateral fora are being held during this year to deal with this issue. Last month some 127 States and several United Nations agencies attended the Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, held in Oslo in early March. It is not at all surprising that the Oslo conference concluded that the historical experience from the use and testing of nuclear weapons has demonstrated the devastating immediate and long-term effects of such weapons; and that while political circumstances have changed, the destructive potential of nuclear weapons remains. Unfortunately, the nuclear-weapon States chose not to attend this important conference which is highly regrettable – hopefully, these States will attend the next such conference which shall be hosted by Mexico.

Furthermore, The UN General Assembly recently adopted a resolution that called for an Open-Ended Working Group to address nuclear disarmament. This exercise provides a useful opportunity to consider practical and concrete steps for the elimination of nuclear weapons. It is highly regrettable that the nuclear-weapon States have chosen not to participate in the deliberations of this working group. The organizations session of the group was already held in Geneva, and we look forward to the substantive sessions during the period from May-August. Egypt will be participating very actively in that working group and we look forward for an equal positive participation from all States, including nuclear weapon States.

The High Level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament that will be held in September of this year, in accordance to the UN General Assembly resolution adopted during the 67th GA Session, represents an opportunity to take stock of what is needed to
achieve a world free of nuclear weapons. We urge all States to participate in that HLM at the highest level, and in particular we urge the nuclear weapon States to participate very constructively in that meeting.

In this context, Egypt reiterates its full support to the NAM commitment to vigorously pursue the following priorities leading to the Review Conference in 2015, in full cooperation with all States Parties to the Treaty:

1. Realizing the full and prompt implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments by nuclear weapon States, aiming at the total elimination of nuclear weapons by 2025.

2. Pursuing continued focused and dedicated efforts to realize at the earliest possible time the universality of the Treaty as a key requirement for its effectiveness, and the global realization of its objectives.

3. Prompt commencement of negotiations on a Nuclear Weapons Convention, the route to realizing a world free from nuclear weapons by the year 2025.

4. Commencement of negotiations on a legally binding instrument to provide non nuclear weapon States with global, unconditional security assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, pending the realization of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

5. Reaffirmation of the inalienable right of non nuclear weapon States Parties to the Treaty to pursue their national choices in the area of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including their right for nuclear fuel cycle, without undue restrictions that would contradict with Article IV of the Treaty.

6. Reaffirmation that voluntary arrangements and confidence building measures undertaken by States Parties should, by no means, be seen as to turn into legal obligations, that would affect the balanced commitments and obligations of the States Party in accordance with the Treaty.

Finally, let emphasize the role of non-governmental organizations and civil society in supporting nuclear disarmament is much appreciated. They have prepared several very informative and useful reports, which can serve as a model for reporting by the nuclear-weapon States.

Mr. Chairman, as a non-nuclear-weapon State which is party to the NPT and to the African nuclear-weapon-free zone treaty, Egypt urges all NPT States to match words with actions and work to achieve a world without nuclear weapons.

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