Statement by
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Before
The Third Session of the Preparatory Committee
for the 2015 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty
Review Conference

New York, 28 April 2014
Mr. Chairman,

I would like to congratulate you for your election as Chair of the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. I wish you, of course, every success in your new responsibilities.

I would like also to express my best wishes to the distinguished members of the Bureau.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, and by Kenya on behalf of the African Group as well as the statement made by Iraq on behalf of the Arab Group.

I would like to add the following comments:

Mr. Chairman,

This Session of the Preparatory Committee, the last before the holding, next year, of the Ninth Review Conference of the NPT, is undoubtedly a milestone in the preparatory process. In this regard, all States Parties to the NPT are called upon to participate, in a constructive manner, in the work of our Committee.

The current review process, in which we are all engaged, is mandated to evaluate the results of the implementation of obligations undertaken by States Parties under the Treaty, and to identify areas and means by which further progress could be achieved in the future. In fact, we have to review the status of implementation of commitments collectively undertaken, on the basis of differentiated responsibilities, with a view to strengthening, in an equitable manner, the three, complementary and indivisible, fundamental pillars of the Treaty: nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and peaceful use of nuclear energy.

We believe that the Plan of Action, adopted by the 2010 NPT Review Conference, constitutes a good basis to be considered by the 2015 NPT Review process in order to strengthen the full implementation of the Treaty.
We have to make things clear and tell our feelings in assessing the implementation of the commitments, my delegation wishes to emphasize that until now, 44 years after the entry into force of the NPT, the results are not very encouraging, particularly in the field of nuclear disarmament. We, obviously, acknowledge that some measures have been taken, in recent years, to reduce nuclear arsenals. But, overall, we note, with disappointment, the lack of genuine progress in this area. In fact, nuclear-weapon States are far from having fulfilled their obligations under the NPT and the 2010 Action Plan. Similarly, a predominance of issues related to measures aiming to strengthen the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons are more noticeable than those undertaken in the field of nuclear disarmament, thus affecting the delicate balance between the three pillars of the NPT. In addition, there is a selective and discriminatory approach in the access to nuclear technology for civilian purposes.

Under such conditions, it is clear that the NPT is facing serious difficulties for its implementation. In the long run, such difficulties could undermine the credibility of the review process, as well as the sustainability of the Treaty regime and its integrity.

This being said, I have to stress very clearly that Algeria has its full confidence in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, unique international instrument and cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. It constitutes the legal basis and the framework for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. There is a need to implement the NPT, fully and effectively and on a universal scale, if we want to make our proclaimed vision of a world without nuclear weapons a reality.

Mr. Chairman,

Survival of mankind will remain threatened as long as the total elimination of nuclear weapons is not considered as the highest priority of the international community. The doctrines of nuclear deterrence remain a major obstacle to achieve that objective. That is why, we think that delegitimization of nuclear weapons is a necessary step if we really want to free the world of these weapons.
We should not forget that according to the Article VI of the NPT, nuclear-weapon States have the primary responsibility to achieve nuclear disarmament. Accordingly, nuclear-weapon States should respect and fully implement their Treaty’s obligations as well as their commitments contained in the 13 practical steps and in the 2010 action Plan. Nuclear-weapon States must translate into practice the identified measures to ensure that the elimination of nuclear weapons is complete, irreversible and verifiable.

In this regard, Algeria welcomes the convening of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament, on 26 September 2013, and the subsequent adoption of Resolution 68/32 on 10 December 2013. On the basis of these two major events, it is necessary to initiate a momentum to achieve real progress in the field of nuclear disarmament.

The Algerian delegation calls, therefore, for an effective implementation of Resolution 68/32.

As stipulated in this resolution, the Conference on Disarmament must approve, at the earliest time, a comprehensive and balanced programme of work, including an urgent commencement of negotiations on a comprehensive Convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use, and to provide for their destruction.

With a view to strengthening the global architecture for non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, my delegation would like to reiterate the importance of achieving universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty in order to allow its entry into force.

Furthermore, Algeria welcomes the convening of the Conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons held in Oslo in March 2013, and in Nayarit, in February 2014. Both meetings had allowed highlighting, once again, irreversible devastating effects of nuclear weapons and immeasurable suffering caused to human-beings. Algeria, having been, unwillingly, a nuclear ground test, in the early 60’s, understands and fully shares the trials and the consequences—till this very day—of these bitter facts.
Mr. Chairman,

Regarding the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, nuclear-weapons States as State Parties with nuclear weapons are committed, under Article I of the NPT, not transfer to any recipient whatsoever nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or control over such weapons or explosive devices directly, or indirectly; and not in any way to assist, encourage, or induce any non-nuclear-weapon State to manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, or control over such weapons or explosive devices. Confronted to the reality, this provision of the NPT requires to be strengthened in its implementation.

In this regard, nuclear-weapon States and Member States of the Nuclear Suppliers Group have a special responsibility in the implementation of this obligation. We urge them to commit to withholding their cooperation in the civil nuclear field to States which are not parties to the NPT. Sufficient restrictive measures on nuclear cooperation will deter those States remaining outside of the NPT.

The establishment of nuclear-weapons-free zones constitutes, not only a confidence measure, but a concrete step towards the complete and general elimination of nuclear weapons. Several regions of the world, including Africa, have been able to establish such areas. We reaffirm that the entry into force, on 15 July 2009, of the Pelindaba Treaty establishing a nuclear weapons free zone in Africa, represents an important contribution to the strengthening of international peace and security, and show the commitment of our continent to that goal.

The example of Pelindaba Treaty, and other nuclear-weapon-free zones should obviously be followed in the volatile region of Middle-East. Algeria deeply regrets that this region remains prevented of such status 19 years after the adoption, by the NPT Review and Extension Conference in 1995, of the Resolution on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone.
Rejecting this status quo, Algeria stresses its strong commitment to the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East and the 2010 Action Plan. My delegation expresses its strong disappointment to the postponement of the Conference on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle-East. We would like to thank the Facilitator of the Conference Ambassador Jaakko Laajava for his efforts and calls on the three co-sponsors of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle-East as well as the Secretary General of the United Nations to exert more efforts in order to convene the Conference, before the end of 2014. It is obviously of the utmost importance that all States in the region participate in this Conference.

Mr. Chairman,

Nuclear safety and security remain a great challenge. The risk of criminal use of nuclear materials and facilities by non-state actors that are part of terrorist networks, is real and should be in our minds as a priority.

For its part, Algeria completed its adherence procedures to all international legal instruments for nuclear security and is currently strengthening its national system of nuclear security.

Regarding the safeguards, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) plays a crucial role in this area. My delegation reiterates its full confidence in the mandate of the IAEA. We urge all States that have not yet done so, to bring into force comprehensive safeguards agreements as soon as possible. The universality of such agreements will consolidate and enhance the verification system for the non-proliferation regime.

At the bilateral level, Algeria has excellent relationship with AIEA, based on trust and partnership. The National Framework Programme covering the period 2012-2017 concluded with the Agency opened a qualitative phase for the excellent bilateral relations in technical cooperation.
Algeria would like also to stress the importance of full respect of the inalienable right of all State Parties to the Treaty to develop research, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination in accordance with Article IV of the NPT.

We consider, therefore, that each State Party in accordance with its national requirements and in accordance with its rights and obligations under the Treaty, has the sovereign right to define its own energy policy, including the inalienable right to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Nuclear energy is more than ever a vehicle for development and progress.

Mr. Chairman,

Multiple challenges in the implementation of the NPT call for a renewed commitment and increased multilateral cooperation in order to achieve significant progress in the implementation of the objectives of the Treaty. We strongly believe that the NPT three pillars are interdependent and must be treated equally, and that we must work together to achieve the common goal to free our world from nuclear weapons.

It is in this spirit that the Algerian delegation is participating to this session of the Preparatory Committee, which will determine, to a large extent, the prospects for the 2015 NPT Review Conference.

I thank you for your attention.