STATEMENT

BY

THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

ON
NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT
(MAIN COMMITTEE I)

UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK
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Check against delivery
South Africa would like to congratulate you on your elevation to provide here this important Max Committee of the 7th Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. My delegation believes that under your able stewardship and if we are willing to rise to the challenges that confront us, this Committee has the potential in making a significant contribution to the reviving of nuclear disarmament. I also wish to assure you of my delegation's support in this endeavor at this crucial moment when the worth and relevance of the NPT are being widely questioned due to among others, the lack of meaningful progress on nuclear disarmament.

South Africa associates itself with the statements prepared by Malaysia and Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the New Agenda Coalition on behalf of Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa and Sweden.

Chairperson,

Together with other States besides the nuclear-weapon States at the 2000 NPT Review Conference, South Africa supported the objective of a nuclear weapon-free world as the ultimate objective of the nuclear weapon States to ensure the total elimination of nuclear weapons. South Africa believes that the ultimate objective of the nuclear weapon States is the total elimination of nuclear weapon States, which should be achieved in a context of nuclear disarmament. The South African delegation, like many others, was encouraged by the excellent progress that has been made in the implementation of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the nuclear-weapon States have a clear and firm commitment to the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

At the 1995 NPT Review Conference, the nuclear-weapon States made an unequivocal undertaking to achieve global nuclear disarmament through the complete and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons. The goal is to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world with an destruction of nuclear weapons. South Africa believes that this goal should be achieved within the time frame set out in the UN resolution on nuclear disarmament. The South African delegation, like many others, was encouraged by the excellent progress that has been made in the implementation of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the nuclear-weapon States have a clear and firm commitment to the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Chairperson,

The years since the 1995 NPT Review Conference have seen significant progress in the disarmament process. South Africa believes that the South African delegation, like many others, was encouraged by the excellent progress that has been made in the implementation of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the nuclear-weapon States have a clear and firm commitment to the total elimination of nuclear weapons. South Africa believes that the South African delegation, like many others, was encouraged by the excellent progress that has been made in the implementation of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the nuclear-weapon States have a clear and firm commitment to the total elimination of nuclear weapons.
Further underscored by a worrying tendency among regional egos to withdraw from the obligations, commitments and undertakings that we agreed to during previous conferences.

While it may not be an immediate national interest to acknowledge, report or withdraw from the obligations, commitments and undertakings previously made, it would be befitting to express that any negative consequences of any such successful deployment lay the logical foundation for other States Parties to perhaps also be exempted, required or withdrawn from the obligations, commitments and undertakings made. South Africa believes that this should not also result in undermining, divestiture or even diminution of various aspects of the Treaty and yet its viability and effectiveness lies in its comprehensive implementation.

South Africa believes that the NPT is a credible multilateral framework to enhance nuclear disarmament and like any other multilateral form, States Parties should take into consideration the interests and concerns of others. In the event that these are not compatible with those of the other parties, States Parties should offer credible alternatives that will advance the common objective: nuclear disarmament. The given and sole basis of multilateralism should be to ensure that what is done does not undermine or dilute the core objectives of the Treaty.

My delegation is therefore of the view that the challenge to this Committee lies in safeguarding against the tendency in order to reframe the NPT objective and to build on the commitments and undertakings that have been already agreed to so as to continue in an irrevocable path towards nuclear disarmament.

Conclusion

Failure to implement agreed steps on nuclear disarmament and the tendency to challenge some of them is proceded by, among others, the lack of political will, the extension of nuclear weapons and the drawback of the emphasis on the accelerated nuclearization and nuclear non-proliferation.

The lack of political will is a serious impediment to nuclear disarmament that manifests itself in many different ways. Nuclear-weapon States continue to reject any and all proposed language within the multilateral framework calling on them to implement their nuclear disarmament obligations. In general, nuclear-weapon States have systematically and deliberately opposed all attempts to be involved in substantive engagement on nuclear disarmament in the NPT preparatory process, the First Committee and the Conference on Disarmament. South Africa believes that if we are truly committed to non-proliferation and the objectives of the Treaty it would be unwise to approach the Review Conference with an attitude of "business as usual". States Parties must be the visionary politicians willing to advance nuclear disarmament by implementing commitments and undertakings previously made. To demonstrate their commitment not only with words but also with actual steps for nuclear disarmament.

Conclusion

As noted on various previous occasions, South Africa believes that any assumption of the indefinite possession of nuclear weapons by the nuclear-weapon States is incompatible with the security and non-proliferation of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and with the broader goal of the maintenance of international peace and security. It is our view that continuous and irreversible progress in nuclear disarmament and other related nuclear arms control measures remains fundamental to the prevention and elimination of nuclear weapons. The complete elimination of nuclear weapons is the ultimate goal that we must be produced again therefore remains the only assurance against their use and this should remain our goal.
South Africa demonstrates that it is an achievable goal when it dismantled the apartheid system. This step was a step in the right direction that shows a commitment to peace and stability. We believe that this is necessary for the development of South Africa and the region.

The lack of progress on security issues must be addressed. It is essential to ensure that all parties involved make sincere efforts to find a solution. It is crucial to establish a framework that is capable of addressing these issues.

Diplomacy must be used to resolve these issues. It is important to engage in dialogues and negotiations to find a way forward. It is crucial to have a strong commitment to the process.

South Africa also believes that the development of new types of nuclear weapons or nuclear weapons for other purposes cannot be tolerated. We must ensure that all nuclear weapons are dismantled.

The non-proliferation of nuclear weapons remains a concern. We must work together to ensure that there is no proliferation of nuclear weapons.

In conclusion, we believe that the process of disarmament must continue. It is essential to have a strong commitment to the process. It is crucial to have a strong commitment to the process.

Chairperson, there is a widely held view that progress in the Review Conference will depend on the progress made between nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation issues. We believe that this is a crucial issue to address.

South Africa continues to hold the view that we must work towards regional and international cooperation in the field of disarmament. We believe that this is essential to ensure peace and stability.

On the other hand, we believe that the Review Conference must be held in a way that is transparent and inclusive. It is crucial to ensure that all parties involved are represented.

In conclusion, we believe that the process of disarmament must continue. It is essential to have a strong commitment to the process. It is crucial to have a strong commitment to the process.
can be avoided. Non-nuclear-weapon States acknowledge the necessity to accelerate the implementation of the practical steps for the systematic and progressive efforts to achieve nuclear disarmament agreed in the 2006 NPT Review Conference. Any attempt to accelerate, neglect or withdraw from the obligations, understandings and undertakings that we agreed to during this process could result in a counter-productive step in the wrong direction. On the contrary, leadership in multilateralism is of utmost importance since it would integrate purposeful cooperation in all the areas concerning the complete, irreversible and verifiable dismantlement, non-proliferation and disarmament.

The only way to prevent a crisis in the NPT largely lies with the nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States alike. Nuclear-weapon States that are fully compliant with their obligations made in nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation must not act in any way that may be detrimental to those efforts or lead towards a new nuclear arms race.

I thank you, Chairperson.