Ambassador Hisham Badr
Permanent Representative of Egypt
To the United Nations in Geneva

On Behalf of the
New Agenda Coalition

Main Committee I
Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty
2010 Review Conference
7 May, 2010, New York
Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to take the floor on behalf of the seven members of the New Agenda Coalition; Brazil, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden and my own country, Egypt.

The New Agenda Coalition remains fully committed to the objectives of the NPT and its three interlinked and mutually reinforcing pillars: nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful use of nuclear energy. Nevertheless, the NAC – as a cross regional grouping – is primarily focused on nuclear disarmament, and as such it remains committed to the total elimination of all nuclear weapons. In 2000 this group was instrumental in the success of the Review Conference of the NPT through its proposal on nuclear disarmament which enabled the conference to adopt the 13 practical steps as part of its outcome. Unfortunately, the momentum was not carried forward to the following Review Conference.

We are encouraged by some positive developments since the last Review Conference. The speech of US President Obama in Prague in April 2009 provided renewed hope for the achievement of a world free of nuclear weapons. We welcome the conclusion by Russia and the United States of the New START Treaty and look forward to its early ratification and entry into force. We urge those States, as well as all other nuclear weapon States, to engage in a process leading to further substantial reductions and eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons, deployed or non-deployed, strategic or non-strategic.

Despite the welcome developments, greater progress is still required to implement the Treaty's disarmament obligations under Article VI, including the
thirteen practical steps agreed to during the 2000 Review Conference. Thus, the New Agenda Coalition, through its working papers during the current review cycle, renews its efforts to bring to the forefront the necessity for countries to implement the commitments to which they subscribed in 2000.

One of the most important steps agreed to by the nuclear-weapon States in 2000 was to take steps to diminish the role of nuclear weapons in security policies to minimize the risk of use and to facilitate the process for their total elimination. Since 2000, however, we have seen some nuclear-weapon States emphasize the importance of nuclear weapons to defend not only against nuclear attack but also against attacks using other weapons, even conventional ones. This is not in keeping with the spirit of the 2000 outcome of a lessening role for nuclear weapons.

The Coalition therefore welcomes the recent announcement by the United States which points towards a reduced role for nuclear weapons in its security doctrines. We remind all nuclear-weapon States of their commitments in this regard and urge them all to take further steps to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in their security policies. In addition to reductions in nuclear arsenals, we call on the nuclear-weapon States to also declare a moratorium on upgrading and developing new types of nuclear weapons, or developing new missions for nuclear weapons.

In 2000, the thirteen practical steps also called for negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons, with a view to its conclusion within five years. Regrettably, in the ten years since then, it has not been possible for the CD to
commence negotiations on such a treaty. In that regard, and pending the conclusion of such a treaty, the Coalition reiterates the importance of all nuclear-weapons States making arrangements to place their excess fissile material no longer required for military purposes under international verification that would ensure that such material would remain permanently outside military programs and further support the development of appropriate legally binding verification arrangements within the context of the IAEA to ensure the irreversible removal of fissile material from nuclear weapons and other explosive devices.

Mr. Chairman,
The Coalition approaches nuclear disarmament via three key principles, namely irreversibility, transparency, and verifiability. Those three principles have to apply to all efforts if we are serious in our endeavor of working to achieve a nuclear weapons free world.

The Coalition reaffirms that nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing processes requiring progress on both fronts. In this regard we recall that the 2000 NPT review conference agreed on the unqualified statement that “the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or the threat of use of nuclear weapons”.

Mr. Chairman,
The New Agenda Coalition remains committed to the success of the NPT Review Conference. We intend to continue our constructive and principled participation in the work of Main Committee One, and through your guidance we are hopeful of the success of our efforts.

Thank you