

## **Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs Statement**

*Convenor: Mohamed I Shaker, Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs*

*Speaker: Mohamed I Shaker, Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs*

Mr Chairman,

I am greatly privileged to have the opportunity to speak in this meeting on behalf of my organization, The Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs (ECFA) , and among distinguished representatives of leading and well established NGOs devoted to disarmament and arms control.

My organization is greatly concerned about the state of implementation of the NPT. There is certainly a regression in disarmament and arms control. The promise of Article VI of the NPT is very far from being fulfilled. In reality, we are facing a state of non-compliance on the part of the nuclear-weapon States Party to the NPT, no less serious, than non-compliance with other provisions of the NPT and the potential threats of horizontal proliferation.

We do not lack mechanisms to deal with disarmament. We lack, however, the political will to advance forward on disarmament and more particularly nuclear disarmament. The Conference on Disarmament in Geneva should be fully activated and entrusted to deal with leading issues ranging from fissile cut-off to non use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and to the weaponization of the outer space among many issues that deserves urgent attention. Above all, real nuclear disarmament should be on the top of the Conference's agenda.

In the area of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the exercise of the inalienable right enshrined in Article IV of the NPT, we are faced with cartel like export control regimes that were not even anticipated in the making of the NPT or when the Treaty came into force. A constructive dialogue is badly needed between suppliers and users that will engender understanding and acceptability and more importantly guarantee the supply of nuclear material and equipment needed smoothly.

We welcome all the initiatives pertaining to supply assurances. In fact, we have multiple choices that should generate confidence and market stability. However, none of the initiatives deals with the guarantee supply in case of interruption of supply for political reasons. This is the crux of the matter and a reliable mechanism to deal with this issue should be established preferably within the IAEA. The lack of such mechanism may encourage the establishment of multilateral and multinational fuel cycles that would guarantee to its participating members the supply and give them a voice in making decisions concerning their own economic development, a right that many of them do not enjoy today being at the receiving end and at the mercy of the suppliers.

Being from the Middle East, the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs (ECFA) is also concerned about the state of implementation of the Middle East Resolution adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the NPT as a part of the package extending the treaty indefinitely. It was sponsored by the Depositary Governments: Russia, UK and the USA. They bare the responsibility in the implementation of this resolution. We hope to see great progress in establishing a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle east, which is the main goal of this resolution. Efforts in this direction, should start without further delay. The Israeli nuclear-weapon capabilities and the ongoing debate on the Iranian nuclear programme necessitate this urgency. Our Council would be in favour of convening an international conference under the auspices of the UN and sponsored by the three

Depositary Governments to be well prepared for. Such a preparation should not await or depend on the outcome of the Middle East peace process. The two Parallel ventures should inter-changeably benefit from the progress made by each. A final agreement on a Middle East WMD zone would certainly be a crucial element of a new, secure, and stable Middle East.

Lastly, the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs (ECFA) is joining six other NGOs and leading personalities from the seven Countries members of the New Agenda Coalition in forming a new NGO group devoted to disarmament and arms control. We will meet tomorrow 30 April and hope to come up with a statement or a communiqué that would reflect our views and outline our future endeavours.

Thank you.