

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Permanent Mission of the
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
to the United Nations
New York



البعثة الدائمة
لدولة الامارات العربية المتحدة
لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك



Statement by

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Permanent Representative of
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Before the First Committee

The General Debate

On

Disarmament and International Security

New York, 7 October 2003

Mr. President,

At the outset, and on behalf of the United Arab Emirates, it is my pleasure to extend to you my sincerest congratulations on your election as the chairman of this important committee and I wish you, and the members of your office success. I am confident that your diversified diplomatic expertise will effectively contribute to our deliberations, and will help in converging our views on issues concerning disarmament and enhancement of international security. Also, I would like to thank your predecessor for his management of the previous session of the committee, and thank the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, and his office for their valuable efforts in developing mechanisms of international co-operation in the areas of disarmament and stability of international peace and security.

Mr. President,

While the First Committee is being held, the international community witnesses regional and international developments in the field of armament race. In spite of the massive and continuing efforts made by the United Nations to address such important and critical issue, which is considered one of the most encouraging factors of creating military confrontations and destructive wars for both peoples and civilizations, we still see several countries endeavor to develop their reactors and their military arsenals including missiles, chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons as well as strategic and tactic weapons.

Moreover, many of the non-nuclear weapon states, especially in the regions witnessing violence and conflicts such as south Asia, Korean peninsula and Arab Gulf, act according to their self

understanding of deterrence and resort to declared and undeclared armament race through experimentation, production and acquisition of such weapons for non-peaceful purposes, ignoring all regional and international multilateral conventions and protocols which call for prohibition and destruction of such weapons.

Challenges facing international peace and security are no longer limited to armament race only, but also include new forms of dangers such as systematic arms traffic, and attempts of illegal and irresponsible acquisition of some dangerous types of weapons such as nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, which heightens the possibilities of allowing criminal actors and extremist groups, which are engaged in terrorist acts, have access to such weapons. New dangers also include traffic in drugs, transnational organized crime, illegal exploitation of natural resources, and similar acts which pose threats to the regional and international security balance.

Mr. President,

The significant and unprecedented increase in volume of annual military expenditures made by states to develop their military capabilities, compared to the military budgets of years of cold war, reflects the state of pessimism, tension, and lack of security among countries in many regions of the world. In the meantime, volumes of official and unofficial development assistance, set for addressing problems of poverty, spread of diseases, deterioration of environment and containment of human crisis in the developing countries, are considerably lower. Accordingly, we call for developing a binding international strategy for international co-operation, to be based on the principals of international law, charter of the United Nations and its resolutions, and other multilateral conventions and protocols which treat countries equally and without discrimination. Such

strategy must ensure enhancement of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, destruction of weapons of mass destruction and elimination of threats and escalations which result from such problems. In this context, we reiterate the necessity of the following:

- 1- Urging nuclear states to fully comply with their legal and moral commitments laid out in the treaties and protocols of disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, by enhancing their political will through serious negotiations which can lead to destruction of their comprehensive nuclear and strategic weapons within a specific timeframe.
- 2- Demanding non nuclear states, which endeavor to have acquisition of such weapons, to review their policies, resort to self control, and solve their regional disputes through peaceful means.
- 3- To strengthen efforts made to develop effective and unconditional international instruments that can ensure the security of non-nuclear states, and confirm the right of those states to have access to modern technologies which can be used for peaceful and developmental purposes.
- 4- Establishment of specialized committees by the Conference on Disarmament, in accordance with article 6 of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to be responsible for following up efforts of systematic destruction of all types of weapons of mass destructions, and the nuclear weapons.

Mr. President,

While we commend regional and sub-regional efforts made successfully to establish nuclear-weapon-free zones in many parts of the world, we are disappointed at the unsuccessful efforts in establishing a similar zone in the Middle East, due to the obstinate position of the government of Israel and its insistence on keeping its nuclear reactors and military arsenal away from international control to ensure its military superiority and to continue its illegitimate occupation of the Palestinian and Arab territories, defying the principles of international law which prohibit its unilateral and aggressive acts due to their threatening impact on our region, as well as international peace and security.

Proceeding from its firm conviction in the importance of enhancing the universality of such treaties for building a world free from all forms of threats, the United Arab Emirates, which acceded to the treaties of Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban, and prohibition of chemical weapons, considers the issue of establishment of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction as well as nuclear-weapons is essential for building a balanced regional and international strategic relations. Therefore, we renew our request to the international community, and in particular, the great influential countries to exert pressure on Israel to compel it to accede, unconditionally, to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty as it is the only country in the region, which has not yet acceded to this treaty, and to subject all its nuclear facilities to the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency in accordance with the international legitimate resolutions, and the resolutions of the sixth conference for revision of the treaty held in year 2000. Also, we call for discontinuing all scientific, technological and financial assistance used in developing Israel nuclear facilities due to its

threatening impact on the efforts of peace process in the Middle East.

On conclusion, we call for revitalizing the international efforts made for enhancing preventive diplomacy and culture of peace, developing dialogue mechanisms, building confidence, and settlement of disputes through peaceful means, based on the principles of respect for sovereignty of countries, non-interference in the their internal affairs, and abandonment of foreign occupation. We also hope that our deliberations in this important committee will lead to achieving a notable progress in all respects of disarmament, and will result in establishment of an international environment free from all forms of threats, where human, economic and environmental resources can be dedicated to achieving our universal development plans.

Thank you Mr. President.