

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

H.E. Ambassador Abdulaziz Nasser Al-Shamsi

Permanent Representative of

the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations

before

the General Debate of the First Committee on

"Disarmament and International Security"

61st Session of the General Assembly

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Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Delegation of the United Arab Emirates, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate Your Excellency on your election as chairman of this important committee, and I wish you and the members of your bureau success. I also would like to take this opportunity to thank your predecessor for his fine management of the last session and thank the Under-Secretary for Disarmament Affairs for the valuable information contained in his briefing to this committee, which reflected the efforts made by the United Nations in areas of addressing the arms race and the maintenance of international peace and security. I also wish to declare our support for the statement delivered by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

The serious discussions held by this committee reflect their significance for converging our views and achieving international consensus on disarmament issues, and particularly on issues that brought divisiveness among the Member States in the last years and led to the failure of international negotiations on the Disarmament Segment of the outcome document of the High Level Meeting of the 60th Session of the General Assembly, as well as the failure of the Seventh Review Conference of the Parties to the (NPT). Furthermore, the activities of the Conference on Disarmament of Geneva are at a stalemate due to disagreements on its agenda items.

Mr. Chairman,

The international arms race in all its forms continues to represent the real and most dangerous threat to international stability and economic development, which we all aspire to achieve. This comes at a time when we started to realize the magnitude of confrontations and dangerous conflicts that could break out and rage due to this race, and the possibility of diverting arms to irresponsible groups which makes it incumbent for us to prioritize the strengthening of international cooperation in all areas of disarmament in accordance with the principals of international law, the UN Charter, the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, and the relevant U.N. conventions and treaties which do not differentiate among states and ensure transparency with regard to respect for the sovereignty and security of States, non interference in their internal affairs, and their legitimate right to self defense.

Mr. Chairman,

We demand the delegations working in this important committee to exhibit the required flexibility and political will in order to build an international consensus on the outstanding key issues of our agenda. We would like to remind States of their obligations which were undertaken under disarmament treaties and protocols and whose principles should be used as a solid framework for our discussions and as the ultimate goal for non-proliferation and confidence-building measures at regional and international levels and for addressing other substantive issues which have hampered development efforts and prevented the peaceful settlement of many disputes. We would also like to emphasize that our discussions on the item "Improving the Effectiveness of the First Committee and its Frameworks" should be objective and help in maintaining the key priorities aimed at addressing the risks of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and eliminating the doctrine of nuclear deterrence sought by some States, especially in the troubled areas such as the Middle East and Arabian Gulf Region, South Asia and others.

Mr. Chairman,

The United Arab Emirates would like to seize this opportunity to renew its full commitment to disarmament treaties and instruments to which it was a party, especially the treaties which ban the production of weapons of mass destruction with a view to promoting confidence-building measures and strengthening regional and international stability. In this context, the UAE calls for exercising self-restraint and resolving regional conflicts through peaceful means instead of escalating tensions and confrontations which are usually exacerbated by the insistence of some States to keep their nuclear arsenals and the attempts of others to possess and test these weapons.

From this perspective, we reiterate our supporting position for the right of States to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, and encourage technological and scientific exchange in this area under the permissible limits of the non-proliferation system which is supervised by the International Atomic Energy Agency. In the meantime, we hope that the ongoing negotiations on Iran's nuclear question would lead to a lasting and peaceful settlement that ensures safety and security of the countries of the region and their protection from the threat of any unnecessary confrontations. We also stress that the international community must deal with this question in the utmost transparent manner that ensures the implementation of all relevant resolutions of the United Nations, particularly the

resolutions of the General Assembly and the sixth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of 2000, all calling for the establishment of a zone free from nuclear weapons in the Middle East, just as in Latin America, the Carribean Sea, South Pacific, South East Asia, Africa and as was done recently, in Central Asia and Kazakhstan. This makes it incumbent upon the influential States in the UN to exert pressure on Israel to dismantle and subject its nuclear facilities to the complete control of the International Atomic Energy Agency. We also call upon all States to abide by the resolution calling for the suspension of all scientific, technological and financial assistance directed to developing these facilities due to their threatening impact on the peace process in the region and on the security and stability of its people.

Mr. Chairman,

We renew our support for the proposals calling for concluding a universal and unconditional binding instrument that provides security assurances to non-nuclear States. We also hope that serious negotiations are initiated among nuclear-weapon-States that would ultimately lead to the fulfillment of their commitments, which include the gradual reduction and elimination of their nuclear arsenals, especially strategic offensive arms, within a specific timeframe and in accordance with Article 6 of the NPT, in order to enhance the efficiency and universality of the treaties on the disarmament of weapons of mass destruction, and protect humanity from the risk of genocide.

We also welcome the final document of the conference held by the UN recently for reviewing the progress made in the implementation of the 2001 Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons, and the concluding of a binding international instrument that enables States to identify and trace the movement of illicit small arms and light weapons, in a timely and reliable manner. We also hope that appropriate and practical measures are taken by all States in order to combat this phenomenon, which had proved the effect of prolonging the ongoing conflicts and wars and threatening the safety, stability and prosperity of the people.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, I hope the deliberations of this committee would lead to building a consensus on how to strengthen its activities and realize the aspirations of our peoples towards achieving security, peace and development as well as regional and international stability.

Thank you Mr. Chairman