

بِسْمِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



STATEMENT

BY

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF  
QATAR  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT

THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE  
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ON

DISARMAMENT AND INERRATIONAL SECURITY

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**Mr. President,  
Distinguished audience,**

May peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption the chair of the First Committee of the General Assembly on Disarmament and International Security. We salute as well your three deputies and the rest of the Bureau's staff, wish the work of the Committee success in the sixty-second session of the General Assembly of the United Nations under your stewardship, and express to you the unlimited support of the delegation of the State of Qatar. I would also like, Mr. President, to salute Mr. Sergio Duarte, the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and thank him for his statement at the first meeting of the discussions. We consider the role he is playing in assuming his new post a part of the laudable efforts of the Secretary-General in developing the disarmament system of the United Nations. I want also to support the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

**Mr. President,**

Each part of the United Nations mechanisms for disarmament has an important role to play. The Conference on Disarmament (CD) is the negotiating forum for disarmament and non-proliferation treaties, and the First Committee of the General Assembly is the forum in which decisions are issued on topics relating to non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament. The Disarmament Commission has issued the basic principles and guidelines to verify the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones. A particular attention should be paid to the entry into force and universality of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and its Protocol, and the successful negotiation of a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty. Regrettably, we note the collapse of the consensus on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The most visible and recent manifestations of that collapse can be discerned in the failure to reach any agreement on disarmament at the 2005 World Summit, the lack of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament, the lack of results at the 2005 Review Conference of Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as well as the modest achievements of the meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Review Conference. The United Nations disarmament mechanisms did not therefore live up to their potential level, and this in itself does not represent a failure of the disarmament mechanism, but rather a failure of the political will in advancing the disarmament and non-proliferation agenda.

**Mr. President,**

Nuclear weapons remain at the top of the multilateral system preoccupations. While a relatively few number of countries possess them, those weapons could kill hundreds of thousands of people and obliterate entire cities in just one attack. We believe that complex factors underpin this situation, notably the lack of confidence. In fact, the nuclear-weapon State Parties to the Treaty on Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) are not willing to give up their nuclear weapons. On the contrary, they are modernizing their nuclear weapon programs in contravention of the Treaty. The CTBT has not entered into force, which makes the resumption of nuclear testing at any time a development not to be ruled out. At the same token, we cannot exclude the negative impact imposed by the new world order, including military intervention and the failure to take into account the basic security and political concerns of States, and the principle of equal security provided for by the spirit of the General Assembly special sessions on disarmament. In that context, we stress the importance of the Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament and of convening the Preparatory Committee as soon as possible.

**Mr. President,**

The selective use of rules of non-proliferation constitutes a driving force towards proliferation and the race to achieve a deterrence capability. We would like to underline in this context the inviolability of peaceful nuclear activities. While the NPT affirms the inalienable right of all Parties to the Treaty to develop, research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination, we note with concern the unjustified restrictions imposed by some nuclear-weapon States to deny non-nuclear-weapon States their right to the peaceful use of nuclear technology. At the same time we unfortunately note the failure to take practical steps towards getting rid of nuclear weapons that are already available to nuclear States. We therefore support the document submitted by Cuba on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, during the 2007 Conference on Disarmament, which contains recommendations for achieving the goal of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

**Mr. President,**

Regrettably and despite the adoption of the General Assembly resolution last year on the determination to achieve the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, we note that the danger posed by those weapons is currently as high as it used to be during the cold war. We also note in general an exacerbation in the

global differences over all of nuclear issues, and the need for preventive efforts and good offices to resolve those differences through dialogue. We will therefore consult with our colleagues and partners in submitting a draft resolution sponsored by the State of Qatar on resolving differences over nuclear issues through peaceful means. We hope the draft would get encouragement from all our colleagues and support from our partners.

**Mr. President,**

Nuclear-weapon-free zones play an important role in maintaining regional peace and security and they complement the perspective of international peace and security. In this regard, we welcome the establishment of such regions in Asia, and urge nuclear-weapon States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the relevant protocols to the treaties establishing nuclear-free zones, and to thus ensure providing security assurances to the countries of the regions concerned. We strongly support the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East to avert the danger of proliferation in this sensitive region of the world. In this context, we call on Israel to take confidence promoting practical steps to implement the proposals for the establishment of such a zone, agree on placing its nuclear facilities under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) supervision, and join the NPT.

**Mr. President,**

All States need to commit themselves to the implementation of agreed measures to prevent non-State actors from acquiring Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery. The ultimate goal of that exercise should be the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, and ceasing their production and development, so that they would not fall in the hands of terrorists.

**Mr. President,**

Among the other challenges in the field of disarmament which represent a threat to international peace and security, that should not be overlooked, we mention the following problems:

- The problem of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. The outcome of their 2006 Review Conference was disappointing.

- We are also deeply concerned by the proliferation of landmines, such as those planted by Israel in southern Lebanon during its invasion. We resent the fact that Israel has not yet delivered the maps of those mines as requested by the relevant Security Council resolutions.
- Furthermore, we share the concern of the international community regarding the dangers of conventional weapons and their development. Practical measures of confidence building in the area of conventional weapons need to respect the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. They need also to be implemented on a voluntary and reciprocal basis, in accordance with the principle of providing undiminished security for all.
- We note with deep concern the recent trend of increasing global military expenditures - that surpass one trillion US dollars annually, and its impact on the depletion of global resources that could be harnessed for development.

**Mr. President,**

We are aware that the agenda items of the Committee represent challenges to international peace and security from a collective perspective, and to the reinvigoration of the role of the multilateral system in facing those challenges. We need to act professionally, guided by our conscience to serve humanity, according to the spirit and purposes of the international law and the Charter of the United Nations, in a balanced, fair and indiscriminate manner. Such approach would allow us to reach a consensus and achieve our tasks on schedule. In conclusion we stress the importance of separating and keeping the work of the Committee away from topics discussed elsewhere, and not to politicize its work in any way, shape or form.

**I thank you.**