

Islamic Republic of

I R A N

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

**Statement by
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In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to begin by congratulating you on your election as the Chairman of this important Committee and wish you success in guiding our deliberations.

My delegation would like to associate itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Indonesia on 6 October, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

A range of serious and complex challenges including the continued existence of thousands of nuclear weapons coupled with disregard of nuclear disarmament obligations, the tendency to gain global dominance through military hardware, the expansionism founded on the preemptive doctrine, misuse of the international bodies, and terrorism have led to the erosion of international peace, security and stability.

Such circumstances fueled with the re-emergent arms race have resulted in deepening of mistrust and the sense of insecurity among states and in weakening the credibility and effectiveness of multilateral mechanisms.

A real and essential change is needed in order to close this chapter of our history and to bring a new phase in international arena, based on the principle of undiminished security for all and the right to development, as well as understanding new dynamics and realities of today's world, cooperation and genuine multilateralism to secure

collective security. All peace-loving nations are hopeful that future developments would serve as a driver for such a breakthrough.

Mr. Chairman,

The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly believes that nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing. In this context, we believe the efforts to achieve the nuclear disarmament and the universality of the NPT should be paralleled by simultaneous efforts aimed at addressing non-proliferation aspects in all its aspects. The strengthening of efforts in these two areas together would serve well in securing a world that is free from weapons of mass destruction.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, as the last victim of the use of weapons of mass destruction in recent history, is highly motivated to pursue the realization of the lofty goal of a world free from such inhumane weapons. Iran has manifested its determination towards this end, by adhering to three major legal instruments, namely NPT, BWC and CWC and by putting forward the idea of the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

The lack of progress towards the realization of nuclear disarmament is frustrating. The development of new nuclear weapons and the irrational doctrines to justify the use of these weapons as the means of terrorizing nations have added to this frustration. Those who hypocritically preach the others to comply have themselves committed a series of serious non-compliance in the context of Articles I, II, IV and VI of the NPT¹ and the agreements of 2000 NPT Review Conference that has given rise to the pervasive concern that some nuclear-weapon States have no genuine will of accomplishing the disarmament part of the NPT bargain. This trend has led to the creation of a crisis of confidence which if remains unaddressed, may have far-reaching consequences.

The cases of non-compliance with the nuclear disarmament obligations include: developing new nuclear weapon systems such as mini-nuclear weapons, constructing new facilities for producing nuclear weapons, modernizing existing nuclear weapons systems,

¹ Iran's working paper presented in the NPT PerpCom 2008.

resuming efforts to develop and deploy tactical nuclear weapons despite the commitment to effectively reduce them, lowering the threshold for the actual use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states.

The United States that boasts to have the leadership in fighting against the threat of WMD, continues to stress the essential role of nuclear weapons as an effective tool for achieving security as well as foreign policy objectives, and threatens to target non-nuclear-weapon States Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Concluding agreements with non-Parties to the NPT on nuclear cooperation, including but not limited to, the 2000 agreement with the Zionist regime has put in jeopardy the entire non proliferation regime and appeared as a disservice to the universality of the NPT.

Moreover, the United States is also engaged in destabilizing the international security environment by building a "missile shield" in Eastern Europe, based on declaratory assessments of hypothetical and artificial threats and in order to get the impossible goal of "absolute security". The main target country of this shield, having nuclear weapon status, has repeatedly warned including in this Committee that "the deployment of the U.S. global missile defense bases in Eastern Europe will have a negative effect on the disarmament process."

The commitment of certain nuclear weapon States to nuclear disarmament must go beyond rhetoric. Instead of playing figure game to cover their non-compliance and ambitions, they need to abandon their anti-nuclear disarmament policies and actions and truly honor their obligations.

Current prejudicial attempts to restrict the right to peaceful use of nuclear technology present all developing non-nuclear-weapon States party to the NPT with a serious challenge. Exacerbating the already discriminatory conditions of the NPT would only undermine one of the basic foundations of the Treaty.

In the past few years, such attempts coupled with pressure and threats have targeted the peaceful nuclear program of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Iran as the party to the NPT, while observing its

legal obligations, is determined to exercise its inalienable right to peaceful use of nuclear technology including fuel-cycle. This policy is based on a long-term planning to meet the growing energy needs of the country. By presenting various offers including its "Proposed Package for Constructive Negotiations" to the 5+1 Group in May 2008, Iran has already demonstrated its firm determination to negotiations without preconditions to find solution to issues arising from the unjust and prejudicial approach of certain powers. The 5+1 Group has yet to provide its response to Iran's package. Instead of applying pressure, a solution that is based on realities, common concerns and obligations should be pursued as a viable option.

Mr. Chairman,

For nearly three decades, it has been consistently emphasized by the General Assembly and IAEA resolutions that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East would greatly enhance international peace and security. Yet, the Zionist regime which has rejected and violated every single resolutions of the Security Council and General Assembly, and flouted all international regimes on weapons of mass destruction continues to be the only impediment in realizing such a zone in the Middle East due to its non-adherence to the NPT as well as its nuclear arsenals and continued clandestine operation of the unsafeguarded nuclear facilities. The international community, especially countries in the region, must unite in curbing the threats posed by the weapons of mass destruction of the Israeli regime, and in pursuing the establishment of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East at the earliest possible time.

On the issue of the UN Third Panel on missiles, we are pleased the Panel had a very constructive and serious discussion and succeeded in preparing the second consensual United Nations report on the complex issue of missiles in all its aspects. I congratulate the Chairman and the members of the panel for their tireless efforts and commitment to conclude a substantive review on different aspects of missiles. The Chairman of the panel, Mr. Santiago Mourão of Brazil, has played an important role in achieving consensus within the panel and I seize this opportunity to express my special thanks for his dedication and excellent leadership. Given this development, my

delegation along with other sponsors will present a draft resolution this year.

As regards the Chemical Weapons Convention, we note with satisfaction that the Second Review Conference concluded its work with the agreement on an outcome document. We once again underline that complete destruction of chemical weapons remains the most important foundation of the Convention, which is yet to be attained. For the sake of credibility of the Convention all Possessor States Parties must take every necessary measure to meet the final deadline and to destroy all their chemical weapons by 29 April 2012. Failure to meet this deadline would constitute a clear and serious case of non-compliance.

It is indeed disappointing that the UN Disarmament Commission failed to reach a substantive conclusion especially in its Working Group I, on nuclear disarmament due to the attempts by some Member States to undermine the existing agreements, principles and norms on nuclear disarmament as well as attempts to set preconditions for the implementation of their already made unequivocal undertakings for total elimination of nuclear weapons. NATO's three nuclear-weapon States bear the responsibility for that failure.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that the Islamic Republic of Iran as a victim of weapons of mass destruction, joined with other peace loving nations, spares no effort in realizing a world free from these inhuman and horrible weapons.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.