

بِسْمِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



**STATEMENT OF THE DELEGATION OF
THE STATE OF QATAR**

**BY
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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF QATAR TO
THE UNITED NATIONS**

**BEFORE
THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON DISARMAMENT**

**AT
THE ANNUAL GENERAL DEBATE OF ALL
DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AGENDA
ITEMS FOR THE 63RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset I congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the 2008 session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC). I congratulate also the members of the Bureau and wish you success in your work and we assure you of our full support in that regard. I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the efforts made in the area of disarmament by the Secretary-General and Mr. Sergio Duarte, the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs. I associate myself to the statement made on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement by the distinguished delegate of Indonesia.

Mr. Chairman,

The State of Qatar stresses the importance of multilateralism in the maintenance of the disarmament mechanism and preserving it from erosion in view of its crucial role in mitigating the threats to peace and security throughout the world. Therefore, the State of Qatar is consistently working to strengthen and implement the disarmament mechanism. The State of Qatar submits substantive reports in the area of disarmament and international security to the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat as an input to the preparation of the Secretariat's annual reports. Furthermore, the State of Qatar has been hosting workshops and events that promote training and exchange of expertise in the implementation of the international instruments on the prohibition of all kinds of weapons such as nuclear, chemical, biological, bacteriological and toxin weapons and mines, especially when the implementation of those conventions is related to strengthening human rights law and the international humanitarian law and to the implementation of relevant international instruments and protocols, including the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their additional protocols. The State of Qatar is in the process of enacting the necessary national legislation for fulfilling its international and national obligations in the area of disarmament and international security, which are also met by training national professionals and raising the media awareness on implementation and verification.

Mr. Chairman,

Through its international relations, the State of Qatar has been keen on strengthening the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and activating the pillars on which the NPT is based, namely non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. While nuclear disarmament is one of the most important pillars on the global agenda for disarmament, the outcome of the work of the second Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference that was held in Geneva this year was not successful due to the lack of a strong will to commit to the implementation of the most important provisions of the Treaty, namely the moratorium on the development and reduction of nuclear arsenals. The review process has not been carried out based on the resolutions and decisions taken in the previous two conferences. The responsibility for making the State efforts to conduct a substantive review come to fruition continues to rest with the parties that have politicized the review exercise by hindering the implementation of internationally agreed obligations. In this context, we would like to state the fact that significant achievements have been made in the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference, only to be reversed as a result of reneging on internationally agreed commitments. First, the Treaty was extended indefinitely to ensure that commitments towards nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation became permanent. Secondly, the Treaty review mechanism was strengthened. Thirdly, the parties to the Treaty agreed on a set of principles and objectives on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, including a decision to make the Middle East a nuclear-weapon free zone, and that was the basis for the approval of the Arab States to extend the Treaty indefinitely and for all Arab States to join it. Unfortunately, however, not only the persistence of some States in preventing any progress towards the implementation of those commitments would jeopardize the success of the 2010 Review Conference, but the politicization factor was also the reason why the Disarmament Commission failed last April to make "recommendations for achieving the goal of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation". Israel's adherence to the NPT would strengthen the confidence necessary to find many solutions to the problems of the Middle East.

Mr. Chairman,

We stress the inviolability of the inalienable right of the State Parties to acquire nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, under the relevant articles of the Treaty, and not to set obstacles for non-nuclear State Parties to the Treaty in their quest to develop a nuclear capability for peaceful purposes. We encourage not raising controversial issues that have nothing to do with the work of the Committee and that are under consideration of other United Nations organs. At the same time we stress the importance of resolving the differences on nuclear issues by peaceful means and refraining from the use or the threat of use of force, in accordance with the objectives and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Mr. Chairman,

Other challenges in the field of disarmament include the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and the failure of reviewing this problem in a professional manner due to turning a blind eye on the responsibility of the countries of origin that export millions of such weapons without adequate restrictions or controls over their exports.

Another cause of deep concern for us is the proliferation of landmines and cluster munitions, such as those planted by Israel in southern Lebanon, that continue to this day to kill and permanently maim civilians. That is why we signed the Wellington Declaration for cluster munitions during the Dublin conference last May. We look forward to opening the Convention for signature next December in Oslo.

We share with the international community its concern about the serious threat posed by conventional weapons and their continuous development. Addressing this issue must, however, be fair and in a manner that do not target certain countries with a view to stripping them of their defense capabilities at a time when other countries are developing nuclear, strategic and tactical weaponizing capability while overstating their defense policy. Such attitude would act as a catalyst for an arms race and a nuclear race, thus squandering resources in a manner that would adversely affect development and environmental standards.

I thank you.