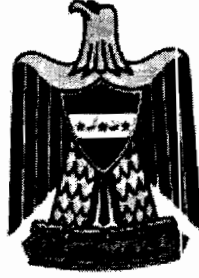


بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم



**Statement of the
Republic of IRAQ
Before
The General Debate of the First Committee of the
United Nations General Assembly**

كلمة وفد جمهورية العراق
خلال النقاش العام
لأعمال اللجنة الاولى خلال الدورة
الثالثة والستين
للجمعية العامة للأمم المتحدة

New York, 6-14 October 2008

**Statement
of the Republic of
Iraq**

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset allow me to congratulate you on your unanimous election to preside over this year's first committee of the United Nations. I am confident that under your able guidance and leadership, the first committee in the year 2008 will succeed in fulfilling the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly. Also, I would like to extend my congratulations to the other members of the Bureau on their election. Iraq associated itself with the NAM statement delivered by the Indonesian delegation.

Mr. Chairman,

According to the Security Council Resolution No: 1762 (2007) it decided to terminate immediately the mandates of the UNMOVIC and the IAEA under the relevant resolutions and mentioned that the continued operations of the UNMOVIC and the IAEA's Iraq Nuclear Verification Office (INVO) are no longer necessary to verify Iraqi compliance with its obligations under the relevant resolutions, reaffirmed Iraq's disarmament obligations under relevant resolutions, acknowledged Iraq's constitutional commitment to non-proliferation, non-development, non-production and non-use of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and associated equipment, material, and technologies for use in the development, manufacture, production and use of such weapons, as well as delivery systems, and urged Iraq to continue implementing this commitment and to adhere to all applicable disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and related international agreements.

Iraq signed on August 19, 2008 the accession to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty-CTBT, which is intended to enforce a comprehensive ban on all nuclear test explosions, and to stop the qualitative development of nuclear weapons which would pave the way towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Iraq also acceded to The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their

Destruction that was put in effect on 15 August 2007 and the Convention was entered into force by Iraq since 1 February 2008.

Concerning the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, of the Cluster Munitions, that was signed on May 30, 2008 in Dublin, the ratification of its accession is now under progress before the Iraqi Parliament.

Mr. Chairman,

Iraq reaffirms that achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament continues to be our highest priority. We remain alarmed by the threat to humanity posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible use or threat of use and we are deeply concerned over the slow pace of progress towards nuclear disarmament.

We underline the need for all members to fulfill their obligations in relation to nuclear disarmament and arms control and to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects. We call upon all members to renew and fulfill their individual and collective commitments to multilateral cooperation as an important means of pursuing and achieving their common objectives in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

Iraq calls upon the nuclear-weapon-states to refrain from nuclear sharing for military purposes under any kind of security arrangements in conformity with their obligations. It is also looking at a full implementation of the unequivocal undertaking given by them to the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals through an accelerated process of negotiations and through the full implementation of the 13 practical steps to advance systematically and progressively towards a nuclear-weapon-free-world that they agreed to in 2000.

Iraq is fully convinced that the NPT is a key instrument in the efforts to halt vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons and as the essential foundation for nuclear disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

Iraq supports the call for the establishment in the Middle East of a nuclear-weapon-free zone and other weapons of mass destruction in accordance with the Security Council resolution 487 (1981) and the relevant General Assembly resolutions adopted by consensus and recalls that the 2000 NPT Review Conference reaffirmed the importance of Israel's accession to the NPT and the placement of all its nuclear facilities under

comprehensive IAEA safeguards, in realizing the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty in the Middle East.

At the same time, Iraq reaffirms the basic and inalienable right of all States to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination.

Iraq reaffirms that the IAEA is the competent authority responsible for verifying and assuring, in accordance with the statute of the IAEA and its safeguards system, compliance with its safeguards agreements with States parties undertaken in fulfillment of their obligations under Article III, paragraph 1, of the NPT, with a view to preventing diversion of nuclear energy from peaceful uses to nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

We reaffirm that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and the most effective way of preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, in consistent with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and international law, and with conformity of the Security Council resolution 1540.

Iraq expresses its firm support for unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures adopted by some governments aimed at reducing their military expenditures, thereby contributing to strengthening regional and international peace and security.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman