

Islamic Republic of I R A N

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

**Statement by
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to the First Committee of the 64th General Assembly
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In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

Let me at the outset congratulate you on your election as the Chairman of this 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 behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Since the last year session of this Committee, some developments have taken place in the area of disarmament. The most notable one has been the heightened attention of international community to the question of nuclear disarmament. If accompanied by sincere political will, real change in past policies, understanding new dynamics and realities of today's world and improvements in relations of nations, this significant development would hold out the promise of return to genuine multilateralism and respect for disarmament obligations, and hopefully, the beginning of positive trends in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.

This First Committee provides a good opportunity to contribute to the promotion of the current atmosphere, which should be seized. We look forward to cooperating to this end with other delegations during this session of the Committee.

The Islamic Republic of Iran views nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects as essential components of

international security. Threats stemming from the existence of weapons of mass destruction, in particular thousands of nuclear warheads in the stockpiles of nuclear weapons States, failure in the implementation of disarmament obligations, and horizontal and vertical proliferation have deep effects on international security. This underscores the importance of cooperative endeavors by all nations, in particular nuclear weapon States, to revitalize multilateral disarmament efforts.

The lofty goal of a world free from weapons of mass destruction deserves our utmost attention in our discussions in the Committee. As we know from the bitter experiences of atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the chemical attacks by the Saddam's regime against Iranians and the people of Halabche in Iraq, the consequences of the use of weapons of mass destruction are horrible and long-term. For achieving the goal of a world free from such inhumane weapons, persistent and sustained collective efforts are required by all nations in particular possessor States.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a victim of weapons of mass destruction in the recent history, is firmly committed to pursuing the realization of a world free from weapons of mass destruction, not only in words, but also by full implementation of three major legal instruments banning weapons of mass destruction, namely NPT, BWC and CWC, has taken concrete steps in support of its commitment.

Adoption of many resolutions in the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament is a clear manifestation that this objective has the utmost priority in the agenda of international community. This is because nuclear weapons are unique as the most destructive weapons ever produced. The existing nuclear arsenals are capable of destroying our civilizations and all life on earth. With the exception of few people in nuclear weapon States, nobody else can deny the fact that the continued existence and proliferation of nuclear weapons by nuclear powers pose the greatest threat to the security of humanity.

In order to get the world rid of the threat of nuclear weapons, various efforts have been pursued by international community from the earliest days of the United Nations to the present time. But

regrettably, some nuclear-weapon States have not demonstrated genuine will of accomplishing the disarmament part of the NPT bargain and full compliance with their obligations.

Despite their unequivocal legal undertakings in the 2000 NPT Review Conference, nuclear weapon States have not moved toward the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals and on the contrary, continued to develop and modernize their nuclear weapons. This is a serious non-compliance case, which if remains unaddressed, will cause a grave disservice to the objectives and principles of the NPT. If the NPT is to continue its role in promoting international peace and security, it is necessary that the nuclear weapon States prove that they are serious about their responsibility and commitments to fully implement the provisions of the article VI of the NPT and all decisions and resolution of the 1995 and agreements of 2000 Review Conferences.

Regrettably the nuclear weapons States, the permanent members of the UN Security Council did miss an opportunity in the 24 September Summit meeting to reaffirm their commitments to total elimination of their nuclear arsenals. They adopted the 1887 resolution which went beyond the provisions of IAEA Statute and the NPT, and introduced certain provisions which are in clear contradiction with letter of the NPT. Since this resolution partly distorted the language of Article VI of the NPT, legally speaking, it can not and must not be referred to in any future NPT meetings. We are not able to support the reference to this legally flawed resolution in the First Committee resolutions.

The forthcoming NPT Review Conference in 2010 is a good opportunity for some nuclear weapons States to turn the page and prove they take their responsibility seriously in addressing the concerns of international community with respect to their nuclear weapons. This is possible by strengthening nuclear disarmament measures, and adopting a plan of action for total elimination within a specified timeframe.

In connection with work ahead of us, I would like to bring to the attention of delegations that the Islamic Republic of Iran will present to this First Committee its draft resolution on the "follow-up to nuclear

disarmament obligations agreed to in 1995 and 2000 Review Conferences of States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons". The General Assembly has adopted this resolution since its introduction in 2005 by the overwhelming support of member States. This year it would be a test to show that how the claims for "change" are real.

The international community for a long time has made clear its expectation by adopting resolutions in the 1995 NPT Review Conference, General Assembly and IAEA that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East would greatly enhance international peace and security. Yet, a regime which has flouted all international instruments on weapons of mass destruction continues to be the only impediment in realizing such a zone in the Middle East due to its refusal to submit itself to the global demand of acceding to the NPT as well as its continued clandestine nuclear weapons program and operation of the unsafeguarded nuclear facilities. This Zionist regime has repeatedly attacked and openly threatened to attack other countries in the region. It is undisputable that nuclear weapons in the hands of such a regime with a dark catalogue of crimes, occupation and aggression pose a uniquely grave threat to regional and international peace and security. The 1995 resolution on the Middle East which is both related to the implementation as well as universality of the Treaty should be, therefore, a main focus of the upcoming Review Conference.

The inalienable right to peaceful use of nuclear energy and technology is one of the basic foundations of the NPT. Iran as the party to the NPT is determined to exercise its inalienable right to peaceful use of nuclear technology including fuel-cycle in full conformity with the provisions of the Treaty. This policy is based on a long-term planning to meet the growing energy needs of the country. By presenting its "Package of Proposals for Comprehensive and Constructive Negotiations" to the 5+1 Group in September 2009, Iran has already demonstrated its firm determination to negotiations, aimed at creating a framework for cooperative relationships. After the constructive meeting in Geneva, which was a positive step forward, it is now up to the other parties to change their past policies to demonstrate their goodwill.

The Conference on Disarmament affected by the international security climate was in deadlock in the last decade. We have supported the reactivation of the CD based on a balanced and comprehensive program of work, which should be responsive to the priorities of all member States. The recent momentum created in the CD could only be kept if we accommodate the concerns of all member states.

As regards the Chemical Weapons Convention, 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 the remaining 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.

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 pursuing a world free from inhuman and horrible weapons of mass destruction.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman