

**Madam President,**

Egypt strongly believes that effective security assurances to non-nuclear weapon states against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons lies in complete nuclear disarmament, a noble and much needed objective which has yet to be realized. Achieving complete nuclear disarmament will by consequence, provide the most valuable security guarantee, offering an extraordinary contribution to the preservation of international peace and security. By achieving nuclear disarmament, we would in effect, erase the entire rationale and *raison d'être* for providing security assurances to non-nuclear weapon states.

But in the meantime, the harsh and disturbing reality that thousands of nuclear weapons still exist today continues to haunt us, ultimately forcing states that do not possess these destructive weapons, to engage in a legitimate quest to guarantee their protection and safety by receiving effective security assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Egypt reaffirms that pending the achievement of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, there is a pressing need to reach an early agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non nuclear weapon states against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

**Madam President,**

The issue of effective security assurances to non-nuclear weapon states against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons has been frequently addressed in several international fora, including the International Court of Justice, General Assembly, and Security Council of the United Nations. Egypt recalls the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the "Legality of the Threat or Use by a State of Nuclear Weapons in Armed Conflict" which stated that there is in neither customary nor conventional international law any specific authorisazation of the threat or use of nuclear weapons, and that a threat or use of force by means of nuclear weapons that is contrary to Article 2 paragraph 4 of the United Nations Charter and that fails to meet all the requirements of Article 51 is unlawful." We also recall paragraph 59 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, in which it urged the nuclear weapon states to pursue efforts to conclude, as appropriate, effective arrangements to assure non nuclear weapon states against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Furthermore, the Decision on Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) also reaffirmed that "further steps should be considered to assure non-nuclear weapon states party to the NPT against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and that these steps could take the form of an internationally legally binding instrument." We also take note of Security Council Resolution 255 adopted on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June, 1968 and Resolution 984 on 11<sup>th</sup> of April, 1995 which have addressed the issue of effective security assurances.

**Madam President,**

Although Egypt takes note of and welcomes unilateral declarations made by some nuclear weapon states that provide security assurances against the use of nuclear weapons to non nuclear weapon states, we believe that these declarations fall short of our security requirements and do not adequately or conclusively deal with the issue. For security assurances to be effective, they must be unconditional, comprehensive, legally binding, and negotiated multilaterally.

We also have difficulty grasping the argument that security assurances are already being provided to NPT States Parties through protocols to nuclear weapon free zone treaties. This argument raises an important concern however, since the record of signature and ratification by Nuclear Weapons States to protocols of existing nuclear weapon free zone treaties granting security assurances does not reflect much enthusiasm. Consequently, we believe that there is a pressing need to start negotiations on a multilateral and legally binding instrument to provide non nuclear weapon states with such comprehensive assurances as soon as possible.

**Madam President,**

Egypt strongly believes that efforts to conclude a universal and legally binding instrument on security assurances to non-nuclear weapon States should be pursued. We consider the conclusion of such an instrument an important step towards achieving an effective regime of non-proliferation in all its aspects as well as nuclear disarmament. The latest General Assembly Resolution 61/57 recommends that the Conference on Disarmament actively continue intensive negotiations with a view to reaching early agreement and concluding effective international agreements to assure the non nuclear weapon states against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons taking into account the widespread support for the conclusion of an international convention. The delegation of Egypt will spare no effort to support any serious attempts towards achieving this objective.

