



*Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran
to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations
28, chemin du Petit-Saconnex / 1209 Geneva*

Statement

by

H.E. Mr. Ali Reza Moaiyeri

Ambassador and Permanent Representative

of the Islamic Republic of Iran

before the

Conference on Disarmament

Geneva – 26 May 2008

Please check against delivery

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. President

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your assumption as the President of the Conference on Disarmament. I am confident that owing to your diplomatic skills and vast experiences the Conference will achieve successful outcomes. I assure you of the full cooperation of my delegation. I also would like to take this opportunity to applaud the good work done by your predecessors Ambassador Samir LABIDI of Tunisia, Ambassador Ahmet UZUMCU of Turkey and Ambassador Yevhen BERSHEDA of Ukraine during their Presidency over the Conference

The Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum has a crucial role in promoting multilateralism. This important role of the CD should always be preserved and multilateralism and multilateral agreed solutions should remain as the core principle of any negotiations which might be pursued in the CD.

Mr. President

As I have expressed in this forum in different occasions nuclear disarmament remains the highest priority of my delegation in the Conference on Disarmament. Lack of progress in nuclear disarmament is a serious challenge to the international community. The maintenance of strategic and tactical nuclear forces and their continued modernizations as well as new military doctrines setting rationale for their possible use particularly against non-nuclear weapons States represent the greatest threat to the man kind. The

Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) does not provide the right for Nuclear Weapon States to keep their nuclear arsenals indefinitely. They have obligations under Article VI of the NPT which are yet to be fulfilled. We are concerned over the recent efforts by some Nuclear Weapon States to reinterpret Article VI of the NPT in order to make the obligations therein conditional. We will never accept those reinterpretations and call on Nuclear Weapon States to fulfill their obligations under Article VI of the NPT without delay and without conditions.

Nuclear weapons are as illegal as chemical and biological weapons and the illegality of nuclear weapons should be recognized through a legally binding Nuclear Weapons Convention. Two categories of weapons of mass destruction have already been prohibited under the relevant legally binding conventions, namely the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention. Now is the time to completely ban and eliminate all nuclear weapons. We reiterate our call for the establishment, as the highest priority and as soon as possible, of an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament in the Conference on Disarmament. Such negotiations must lead to legally prohibit, once and for all, the possession, development, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons by any country and provide for the destruction of such inhuman weapons

We continue to believe that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee that there will be no use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, the Non-Nuclear Weapon States should be granted effective Negative Security Assurances (NSA) through a legally binding instrument. In this line there is a need to establish an ad hoc committee in the CD to deal with the issue as well.

Mr. President

My delegation appreciates you and other presidents of the Conference for the efforts you make to prepare a program of work for the CD in a manner to have all the concerns on board. We

believe that through respecting the priorities recognized earlier by the CD, taking the views of all members on board, abiding by the Rules of Procedures and dedication, we will be able to provide the CD with a balanced and comprehensive program of work that can be mutually acceptable. Although I have explained to you about the priorities of my delegation in the CD, for the sake of practicality and in order to address the concerns of all, my delegation is ready to work on the four core issues identified earlier by the CD on an equal basis. A balanced and comprehensive program of work needs to be responsive to those priorities equally. We should not give the weight to one priority at the cost of the others.

Mr. President

With regards to FMCT our position is clear. I have expressed many times that we are in favor of an FMCT which is comprehensive, verifiable and which covers the existing stocks. In other words we want the negotiation process on a possible FMCT to be in the framework of Shannon mandate. Some of the colleagues in the CD suggest accepting the program now as it is and then in the course of negotiations raise our positions and priorities. With due respect to those views, it is our conviction that we need to be clear in our objectives. Lack of clarity is the most dangerous virus in any collective activity. If we do not resolve the issues now, there would not be any guarantee that in the course of negotiations we would be able to resolve them. We earlier agreed on Shannon mandate. It is also reaffirmed in the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference. Let us be bound to our present agreements and understandings rather than moving with uncertainty.

Thank you.