

EGYPT



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The Permanent Mission of Egypt
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Statement by

H.E. Ambassador Maged Abdel Aziz

Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt

before

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Mr. Chairman,

The delegation of Egypt is pleased to congratulate you for your election to the Chairmanship of this Session of the UNDC and also extends its congratulations to the members of the bureau. We trust that your wisdom and recognized expertise will lead this session towards a successful outcome. The delegation of Egypt reiterates its full cooperation with you, the members of the Bureau and all other delegations to realize that goal. The delegation of Egypt associates itself with the Statement of the Non-Aligned Movement as delivered by H.E. the Permanent Representative of Indonesia.

Mr. Chairman,

The international community continues to witness increasing challenges that confront international security and regional stability and which threaten the credibility of existing international treaties and conventions. Egypt views the existing environment in the fields of disarmament and non-proliferation with concern, both regionally and internationally, especially where such environment relates to the respect of the international community for its traditional priorities as embodied in international conventions, UN resolutions as well as decisions in other related international fora.

Although the First Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament (SSOD1) has identified the goal of nuclear disarmament as the key priority for international efforts in the field of disarmament and arms control, the world still witnesses draw backs in achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and in reaching the universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the corner stone of the global disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

As for nuclear disarmament, the efforts of the five nuclear-weapon-States in the multilateral context remain extremely limited, especially when compared to the commitments undertaken by those States in the Treaty. As for non-proliferation, we regrettably still witness efforts aimed at granting priority to non-proliferation without achieving parallel progress in nuclear disarmament, yet even assuming

some illusionary linkage between realizing non-proliferation and limiting the benefit of non-nuclear-weapon-States from their inalienable right to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. This represents a challenge to the principles of the NPT and to the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in the field of nuclear verification.

Mr Chairman,

The indefinite extension of the NPT in 1995 came in the context of a package agreement comprising the “Resolution on the Middle East”, which links the validity of the indefinite extension to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free Zone in the Middle East, yet we have seen no progress in the implementation of this resolution since its adoption. The international community has shown little resolve in convincing Israel, as well as other non-parties to the NPT, to join the NPT as non-nuclear-weapon-States. This lack of resolve has become a threat to the very principle of Treaty universality at the core.

Among serious challenges which threaten to do away with the principles and objectives of the NPT, is the danger of working to amend the guidelines of the Nuclear-Suppliers’ Group in order to enable cooperation in the nuclear area with States not party to the NPT. This categorically contradicts to the letter and spirit of the NPT and the “Decision on Principles and Objectives of Nuclear Non-Proliferation” adopted as part of the NPT indefinite extension package. Such a development will forever eliminate the opportunity to destroy nuclear weapons developed outside the NPT regime and the opportunity for non-NPT member States to join it as non-nuclear-weapon-States in order to realize its universality. The result will be loss of credibility of the NPT and the collapse of the global non-proliferation and disarmament regime for which the Treaty represents the corner stone.

Mr. Chairman,

Egypt firmly believes in the principles and objectives of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and is of the view that failure of efforts to

achieve progress in implementing existing international treaties and resolutions should not allow back tracking already existing commitments or giving way to reinterpreting such commitments in a manner that would serve a particular political agenda for some, that does enjoy the support of the international community.

In parallel to our efforts to realize nuclear disarmament through the NPT, we have to make the non-NPT member States understand –firmly- that they are the ones outside the “international consensus”, and that the so called “new consensus” that is talked about by some is both unacceptable and invalid. Indeed, the “International Consensus” on which the NPT was built still exists and did not and will not change, as it is a consensus based on balance between a commitment by the recognized NPT nuclear-weapon-States to destroy their nuclear arsenals, in return for a commitment by the non-nuclear-weapon-States to refrain from seeking to acquire nuclear weapons.

Despite the poor pace of nuclear-weapon-States in honoring their disarmament commitments under the Treaty, this neither gives the right to those who developed military nuclear programs outside the NPT to call themselves “nuclear-weapon-States” nor granted them an excuse to evade the obligation to disarm. This would be a false illusion that will only result in the destruction of the non-proliferation regime and thus needs to be firmly and effectively addressed in a multilateral context guided by wisdom and responsibility to address the threats posed by their nuclear weapons against humanity... a context that allows no room for destructive ambitions of power or twisted principles. This context, Mr. Chairman, is the NPT 2010 Review Conference.

With a view to contributing to the success of the upcoming second session of the Preparatory Committee of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, scheduled to begin in Geneva later this month, the work of UNDC should be directed to reach results that push towards the implementation of the resolution and decisions of the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference and the 13 concrete practical steps agreed at the 2000 NPT Review Conference as a plan of action that enhances the credibility of the Treaty and its review process. Egypt is prepared to exert all efforts, through the deliberations of UNDC and the Second Preparatory Committee of the NPT Review Conference, to maintain and strengthen the credibility of the non-proliferation regime, without politicization, selectivity or double standards.

Mr. Chairman,

Egypt considers combating and preventing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons an important objective of the international community that requires States to collectively seek its fulfillment. In this context, we see no better instrument to rely on than the United Nations Program of Action agreed in 2001 as a politically binding instrument. Egypt has been consistently keen on fully implementing the Program and has regularly submitted national reports in its context. We look forward to a collective effort by the international community to regain the credibility of the UN Program of Action through the successful conclusion of the Third Biennial Meeting of States to be held in New York next July, where we will seek, as representatives of the African Group in its Bureau, to realize success, given the importance of this issue to States of the African continent.

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