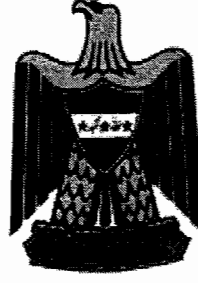


بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم



Statement of the Republic of IRAQ

At the General Debate of the 2008
United Nations Disarmament Commission

By

Permanent Representative
Ambassador Dr. T. Hamid Al-Bayati

كلمة وفد جمهورية العراق

خلال النقاش العام

للدورة الموضوعية لهيئة نزع السلاح

ينقيها

الممثل الدائم

السفير د. حامد البياتي

New York, 7-24/April-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 session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC). I am confident that under your able guidance and leadership, the 2008 UNDC session will succeed in fulfilling the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly. Also I like to extend my felicitations to the other members of the Bureau on their election. And my wishes to the two chairs of working groups a successful work on chairing the deliberations and calls upon UN Member States to display the necessary political will and flexibility in order to achieve agreement on recommendation based on its two agenda items during the current session.

Iraq reaffirms the importance of the UNDC as the specialized and deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery leading to the submission of concrete recommendations to the General Assembly.

We reaffirm 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 deeply concerned over the slow pace of progress towards nuclear disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

According to the Security Council Resolution No; 1762 (29-6-2007) that decided to terminate immediately the mandates of UNMOVIC and the IAEA under the relevant resolutions and mentioned that the continued operations of 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 the 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 to implement this commitment and to adhere to all applicable disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and related international agreements.

And according to the Depositary Notification No: C.N.819.2007 Treaties-3 on 16 August 2007, Iraq acceded to **The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction that was effected on 15 August 2007** and the Convention entered into force for Iraq since 1 February 2008.

Mr. Chairman,

We underline the need for all members of the Commission to fulfill their obligations in relations 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. And looking at fully implement 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 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.

Iraq reaffirm its commitment of not to transfer to any recipient whatsoever nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, or control over such weapons or explosive devices directly, or indirectly, and not in any way to assist, encourage or induce any non-nuclear weapon State to manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, or control over such weapons or explosive devices.

Mr. Chairman,

Iraq supports the call for the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and reaffirms the need for the speedy establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free-zone in the Middle East 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. Also we call for the total and complete prohibition of the transfer of all nuclear-related equipment, information, material and facilities, resources or devices and the extension of assistance in the nuclear related scientific or technological fields to Israel.

In 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 IAEA is the competent authority responsible for verifying and assuring, in accordance with the statute of 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.

Iraq also supports the objectives of the CTBT, and it is now before the Iraqi Parliament under processing to ratify the accession , 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..

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 weapon 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 believes that the implementation of the guidelines for appropriate types of confidence-building measures to all States is of significance, taking fully into account the specific political, military and other conditions prevailing in a region.

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