



STATEMENT
OF

**His Excellency Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser
Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar
to the United Nations**

BEFORE

The United Nations Disarmament Commission

IN

The General Debate of the 2009 Session

NEW YORK, 15 APRIL 2009

Mr. President,

I congratulate you on your election as President of this body, and I also congratulate the other members of the Bureau. We appreciate your efforts in the informal consultations to reach a consensus on the agenda of this session, we wish you success in leading its work to achieve concrete and positive results this year, and we stress our full support in that regard. I would also like to commend the efforts of the Secretary-General and the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, whom I thank for his statement. I associate my delegation with the statement by the Permanent Representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. President,

I join the previous speakers in calling on all Member States of the Commission to comply with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation as well as the intensification of international consultations in order to contribute to strengthening a global climate favorable to the security and stability.

This body plays an indispensable role as a specialized deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament mechanism and allows for in-depth deliberations to make specific recommendations in the field of disarmament. In spite of the difficulty of reaching consensus in this sensitive area, this body has already produced good results in the past, and we hope that the new substantive cycle, which starts this year, will also produce tangible results whether in terms of reduction of nuclear arms, small arms and light weapons, and confidence-building measures, as well as with respect to the Fourth Disarmament Decade.

Mr. President,

A top priority of the global disarmament agenda is the issue of nuclear disarmament. But even with the approach of the Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which will be held next year, progress is still slow in this regard. Some of the five nuclear-weapon States under the treaty still refuse to commit to implement the most important provisions of the treaty, i.e. to stop the development and reduction of nuclear arsenals, while other nuclear-weapon countries are still non-members of the nuclear treaty. We call for the review process to be conducted in light of the resolutions and decisions already taken in the previous preparatory conferences and the third preparatory conference to be held next month, and for all States to take practical and sincere steps. We stress that the final disposal of nuclear weapons is the basic requirement which can not be waived because it is simply one of the pillars of the NPT; but until

then, a binding international instrument to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons must be concluded urgently.

The State of Qatar is keen to strengthen the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the activation of its pillars, namely non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We emphasize in this respect the inviolability of the inalienable right of States Parties to access nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, and that no obstacles should be put in the way of non-nuclear States Parties in their quest to develop nuclear capabilities for peaceful purposes. The State of Qatar supports the early implementation of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban.

It is imperative to activate the resolution on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, which was adopted in 1995 in exchange for the indefinite extension of the NPT and the accession of all Arab States to the treaty, and which was reiterated by the decision of the Review Conference in 2000, and reemphasized by the Doha Declaration of the 21st Arab Summit. It is necessary that the States Parties, in particular the three nuclear-weapon States that have adopted the resolution, break the silence towards Israel's nuclear policy, which continues to violate the NPT, and pushes the entire region into an arms race jeopardizing regional and international security. The accession of Israel to the Treaty on the non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons will enhance the confidence necessary to find solutions to many of the problems of the Middle East.

Mr. President,

The General Assembly in its resolution 61/67 directed this body to prepare elements of a draft declaration of the next decade as a Fourth Disarmament Decade. The fact that the three previously announced decades of global disarmament saw significant developments, including a global call to stop the arms race, an agenda to reduce arms, the holding of the special session on disarmament and confidence-building measures, prompts us to give importance to the declaration of a fourth decade, in which we build on what has been reached in the past in these areas. The elements of the Declaration must include the known core issues in the field of disarmament, including small arms and light weapons as well as the priority issue of nuclear disarmament in accordance with the terms of reference agreed upon in previous sessions devoted to disarmament.

Mr. President,

The State of Qatar consistently strives to strengthen the disarmament machinery and its application; it is a party to several major international

conventions in the field of disarmament, and has participated in all conferences and supported all the relevant resolutions. The State of Qatar provides substantive reports in the field of disarmament and international security to the Office of Disarmament Affairs in order to contribute to the preparation of the annual reports by the United Nations Secretariat.

At the national level in the State of Qatar, the task of monitoring the effectiveness of arms control is entrusted to a committee established for that purpose in 2004, comprising representatives from relevant governmental bodies. The State of Qatar also hosts workshops and events to enhance the training of and participation by experts in the implementation of international instruments on the prohibition of arms and weapons, especially when the implementation of those conventions is related to the strengthening of human rights law and international humanitarian law and the implementation of the relevant instruments and international protocols. The State of Qatar enacts the necessary national legislation to carry out its obligations in the area of disarmament and international security. National cadres and the media are trained in order to create awareness of implementation and verification.

Mr. President,

Another challenge in the area of disarmament is the proliferation of small arms, light weapons and the failure to review this problem in a professional manner because the responsibility of countries of origin which exports such weapons by the millions without adequate oversight or restrictions on exports is overlooked.

Also, a deep cause for concern is the proliferation of landmines and cluster munitions, such as those planted by Israel in southern Lebanon that still kill and permanently maim civilians; we have, therefore, signed the Declaration of the Wellington Conference on Cluster Munitions in Dublin last May and we are currently considering the right time to join the Convention.

We share the concern of the international community for the gravity of conventional weapons and their continuing development; however, dealing with this issue must be fair and should not target specific countries to expose their defense capabilities at a time when other countries continue to develop their own arms capabilities, which results in a catalyst for the arms race and a waste of resources at rates that are detrimental to development and environmental standards.

Thank you.