

# Islamic Republic of

# I R A N

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

**Statement by**  
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**Before the United Nations Disarmament Commission**  
**2009 Substantive Session**  
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***In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful***

Mr. Chairman,

The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran congratulates you on the assumption of the chair, and pledges its cooperation in the important deliberations that lie ahead. I am sure that under your skillful stewardship, we will be able to have a successful meeting.

I would like to associate my delegation with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

We are pleased that the Commission has commenced the first year of its new cycle with an agreed substantive agenda, including one item on nuclear disarmament which remains at the top of the agenda for three years. This is a testament to the priority and urgency the international community gives to addressing the threat posed by the continued existence of thousands of nuclear warheads in the nuclear-weapon States' stockpiles.

The Commission provides us with a very good opportunity to express our views on the noble goal of nuclear disarmament which, for almost four decades, the international community awaits its realization. It also offers us a chance to review the lack of progress on nuclear disarmament and to work on "recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons" in all its aspects.

Mr. Chairman,

With the end of the cold war, the international community rightly expected that the nuclear weapon States fulfill their responsibilities and commitments to seriously pursue the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals. The international community has

the right to be assured that the nightmare that visited upon the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will never happen again. Regrettably, the limited efforts of the major nuclear-weapon States after the Cold War to reduce their arsenals have faced serious setbacks, particularly in recent years.

With the adoption of anti-nuclear disarmament policies by some nuclear weapon States during the course of the last several years, the NPT, today, is facing serious challenges. Certain nuclear weapon States have disregarded or reinterpreted their nuclear disarmament obligations, have attempted to relegate the status of nuclear disarmament in the international security agenda, have sought to block progress in disarmament machinery even in this Commission which does not negotiate legally binding agreements. The same States, contrary to their commitments, have emphasized the role of nuclear weapons in their military doctrines and described them as "life insurance". Such negative trends have done a serious disservice to the cause of a world without nuclear weapons. As a result, norms and principles of nuclear disarmament laid down by the Final Document of the SSOD-I, the NPT and its 1995 and 2000 Review Conferences are at risk. We hope that our deliberations in this Commission will contribute to upholding those norms and principles.

The NPT is the foundation of nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We have a collective responsibility to restore the credibility of the NPT. To realize this objective, we need to address collectively the above mentioned challenges. If the NPT is to endure, it is necessary that the nuclear weapon States prove that they are serious about their commitments to fully implement the provisions of the NPT and all three decisions and resolution of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and the agreements of 2000 Review Conference.

Failure to do so would lead to a dangerous buildup of dissatisfaction among a majority of treaty parties. The international community requires the nuclear-weapon States to build confidence and consolidate their commitment to nuclear disarmament.

Recent talks and news regarding promises by some nuclear weapon States to make course corrections from previous approaches, is a necessary step in the right direction. But it is not adequate. We hope they put their words into action.

Non proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, as recognized by the NPT are of high importance. These issues should be considered on their own merit with due attention to rights and obligations of member States under relevant provisions of the NPT. Unfortunately, non-proliferation has been manipulated by a few countries as an excuse to advance their narrow national interests and to deprive the developing countries of their rights to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. Thus, the Commission needs to reflect on non proliferation in all its aspects and recommend certain measures to ensure the critical balance between non-proliferation obligations and the right to access nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly believes that non-proliferation and disarmament are mutually reinforcing. Iran as the initiator of nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East fully supports the genuine efforts aimed at curbing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Iran was among the first countries that ratified the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and concluded the comprehensive safeguards agreement with the IAEA, therefore, put its facilities under supervision of the Agency. Iran has equally ratified other treaties which prohibit the development and use of weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Chairman,

In this context, while I have the floor, I would like to address the Czech Republic's statements made yesterday on behalf of the European Union regarding Iran's nuclear program. A reasonable observer will quickly realize that claims of the so-called "Iran's proliferation risk" are politically-motivated. The IAEA has repeatedly confirmed Iran's nuclear program "remains in peaceful use." In practicing its legitimate right to develop nuclear energy technology in accordance with the NPT, the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran is clear. Iran has always maintained its need for nuclear power as an alternative source of energy to supply its booming population and rapid development. Iran encourages dialogue and constructive cooperation based on respect, justice and rights of nations. In this respect, we are prepared to engage in serious negotiations with interested parties. At the same time, we believe any political game of double-standards and nuclear and scientific apartheid is unacceptable.

I would like to briefly touch on the second item, namely the declaration on the forth disarmament decade. We are of the view that pursuing a practical approach to the development of elements of the declaration would facilitate the successful conclusion of this item. A concise declaration based on existing principles, instruments and agreements is an option worth considering.

Thank You, Mr. Chairman for attention.