Statement

By

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At

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Conference on Disarmament

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At the outset I would like to extend my appreciation to the Permanent Representative of India for giving me the opportunity to address this distinguish multilateral important forum. Which it importance increases daily due to the challenges we are facing in the area of weapons of mass destruction proliferation.

I also like to extend my appreciation to your predecessor the Representative of Hungary for his hard work and dedication to advance the work of the conference.

At the same time, I like to praise the dedicated efforts of the Secretary General of the Conference and his Secretariat which insured the smooth work of the conference while maintaining an excellent standard.

Madam President,

The Iraqi Government believes in respecting and implementing the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Treaties and Conventions.

It also reiterates its respect to International Instruments that are related to Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation. For these reasons Iraq has acceded to the Biological and Chemical Weapons Conventions as well as to the Anti-Personal Land Minds Convention.

Last year, Iraq has ratified the Additional Protocol related to the Safeguards Agreement of the International Atomic Energy Agency. I am pleased to inform you that my Government is at the last stages of ratifying the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and the Convention on Cluster Munitions after the Iraqi Council of Representatives has endorsed both of these instruments during the 9th of September 2012, session.

Madam President,

We believe The Conference on Disarmament is the sole multilateral forum that deals with disarmament issues. This conference is going through a very critical time. This is why member states have to double
their efforts to reach an agreement on a comprehensive and balanced program of work that deals with all concerns in accordance with the rules and procedures of the Conference and to reach an agreement like it did in the past, to accomplish a progress that will remind us of the days we had, when the conference made landmark achievements.

The issue of nuclear disarmament should stay at the top of the agenda of priorities of the conference in accordance with the final document of the United Nations General Assembly first special session on disarmament that was held in 1978, taking into consideration the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion on the legality of the Threat or use of nuclear weapons in 1996. The destructive natures of these weapons make eliminating them essential element for the survival of man-kind. The continuing existence of nuclear weapons is a threat to the international peace and security. Therefore, my Government emphasizes on the need to start negotiations on a phased program for the total elimination of nuclear-weapons within a specific time frame and to conclude a convention to achieve this goal.

Madam President,

Retaining large arsenals of nuclear weapons and developing new types of them, including different means of delivery is for us a great cause of concern. Therefore, we have to agree on the necessity to reach an international binding convention to assure the non-nuclear states against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and to identify the necessary steps to achieve this goal. Although negative security assurances considered vital and important for non-nuclear states and considered as a justified demand due to the fact that these states gave up the nuclear weapons option but, it cannot in any way be considered as an alternative to the goal of total disarmament of nuclear weapons. The continuing production of fissile material is danger to the non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament process.

My country supports the efforts made to establish international effective non-discriminated multilateral treaty to ban the production of
fissile material that is used to produce nuclear weapons and other explosives.

Madam President,

Iraq considers the outer space is a common heritage for all mankind and should be explored for peaceful purposes only. The militarization of it, therefore can trigger an arm race, thus it is the responsibility of the conference to establish an international instrument to prevent the militarization of outer space.

My country supports the expansion of membership of this multilateral Conference on Disarmament, and the appointment of a special coordinator for this process, taking into consideration the fact that my country became a member due to such expansion. We hope steps will be taking toward expanding the Conference membership to stimulate the negotiation body by bringing new ideas and to enhance transparency.

Madam President,

My country reiterates its support for establishing nuclear weapons free zones as a crucial step to eliminate nuclear weapons. Therefore, it has supported and participated in the efforts which have been made for establishing nuclear weapons free zones in different geographical regions and in particular in the Middle East Region. We call on the international community and remind them of the importance to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution (487) 1981, which stresses that peace and security in Middle East Region requires the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction and in the forefront nuclear weapons, as stipulated in paragraph 14 of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (687) 1991 and the relevant United Nations General Assembly Resolutions that has been adopted by consensus. Efforts to establish a nuclear free zone in Middle East Region must start by taking crucial steps that includes Israel to start the process to disarm its nuclear weapons and to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and submit its nuclear facilities under the additional protocol of Safeguards Agreement of the International Atomic Energy Agency.
Our stand echoes what all Arab countries have called for in Baghdad Declaration of the 23rd Arab League Leaders Summit that was held in Baghdad 2012, and as of paragraphs 24 and 25. Of the final declaration.

Where para.25 welcomed the practical steps approved by the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in 2010 regarding Helsinki conference on the establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and all other Weapons of Mass Destruction which was supposed to be held at the end of 2012 but, unfortunately the conference was postponed due to unacceptable excuses, which we reject.

The current conditions in the Middle East Region provide strong reasons to hold this conference. The conference would have helped in promoting stability in the region especially since all countries in the region have confirmed their participation except Israel.

The set back and obstruction of the international efforts made in areas of non-proliferation and in establishing of a world free from nuclear weapons will result in collapse of the non-proliferation system in the Middle East Region and it will not provide security for the Arab league states against nuclear arm and proliferation risks which may lead these states to review their future policies.

Madam President,

At the end my Government calls all member states of the CD to achieve the main goal of the conference by doubling their efforts to reach an agreement on a balanced program of work that addresses all concerns of member states of the Conference on Disarmament.

Thank you Madam President