



STATEMENT
OF
THE STATE OF QATAR

DELIVERED BY

Mr. Khaled Al Kabi

BEFORE

**The First Committee of
the 67th session of the United Nations General
Assembly**

On

**The General debate on all disarmament and
international security agenda items**

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Mr. President,

At the outset, I congratulate you on your election as President of the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. I would also like to congratulate the other Bureau Members, and wish you every success in your mission. On behalf of the delegation of the State of Qatar, I assure you of our full cooperation towards the success of this Committee's work. I would like to align myself with the statement of the Arab Republic of Egypt on behalf of the Arab Group and the statement made by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. President,

There has been more international concern as a result of the increased risk, over the past decades, of the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The selective and unfair dealing with it has led to the stockpiling of terrifying amounts of nuclear weapons, in addition to the development of new deadly weapons in many countries without regard to the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The Middle East continues to be a clear example of the lack of effectiveness of the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons in achieving security for the parties as it is the only region that did not witness international efforts aimed at effectively freeing it from nuclear weapons. In this regard, we call upon all stakeholders to participate in the conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons in the Middle East to be held at the end of this year.

Mr. President,

Contrary to what some people may think, despite the international efforts that have been made in recent years and the holding of numerous conferences and forums in the United Nations, which unanimously agreed on the need to reduce military spending to maintain regional and international stability, the last ten years have witnessed an unprecedented rise in global military spending, particularly with respect to the acquisition of conventional arms. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, military spending has increased by 4,5 per cent during the period 2001-2009. This points to the alarming pace of the armament in many parts of the world, including in areas that are not under any military threat.

More still the international economic and financial crisis did not discourage them, especially developed and emerging countries from increasing their budgets earmarked for the purchase of weapons. As indicated by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, 16 countries of the G-20 have raised the level of military spending during the period 2008-2010.

Mr. President,

The declarations and statements made by some countries to express their intention to reduce military spending are not sufficient in themselves; they must be translated into reality. Yet reality shows that many developed countries reduce the level of spending on other sectors, including education, health and infrastructure, while excluding the military immune from any cut in the budget.

Building a world of peace and security is contingent on the fact that Member States of the United Nations meet their commitments on disarmament, thus, providing the United Nations with the necessary financial resources that would enable it to carry out its functions in promoting a culture of peace throughout the world.

While the total budget allocated to the United Nations and its agencies is nearly \$30 billion annually, the rate of global military spending stood at \$1.74 trillion dollars in 2011, up from \$1.3 trillion in 2010.

Mr. President,

These figures clearly indicate that declarations made by Member States do not go hand in hand, in the reality on the ground, with their commitments on disarmament. And the only beneficiaries of this rapid rise in military spending are the arms manufacturing companies, while the biggest victims remain peace and security throughout the world.

In light of the forgoing, it seems that the goal of building a world of stability, security and renunciation of violence will remain elusive, as long as the vast majority of Member States prefer a sense of false security that further accumulation of weapons may bring, over real safety, which is guaranteed by the promotion of a culture of peace, understanding and cooperation among peoples. If military brings geopolitical superiority, peace brings economic prosperity and stability.

Mr. President,

Another challenge in the field of disarmament, is the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and the failure to review this problem in a professional manner, as a blind eye is turned to the responsibility of countries of origin, which export millions of such weapons without restrictions or sufficient control on exports .

The other matter of deep concern to us is the proliferation of landmines and cluster munitions, such as those planted by Israel in southern Lebanon, which continue to kill and maim civilians. Therefore, we have signed the Wellington Declaration on cluster munitions of the Dublin Conference .

Mr. President,

The State of Qatar is keen to strengthen the Nuclear-Non-Proliferation Treaty and activate its underpinnings, namely non-proliferation, disarmament and the peaceful use of nuclear energy. In this regard, we stress the inviolability of the right of States Parties to acquire nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, and that no obstacles should be put in the way of non-nuclear States Parties to the Treaty in their quest to develop nuclear capabilities for peaceful purposes. We call for the settlement of the dispute over the Iranian nuclear issue through peaceful means in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

The State of Qatar is also active in promoting disarmament machinery through continuous coordination with regional and sub-regional organizations, such as the League of Arab States the Gulf Council Cooperation, in order to strengthen regional cooperation in the field of disarmament, including through tightening controls on exports and strengthen the capacity of border control in the region, in cooperation between the defense and security services, and the observance of environmental norms in disarmament, through relevant environmental bodies. The State of Qatar beliefs that these regional bodies are effective and play complementary role to the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Likewise, the State of Qatar participate positively and actively in the deliberations that take place within the United Nations system on disarmament in order to enhance consensus within those bodies and activating their work. The State of Qatar also stresses the importance of taking effective measures to contribute to strengthening international peace and security, taking into account the principles of the right of States to acquire the means of self-defense, as well as the sovereignty of States and the non-interference in their internal affairs, with due consideration to the specificity of each region with regards to security and defense.

Finally, we emphasize the need to recognize the primacy of nuclear disarmament on the agenda of disarmament and the need for Member States to exercise flexibility and political will to reach common goals, bearing in mind that this can only achieved through the fulfillment of commitments and the implementation of agreements by Member States and by abstaining from politicizing the work of the disarmament mechanism.

Thank you for your attention!