



ALGERIA

67th SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STATEMENT

BY

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DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

BEFORE

THE FIRST COMMITTEE

ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS

New York, 18 October 2012

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased that we can engage in nuclear disarmament discussions under your chairmanship. We assure you once again of our utmost cooperation.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and by Egypt on behalf of the Arab Group.

I wish to seize this opportunity to express Algeria's views regarding some of the issues related to nuclear weapons. First, I should say that nuclear disarmament remains as the highest priority for Algeria and wishes to express its deep concern over the threat posed to humankind by the existing nuclear arsenals. That's why we consider progress in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation as essential to strengthening international peace and security.

Algeria reaffirms the importance of the unanimous conclusion of the ICJ that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and to bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

Algeria calls upon the Nuclear Weapons States (NWS) to fully comply with their legal obligations to achieve the total elimination of their nuclear weapons without further delay. In this regard, we reiterate the importance of the application by the NWS of the principles of transparency, irreversibility and verifiability in all measures related to the fulfillment of their nuclear disarmament obligations. The fulfillment of those obligations should not be made conditional on confidence building measures or other disarmament efforts.

As matter of fact, the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, Algeria reaffirms the need for the conclusion of a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on security assurances. All Non Nuclear Weapons States should be effectively assured by the Nuclear Weapons States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

In this context, Algeria strongly supports the call for convening an international conference at the earliest possible date, with the objective of an agreement on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified framework of time, including a Nuclear Weapons Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to reiterate the commitment of Algeria to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and stress the need to universalize this Treaty, the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regimes.

Any selective approach to the NPT terms is likely to empty this instrument of its substance. The balance between the three pillars, disarmament, non-proliferation and the promotion of the peaceful use of nuclear energy, must be preserved. The three pillars have equal importance. Algeria stresses that efforts aiming at nuclear non-proliferation should be parallel to simultaneous efforts aiming at nuclear disarmament. We emphasize that proliferation concerns are best addressed through multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory agreements.

All State-Parties to the NPT are required to meet their obligations under the Treaty. In this regard, it must be recalled that Nuclear Weapons States have, in particular, to fully comply with their special obligations.

Algeria is seriously concerned with the lack of progress toward the full implementation of the 13 measures for the Treaty's Article VI disarmament obligations agreed upon at the 2000 NPT Review Conference and endorsed again in the Action Plan at the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

A majority of States have chosen to use atomic energy for their exclusive civilian applications, in accordance with Article IV of the NPT. Indeed, the nuclear energy represents for many developing countries a strategic choice for their economic development and energy security needs. Accordingly, Algeria reaffirms the inalienable and legitimate right for all NPT State-Parties to develop, research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes under the non-proliferation regime.

Algeria would like to underline the IAEA's mandate, authority and central role in the area of nuclear security. Any multilateral norms, guidelines or rules in nuclear security should be pursued within the framework of the IAEA. Algeria also reaffirms the central role of the IAEA in nuclear safety related matters including through the establishment of nuclear safety standards.

While welcoming the convening of the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference held in Vienna, earlier this year, Algeria calls on all States Parties to the NPT to fully implement the Action Plan adopted by consensus at the Eighth NPT Review Conference in May 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

As an integral part of the 2010 NPT Review Conference Action Plan, the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East is also required. Therefore, we express our deep concern over the delay in the implementation of the 1995 resolution which remains valid until its objectives are achieved. Algeria continues its strong support for the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons in the Middle East and looks forward for the convening in Helsinki of the 2012 Conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

My delegation urges the Secretary General of the United Nations and the three co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, in consultation with the States of the region, to exert their utmost efforts with a view to convening the 2012 Conference without any further delay and stresses the importance of the participation to this Conference of all States of the Middle East. We welcome the UN Secretary-General statement, on 11 October 2012, reaffirming his strong support for the Facilitator of 2012 Conference, Mr. Jaako Laajava, as well as his strong commitment to convene the Conference.

Algeria considers the establishment of nuclear weapons-free zones as an important measure towards achieving global nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation objectives. Thus, the entry into force on 15 July 2009 of the Pelindaba Treaty establishing a nuclear weapons-free zone in Africa represents an important contribution to the strengthening of international peace and security.

Algeria calls on States with nuclear weapons, which have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the relevant Protocols of this Treaty.

Algeria wishes to emphasize the significance of achieving universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). The achievement of such objective will contribute to the process of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

We regret that sixteen years after being opened for signature, the CTBT could not yet enter into force. Algeria associated itself, in this regard, to the Joint Ministerial Statement of the Ministerial Meeting held on 27 September 2012, encouraging all Annex II States to ratify this Treaty.

Finally, Algeria is fully committed to the objectives of non-proliferation and to the efforts of the international community aimed at preventing terrorists and other non-State actors from acquiring nuclear materials necessary for the production of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or acquiring other radioactive material. To express its full commitment, Algeria took part, in this regard, in the Seoul Nuclear Summit, last March, and in the High Level Meeting on Countering Nuclear Terrorism convened last September by the UN Secretary-General.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.