



# ***ALGERIA***

## **Statement**

**by**

**H.E. Mr. Djamel MOKTEFI**

**Deputy Permanent Representative**

**at the Thematic Debate**

**on Nuclear Weapons**

**of the First committee**

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**Mr. Chairman,**

I am pleased that we can engage a thematic debate on nuclear weapons under your able chairmanship.

My delegation associates itself with the statements delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and by Bahrain on behalf of the Arab Group.

Algeria reaffirms that nuclear disarmament remains its highest priority and expresses its serious concern over the danger to humanity posed by the existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible use or threat of use.

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.

Convinced that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against their use or threat of use, Algeria supports the roadmap proposed by the NAM during the High Level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament held last month which calls mainly for the urgent commencement of negotiations, in the Conference on Disarmament, of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons, which prohibits their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use, and provides for their destruction.

Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, there is a need for the conclusion of an 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.

**Mr. Chairman,**

My delegation would like to seize this opportunity to reiterate the commitment of Algeria to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as well as to stress the need to universalize this Treaty, the cornerstone of the nuclear

disarmament and non-proliferation regimes, and to ensure compliance with each of its three pillars: disarmament, non-proliferation and the promotion of the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

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 underlines 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.

A majority of States have chosen to use atomic energy for 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, my delegation reaffirms the legitimate right to develop research, produce and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes under the non-proliferation regime.

Concerned by the slow progress towards the implementation of the 2010 NPT Action Plan as expressed during the Second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference held in Geneva, Switzerland, earlier this year, Algeria calls on all States Parties to the NPT to implement this Action Plan adopted by consensus at the Eighth NPT Review Conference in May 2010. According to the terms of the NPT, Nuclear Weapons States have, in particular, to fully comply with their special obligations.

Algeria is also concerned with the lack of progress towards 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.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Algeria considers the establishment of nuclear weapons-free zones as an important measure towards achieving 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 in this regard.

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

The example of the Pelindaba Treaty and other existing nuclear-weapon-free zones should also be followed in the Middle East. In this context, Algeria expresses its disappointment that the conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, due to have been held in 2012, has not yet been convened.

As an integral part of the 2010 NPT Review Conference Action Plan, the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East is required. Therefore, my delegation expresses its deep concern over the delay in the implementation of the 1995 resolution which remains valid until its objectives are achieved.

Algeria 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 conference without any further delay and stresses the importance of the participation to this Conference of all States of the Middle East.

My delegation wishes to stress the significance of achieving universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in order to allow its entry into force. The achievement of such objective will contribute to the process of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

My delegation associates itself, in this regard, to the Final Declaration of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT, held in New York on 27 September 2013, and encourages all Annex II States to sign and ratify this Treaty.

My delegation welcomes the convening of the Oslo Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, held in March 2013 which will be followed by the Second Conference to be held in Mexico in February 2014. In this context, Algeria associates itself with the joint statement to be delivered by New Zealand, on behalf of a group of Member States, on Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons.

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.

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.

**I thank you.**