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# ***ALGERIA***

## **Statement**

**by**

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

**Deputy Permanent Representative**

**at the Thematic Debate**

**on Disarmament Machinery**

**of the First committee**

**68<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly**

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**New York, 23 October 2013**

**Mr. Chairman,**

Given the importance of the issue of disarmament machinery, the Algerian delegation would like to seize the opportunity of this thematic debate to express its views on this matter.

Algeria fully associates itself with the statement delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

My delegation has taken note of the reports and statements presented, on Monday, 21 October 2013, during the discussion of the panel on disarmament machinery, respectively by the President of the Conference on Disarmament, the President of the Disarmament Commission, and the Chairman of the Advisory Board for disarmament affairs and the Director of UNIDIR.

Algeria is strongly committed to the agenda of multilateral disarmament as well as to the strengthening of the disarmament machinery. Given the impasse in which these mechanisms are, it is vital that Member States demonstrate political will to revitalize, in efficient and sustainable manner, the disarmament bodies.

In this context, it is important to preserve the nature, role and mandate of each component of the UN disarmament machinery, even if there is a need to improve the efficiency of these organs. While each part of the disarmament machinery is facing similar challenges, it is a fact that the main difficulty lies in the lack of political will by some Member States to achieve progress and concrete results.

Despite the fact that the Disarmament Commission was not able to adopt, for several years, concrete recommendations, Algeria wishes to reaffirm its commitment to the mandate of the Disarmament Commission as the sole specialized, universal, and deliberative body of the UN disarmament machinery. My delegation therefore continues to fully support the work of the Commission and calls upon all Member States to demonstrate the necessary political will and flexibility in order to allow this body to make concrete recommendations on the issues included in its agenda for the current cycle.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Algeria continues also to attach great importance to the Conference on Disarmament (CD). Given the critical importance of the issues part of the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament, Algeria wishes to express its deep concern at the lack of consensus for the adoption of a comprehensive and balanced programme of work. This situation of deadlock has particularly detrimental effects to the interests of non-nuclear weapon States.

Algeria considers that this stalemate can not be attributed to a failure of this institutional mechanism and is not inherent to its mode of operation. It can not be attributed neither to its rules of procedure, including the rule of consensus, nor to the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament. The consensus rule is, in fact, a way to protect the national security interests of all Member States not just those of the most powerful.

Regarding the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament, Algeria believes that its elements, inspired by the Decalogue, and focusing on the nuclear danger, are still valid. Undoubtedly, nuclear weapons are still the most serious threat to humankind.

It should also be noted that the Conference on Disarmament made a valuable contribution to the multilateral disarmament. The CD can not resume its substantive work unless its Member States demonstrate the necessary political will to achieve collective solutions enabling them to handle the real challenges to the security of all.

It is important to emphasize again on the comprehensive aspect as well as on the balance to be maintained between the central and complementary issues part of the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament.

Concerning the programme of work, the Algerian delegation continues to believe that the decision CD/1864, which was adopted by consensus in May 2009, is the result of a compromise which, as it is stated in its preamble, is part of an evolutionary logic. In addition, this decision has the merit, as the most recent collective achievement, to demonstrate that the CD is still viable and has the ability to put an end to the current impasse.

The establishment this year of the Informal Working Group, with a mandate to produce a programme of work, should be linked to the ongoing efforts aiming to end the impasse that has lasted for several years.

**Mr. Chairman,**

My delegation remains convinced of the need to reiterate the commitment of the international community for the restoration of the vocation of the Conference on Disarmament, as the sole multilateral negotiating body on disarmament.

Algeria stands ready to engage constructively with all Member States on the UN disarmament agenda as well as on the ways and means of revitalizing and strengthening the disarmament machinery. In this regard, Algeria reiterates its support for the convening of the Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. This would be an opportunity to examine in a comprehensive manner the issue of disarmament in order to build a new consensus on disarmament priorities and to reaffirm the vocation of the UN disarmament machinery.

Furthermore, my delegation recognizes the contribution and relevant support provided to Member States by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR). UNIDIR was established by the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. It is for this reason that Algeria wishes to express its support to UNIDIR as an autonomous institution devoted to undertaking independent research on disarmament and related issues.

Finally, Algeria reaffirms the need to further strengthen the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament.

**Thank you for your kind attention.**