

Statement of the Algerian Delegation  
CLUSTER I – Nuclear Disarmament and International security

7 mai 2009

Mr. Chairman

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement on the issue of disarmament and international security.

Algeria would like to state its longstanding position that the nuclear weapons are the most dangerous threat to mankind and the only way to effectively address this threat is to seek tirelessly their reduction and ultimately achieve their total elimination and ban.

The International community showed the way, forty years ago, in order to free the world from these weapons. Codified by article VI of the NPT, the nuclear standard of disarmament was consolidated by a political consensus and a plan of action adopted by the Special Session of the General assembly on disarmament in 1978.

Indeed, Algeria strongly believes that the only way to preserve the authority and the credibility of the NPT is to ensure the full and balanced implementation of all its provisions and to achieve its universality.

My delegation would like to underscore the conclusion reached by the International Court of Justice in 1996, which stated that there is an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion the negotiation leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects and under strict and effective international control.

The Nuclear weapon States have, in this regard, a permanent and fundamental obligation for the achievement of our collective endeavor to creating a world free of nuclear weapons. Complete nuclear disarmament is not only a legal obligation for the Nuclear Weapon States but it is also a political and moral obligation and responsibility.

Algeria welcomes the recent declarations of highest authorities from Nuclear Weapon States, renewing their commitment to nuclear disarmament and reaffirming their determination to pursue the objective of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. Nevertheless concrete action through time bound measures is needed as a matter of priority to address vigorously this issue. I would like, in this regard, to briefly highlight in particular, the following elements:

-while reaffirming the importance of drastic reductions in nuclear arsenals and operational status of nuclear weapons, we stress that this should not replace irreversible cuts towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons;

-the necessity of an early commencement within the CD of a verifiable Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, on the basis of the mandate contained in document CD/1299 of 1995.

-The importance of the entry into force at the earliest date possible of the CTBT, which 12 years after its conclusion, still lacks ratifications from states listed in the Annex II of the Treaty. In this regard the NWS, in particular those that have not yet ratified this treaty, bear an important responsibility to bring this process to a conclusion.

-the conclusion of a universal legally binding instrument to give assurance to the non nuclear weapon states of no use or threat of use of nuclear weapons by NWS.

In this regard, the principles of transparency, verifiability and irreversibility should systematically be applied by NWS in all measures relating to nuclear disarmament.

Mr Chairman

The inability of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole UN multilateral negotiating body in the field of disarmament to resume its work, since more than ten years now has been a matter of concern to all of us. Many attempts and efforts to overcome the stalemate within this important organ have been carried out during recent years. Building on these efforts, Algeria, as the current chairman of the Conference on Disarmament, and after an inclusive and lengthy process of consultations, presented, on 26 March 2009, a global proposal for a Program of work for the CD.

The CD would, accordingly, establish 4 working groups to deal with issues on the Agenda of the CD that are felt to be sufficiently mature to allow substantive discussions. These are the issues of nuclear disarmament, Negotiation of a verifiable FMCT, Prevention of an arms race in outer-space and Negative Security Assurances. Furthermore the CD would appoint 3 Special Coordinators for other issues on its agenda.

This proposal has so far enjoyed the support of many countries of different regions. The Non Aligned Movement, in its last ministerial meeting in Havana. Quote “welcome[d] efforts made, among others, by NAM Presidents of the CD to overcome the impasse in the CD. ..[and] encourage[d] Member States of the CD to consider positively the proposal made by Algeria .... within the efforts to agree on a balanced and comprehensive Program of Work for the CD”. End of quote.

Mr. Chairman

Algeria remains deeply committed to the objective of nuclear disarmament as set out in the NPT. It believes

The current session of the preparatory committee as well as the upcoming Review Conference should, therefore, carry an objective evaluation of the progress achieved so far, with regard to Nuclear disarmament, in conformity with provisions of article VI of

the Treaty, and the implementation of the 13 unequivocal undertakings adopted by consensus during the review Conference of 2000 and make the relevant recommendations in this regard.

Before concluding I would like to reiterate Algeria's support to the proposal made by the Group of NAM for the establishment by the Review Conference of a subsidiary body on Nuclear disarmament.

Thank you.