

ALGERIA



الجزائر

Permanent Mission of Algeria
to the United Nations
New York

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**Statement by
H. E. Mr. Mohammed BESSEDIK
Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative**

**71st session of the General Assembly
General debate of the First Committee**

New York, October 11th 2016

Mr. Chair,

My delegation would like to take the opportunity to commend your predecessor, H.E. the Ambassador Van Oosterom of Netherland, for his leadership and admirable efforts of the Committee during the last session of the General Assembly.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and by Nigeria on behalf of the African Group as well as with the statement delivered by Tunisia on behalf of the Arab Group.

Mr. Chair,

First of all, I would like to reiterate the commitment of Algeria to the multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and international security. During the previous years, we have seen renewed efforts, proposals and initiatives aimed at addressing a wide range of issues in the field of disarmament and international security. Nevertheless, more substantive progress in this area needs to be accomplished.

We reiterate the need for all Member States to pursue with good faith multilateral negotiations, as agreed by consensus in the final document of the First Special Session of the General Assembly (SSOD-1), to achieve general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

Mr. Chair,

As a State-party to the main treaties related to weapons of mass destruction, Algeria reaffirms that nuclear disarmament remains the first and foremost priority and expresses its concern over the threat to humanity posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible use or threat of use.

I take this opportunity to reaffirm Algeria's longstanding position to **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)**. This unique international instrument remains the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and would like to stress, once more, the need to its full implementation and universalization as well as to ensure compliance with each of its three pillars in a balanced manner.

According to the NPT, nuclear-weapon States have the primary responsibility to achieve nuclear disarmament. In this respect, they have to fulfill their Treaty's obligations and to honor their commitments contained both in the 13 practical steps adopted in the 2000 NPT Review Conference and in the Action Plan adopted by consensus at the 8th NPT Review Conference.

Mr. Chair,

Despite intensive consultations and endeavors of the State Parties, we deeply regret the inability of the 9th NPT Review Conference to reach a consensus outcome document. We still believe, therefore, that the international community has lost a precious opportunity and sadly created doubt over the credibility of the whole regime, due to the lack of political will.

However, we emphasize the GA resolution 70/34 as a fundamental element of multilateral disarmament efforts, because it provides a specific roadmap towards achieving a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons aimed at the prohibition of their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use and for their total elimination.

In this regard, Algeria welcomes the report of the Open-ended Working Group established by the General Assembly resolution 70/33 and strongly supports recommendation contained therein of which to convene, by the General Assembly, of a High Level Conference in 2017 to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination.

Mr. Chair,

After 20 years of the opening of the **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty** for signature, we regret that today this vital multilateral instrument for non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, still has not entered into force.

While welcoming the recent ratifications of the Treaty by Swaziland and Myanmar, (which brings the number of States Parties to the Treaty to 166 out of 183 signatory States), we believe that this growing number of ratifications confirm the support towards the progressive universalization of this international instrument. In this respect, Algeria calls upon all States, particularly those whose adherence is required for the CTBT to enter into force, to sign and ratify it without further delay. My delegation wishes to reiterate, once again, the need for the conclusion of a legally binding instrument on Negative Security Assurances to all Non-Nuclear-Weapon States

Algeria welcomes the convening of conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. Such meetings offer the opportunity of highlighting the irreversible devastating effects of nuclear weapons and immeasurable suffering caused to human-beings. Algeria territory, having been a nuclear ground test, in the early 60's, understands and fully shares the trials and the consequences of these tests.

For all these reasons, Algeria has endorsed the Humanitarian Pledge to join its efforts to stigmatize, prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons and strongly express its concern about their catastrophic humanitarian consequences on human health, the environment and vital resources.

Mr. Chair,

My delegation strongly supports any initiative aiming at **establishing of nuclear weapons free zones around the world**, as they are not only confidence measures but also as concrete steps towards strengthening global nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation norms and consolidates international efforts towards peace and security.

In this context, we reaffirm that 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, which was among the first countries to have drafted, signed and ratified the Treaty of Pelindaba, calls on, in particular, nuclear weapon States, which have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the relevant Annexes of this Treaty.

Obviously, Pelindaba Treaty example, and other nuclear-weapon-free zones should be followed in particular in the volatile region of **Middle-East**. Algeria deeply regrets that this region remains prevented of such status years after the adoption, by the NPT Review and Extension Conference in 1995, of the Resolution on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle-East.

Rejecting this status quo, Algeria stresses its strong commitment to the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East and the 2010 Action Plan and expresses its strong disappointment to the postponement of the Conference on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle-East.

Mr. Chair,

Lack of political will is clearly the reason of the continuing deadlock of the **Conference on Disarmament (CD)** and obviously another source of frustration and disappointment. In this regard, Algeria reaffirms the importance of the CD as the sole multilateral negotiating body for disarmament. At the same time, while recalling the decision CD/1864, adopted by consensus on 2009, under the Algerian presidency, Algeria calls upon the CD to agree on a balanced and comprehensive programme of work.

Furthermore and 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 this body and fully support its work and calls upon all Member States to demonstrate the necessary political will and flexibility in order to allow also this body to make concrete recommendations next year.

With such cases of persistent deadlock in some parts of the UN disarmament machinery, we are of the view that the Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly (SSOD-IV) should be convened in order to review thoroughly all disarmament issues. In this context, the open-ended working group on the SSOD-IV, Chaired by Ecuador, should offer the opportunity to review the most critical aspects of disarmament process and to be the

crucible for all international effort that aim at eliminating of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and for the control and reduction of conventional weapons.

Mr. Chair,

Regarding the other instruments related to **mass destruction**, Algeria considers that the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) are important components of the international legal architecture and calls for their balanced, effective and non-discriminatory implementation. We call also for enhancing international cooperation to allow transfer of chemical and biological technologies, particularly to the developing countries.

However, my delegation stresses the need of the establishment of a verification mechanism of the BWC in order to insure that States Parties obligations are fulfilled, and to face the threat of bioterrorism. In this context, we expect a positive outcome of the 8th Review Conference of this Convention.

Mr. Chair,

Concerning the issue of conventional arms, my delegation would like to stress that illicit trade of small arms and light weapons continue to threaten peace and stability in many countries and regions, particularly in North Africa and Sahel regions. This illicit trade is a source of supply to terrorist groups and organized crime, and is therefore an ongoing concern to my country. On the basis of its national experience, Algeria reaffirms that the UN Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument are more than ever of utmost relevance. We continue to emphasize the importance of their full, balanced, and effective implementation. We wish also to stress that international cooperation and assistance are essential for the implementation of those two instruments.

My delegation welcomes the adoption by consensus, in June 2016, of the outcome document of the 6th Biennial Meeting of States Parties to the UN Programme of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its aspects. On this occasion, Algeria has submitted in 2016, its national report, on the implementation of the Programme of Action, as well as on the implementation of the International tracing Instrument.

Finally, we view the First Committee as an essential component of the UN Disarmament machinery and we remain committed to working actively and constructively during this session. In this context, Algeria will submit its annual draft resolution on “Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region” in the course of our meetings for which, we seek the support of all delegations.

I thank you for your kind attention.