

ALGERIA



الجزائر

Permanent Mission of Algeria
to the United Nations
New York

بعثة الجزائر الدائمة
لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

Check against delivery

New York, le 25 October 2016

Statement by

Abdelkarim AIT ABDESLAM

**First Secretary to the Permanent Representative
of Algeria to the United Nations**

**Thematic debate on Regional Disarmament and Security
of the First Committee**

71st Session of the General Assembly

Mr. Chair,

Algeria fully associates itself with the statements delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and Tunisia on behalf of Arab Group.

Given the importance of the issue of Regional Disarmament and Security, my delegation wishes to seize the opportunity of this thematic debate to express the following comments:

Algeria is committed to the promotion of regional and international peace and security as a permanent feature of its foreign policy and as a cardinal principle around which its action is guided on the international arena. Bearing in mind this commitment, Algeria has always advocated dialogue, cooperation and solidarity within the traditional frameworks and settings of its membership, in particular in African and the Mediterranean regions.

In this respect, Algeria welcomes the entry into force in 2009 of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, so-called Treaty of Pelindaba as a major contribution to the strengthening of peace and security both regionally and internationally. However, Algeria remains deeply concern that such free zone is not also granted to the Middle-East region, 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 this part of the world. Therefore, my country reiterates the need to accelerate its establishment without any further delay.

Mr. Chair,

Algeria takes note with great interests the Secretary General's Repot A/71/128, which contains an account of the activities undertaken by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa from July 2015 to June 2016.

Algeria seizes this opportunity to welcome the role assumed by the Center, after 30 years of its creation, in which it became an expertise body *par excellence* for Africa covering a wide-range of issues related to peace and disarmament.

In addition, due to the continental character of its programs, this Center has strengthened its partnership with the African Union and with sub-regional organizations that are now working closely with each other. Given these achievements, Algeria expresses its full support for this Regional Centre, based in Lomé.

Mr. Chair,

Facing deterioration of the security situation in its neighboring environment, Algeria had alerted the international community about the risks associated with the unregulated and uncontrolled proliferation of all types of arms in North Africa and Sahel regions and their existing close-link with terrorists groups, transnational organized crime, drug trafficking and networks smuggling.

This challenging situation is of a deep concern and represents a serious threat to peace, security, stability and sustainable development of all countries in these regions as well as in the Mediterranean region. It also generates devastating humanitarian and socio-economic consequences.

Given the magnitude of these consequences, Algeria strongly believe that ensuring adequate assistance from developed countries, United Nations and international organizations will ensure a significant contribution in strengthening the capacities of the Sahel countries to fight against the illicit trade in SALW, and, therefore, dismantling the organized arms trafficking networks and terrorists groups.

Mr. Chair,

Algeria which fosters the virtues of democracy, reconciliation and development for the benefit of its citizen, spares no efforts for consolidating the stability and the security beyond its borders.

In this regard, in Libya's crisis, Algeria remains utterly convinced that the only solution to this crucial and paramount issue for the security, peace and stability within the region and beyond, is through dialogue and national reconciliation between our brothers and neighbors Libyans.

Therefore, the international community's duty is to bring all possible political and diplomatic means to bear in supporting, encouraging and promoting that unique right. That is why my country will continue to work closely with United Nations efforts to help to create consensus on a political solution that preserves the unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Libya and the cohesion of its people, a solution that will pave the way for the establishment on the national institutions that Libyans want. Algeria, duty bound by its solidarity with the Libyan people, but also because Libya's stability concerns it directly, as it does all the neighboring countries, has initiated and wholeheartedly endorsed the efforts of those neighbors, the African Union and the international community to support our Libyan brothers on the path of dialogue and reconciliation.

Regarding the situation in Mali, the inter-Malian dialogue process initiated by Algeria has concluded a comprehensive agreement for peace and national reconciliation between the Government and other Malian parties. Committed to ensure its implementation, my country still playing a key role in this regard through its Chairing the follow-up agreement Committee and encourage the international community to continue its support very much needed, either politically or financially.

I take this opportunity to reiterate Algeria's commitment to support the people of Libya and Mali brothers and to work together with other neighboring countries for a better future for all peoples of the region and beyond.

Mr. Chair,

The Algerian delegation welcomes the Secretary-General's report (A/71/156), entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region", which contains the views of some Member States concerning ways and means to strengthen security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region and I take this opportunity to thank those Member States that have contributed in the implementation of the General Assembly resolution (70/72).

In accordance with its Mediterranean policy based on the principles of cooperation, friendship, good neighboring and mutual respect, Algeria has the honor, as in previous years, to submit to the appreciation of the First Committee and the General Assembly of this 71th session under item 103 of the agenda, a draft resolution A/C.1/71/L.30 entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region".

With the exception of technical updates, this draft resolution retains the entire text contained in the last year resolution.

The Algerian delegation and the 56 co-sponsors rely on the support of all Member States for the adoption by consensus of this text.

I thank you for your kind attention.