

Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
to the United Nations
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الوفد الدائم لـ المملكة العربية السعودية
لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

Statement of

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Before the First Committee

During the work of

The United Nations General Assembly

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Delivered By

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Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

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Mr. President,

I would like to begin my statement by congratulating you on your election as President of the First Committee. It gives us pleasure that a sisterly Arab country holds this fine position in the context of the work of the Disarmament and International Security Committee. We are confident that your diplomatic capabilities and extensive experience will undoubtedly contribute to the success of the Committee's work and the achievement of its objectives. Moreover, I stress the determination of the Delegation of my Country to cooperate with you to ensure the success of your mission.

In addition, the Delegation of my Country aligns itself with the statements of the Arab Group and the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. President,

International and regional efforts aimed at disarmament give hope and optimism towards raising global awareness about the necessity to eliminate all types of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, as they pose a primary threat to international peace and security. Emanating from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's commitment to the provisions of the UN Charter and the principles of international legitimacy as fundamental pillars of its foreign policy, it attaches special importance to strengthening the role of the United Nations in all fields, particularly in relation to issues of international peace and security, and disarmament. It is the Kingdom's belief that these issues represent an integrated unit without which the world cannot live in peace and stability.

Mr. President,

The strengthening of international peace and security requires genuine political will and strong determination from all countries, particularly those possessing nuclear weapons, to dispose of the reliance on nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction as instruments of national security. In this context, my country welcomes perpetuating the 26th of September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons as a concrete step towards the pursuit of this lofty goal.

Mr. President,

Despite the fact that many regions experience success in establishing nuclear weapons free zones due to the cooperation of the countries of these regions and their apprehension that coexistence is inevitable, we find that the Middle East region defy international and regional efforts to make it a zone free of nuclear weapons. This is caused by the rejection of Israel to any efforts dedicated to this issue. It's really unfortunate that the available international consensus, and a regional urgent desire to make the Middle East a zone free of nuclear weapons, are barred by Israel who prevents the desire of the peoples of the region to live in a zone free of nuclear terror.

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia regrets the failure of the 2015 Review Conference of the NPT to reach an agreement about the outcome document; which disrupted the efforts aimed to establish a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. Moreover, this spreads doubts about the credibility of the Treaty and encourages the countries of the Region to get into the race of acquiring nuclear weapons. In this context, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reaffirms the inherent right of the states of the region to the peaceful use of nuclear energy in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the International Atomic Energy Agency and under its supervision.

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stresses the importance of implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention. It is worth noting that the Kingdom is one of the first countries that have joined the international conventions relating to the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia welcomes the reports issued by the Security Council concerning the *Joint Investigation Mechanism* and demands holding the perpetrators responsible for the use of chemical weapons in Syria accountable.

Mr. President,

We would be remiss if we do not express our appreciation to the efforts made by the Security Council, and, in particular, the efforts of the Committee established pursuant to its resolution 1540 (2004) to control and prevent the provision of any form of support to non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery. In this regard, we reiterate the importance of implementing the mentioned Resolution in order to limit terrorist organizations' access to WMD; and to intensifying supervision on nuclear services providers to ensure that they are not providing any illegitimate entities with nuclear materials or technology.

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stresses the importance of activating the UN Programme of Action to Prevent Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons. The Programme has underscored many harmful issues to the stabilization of the countries, and also affect the security and social peace on the national and regional levels. This has prompted the Kingdom to take a series of administrative precautionary measures, and to adopt policies aiming to promote and strengthen confidence-building and cooperation mechanisms to confront this devastating crisis at all levels. In this context, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia welcomes the final document of the *Sixth Biennial Meeting of States on the Programme of Action* (BMS-6,) which was held recently in New York. We wish that this international consensus continues during the third review conference of the Programme of Action to be held in 2018.

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stresses the importance of keeping the use of outer space limited to peaceful purposes. The international legal agreements played a positive role in the promotion of peaceful use of outer space and to systematize activities thereof. It must be taken into account that outer space is a common property of all humanity. Therefore, any efforts to regulate the use of the outer space should not affect the inherent right of all states to the outer space's peaceful use. Moreover, the Kingdom stresses the importance of international cooperation within the multilateral framework to strengthen information security and to secure national interests on the Internet.

In conclusion, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is of firm belief that the international will is capable of reaching rational solutions for all problems that hinder the way to resolve many of the issues brought before the Committee for consideration.

Thank you Mr. President.