

ALGERIA



الجزائر

**Permanent Mission of Algeria
to the United Nations**

**بعثة الجزائر الدائمة
لدى الأمم المتحدة**

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Statement by

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to the United Nations**

**Before the First Committee
on Disarmament Machinery**

71st Session of the General Assembly

Mr. Chair,

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

My delegation would like to express its appreciation to the distinguished members of the panel on disarmament machinery for their relevant statements.

Given the importance of the issue of Disarmament Machinery, my delegation wishes to seize the opportunity of this thematic debate to express the following comments.

Algeria continues to attach great importance to the UN disarmament machinery consisting of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) as the sole multilateral negotiating body on disarmament, the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) as a universal deliberative body and subsidiary organ of the General Assembly as well as the First Committee.

My delegation emphasizes the significance of preserving and strengthening the nature, role and purpose of each component of this UN disarmament machinery.

While each part of the disarmament machinery is confronting similar challenges to improve its efficiency, it is an undeniable fact that the main difficulty lies in the lack of trust and political will by some States to achieve progress and concrete results on nuclear disarmament.

Mr. Chair,

Given the critical importance of the four key agenda items of the Conference on Disarmament (CD), Algeria expresses its deep concern over the lack of consensus for the adoption of a comprehensive and balanced programme of work. This situation of deadlock has particularly harmful effects for the interests of the States non-possessing nuclear weapons.

Algeria considers that this stalemate cannot be attributed to a failure of the CD and it is not inherent to its mode of operation. It cannot be attributed neither to its methods of work and its rules of procedure, including the rule of consensus, nor to its agenda. The consensus rule is, in fact, a way to promote a common ground with the view to protect the national security interests of all Member States not just to those who possess nuclear arsenals.

It should also be noted that this machinery made a valuable contribution to the multilateral disarmament. Therefore, it cannot resume its substantive work unless its Member States demonstrate the necessary political will to achieve collective solutions enabling them to manage the real challenges of the security of all.

Mr. Chair,

We strongly believe that the CD has the capacity of breaking the deadlock, if all of its Member States show the political will to agree on a balanced and comprehensive programme of work in order to move forward on the issue of global nuclear disarmament.

In this regard, Algeria express its deep-felt belief that Decision CD/1864, which was adopted by consensus in 2009, under its Chairmanship, for the establishment of a Programme of Work, remains the logical basis to engage in the search for a solution to this dilemma.

The CD is not the only Body which faces a lack of progress. In fact, the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) is also unable to adopt, for several years, concrete recommendations. Despite this situation, Algeria wishes to reaffirm its commitment to the mandate of the Disarmament Commission and therefore continues to fully support the work of the Commission. In this regard, we call upon all Member States to show political will and flexibility in order to allow this body to make concrete recommendations to the General Assembly on its two substantive agenda items for the current cycle.

Mr. Chair,

Algeria wishes to underscore that in case of persistent deadlocks in some parts of the UN disarmament machinery, it will prove appropriate to convene a Fourth Special Session of the UN General Assembly devoted to disarmament-(SSOD-IV).

Due to its political authority, its universal participation and its mandate conferred by the United Nations Charter, this Special Session would be the appropriate framework to reaffirm the vocation of the disarmament machinery and to converge the various initiatives as well as to engage to a global reflection for building a new consensus on disarmament priorities in the context of a comprehensive review of the issue of disarmament. In this context, Algeria welcomes the 2016 substantives sessions of the open-ended working group on the SSOD-IV, Chaired by Ecuador.

Finally, Algeria remains strongly engaged and committed to working actively and constructively on the UN disarmament agenda as well as on the ways and means of revitalizing and strengthening the disarmament machinery.

I thank you for your kind attention.