

**Statement by the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran
at the First Committee's Thematic Discussion on "Disarmament Machinery"**

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26 October 2016

In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

I associate myself with the statement by Indonesia on behalf of NAM.

Delicate nature of disarmament issues and their close link to supreme national security interests of States requires that such issues are considered in a non-discriminatory, transparent, inclusive and consensus-based process within the multilateral disarmament machinery of the UN.

For that reason, Iran attaches great importance to multilateralism as the core principle of negotiations in the field of disarmament, and underscores the vital importance and continued validity of the UN multilateral disarmament machinery established by SSOD-I.

Based on their existing methods of work and rules of procedure, in particular the rule of consensus, the CD and the UNDC have formulated landmark universal instruments in the past.

This proves the relevance of their mandate and efficiency and effectiveness of their rules of procedure, in particular the rule of consensus. In itself, this machinery, i.e., its structure and rules of procedure is totally innocent. Calling it ineffective is nothing but a blame shift.

In our view, CD is neither a single-issue venue nor there is an alternative to it. Therefore, it should remain the sole multilateral negotiating body on disarmament. We also reaffirm the importance and relevance of UNDC as the sole specialized deliberative body within the UN.

It is an undeniable fact that the major problem of the UN Disarmament Machinery, in particular the CD, is the "lack of genuine political will" on the part of certain Nuclear-Weapon-States and their advocates that are unwilling to agree on a balanced, comprehensive and priority-based program of work.

These States wish to use the CD merely for the advancement of their own individual interests. Their double standards, discriminatory policies and selective approaches towards the four core issues on the agenda of the CD is a living example in this regard.

Although there are continued attempts to mask the political nature of inactivity in the UNDC and the CD with technical questions such as their rules of procedures, but what appeared to be procedural problems, were in fact political ones.

Mr. Chairman,

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the existing disarmament machinery, in particular the CD, needs to be fully supported and enhanced. That is a shared objective and a common responsibility.

We place particular emphasis on the need for enhancing the role of this machinery in nuclear disarmament, which is the highest priority of the international community of States.

Accordingly, we strongly support the early commencement, in the CD, of negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention to prohibit the possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, threat or use of nuclear weapons and to provide for their irreversible and verifiable destruction.

This is the only practical option to put nuclear disarmament process in the right direction. As an active member of the CD, Iran will continue to support a balanced, comprehensive and priority-based programme of work to overcome current stalemate of this body.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation supports NAM position on the strict application of the principle of equitable geographical distribution in the composition of the groups of governmental experts in the field of disarmament and international security.

We urge the Secretary-General to take concrete actions so as to ensure a more balanced membership of future groups of governmental experts, inter alia, by expanding their membership.

At the same time, I would like to underline the significant role of the United Nations Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament in training our diplomats in the disarmament field. Without a doubt, it is a valuable contribution to professionalism in the disarmament forums. We will continue to support this programme.

Once again, Mr. Chairman, my delegation would like to underscore that disarmament machinery is innocent, hence cannot and should not be blamed. Disarmament machinery's stalemate is the inability of its member States to bridge the divide.

Indeed, in the absence of a genuine political will, even the best ever disarmament machinery will definitely prove to be totally ineffective.

If certain nuclear-weapon-States put aside their inflexible positions, this machinery would prove once again that it still works, and works efficiently.

That is why we call upon them to put an end to such stubborn position. We call upon all States to work collectively to realize our collective interest: peace and security, which is in the DNA of this Organization. Let's utilize this machinery to advance the noble and long-sought objective of a nuclear-weapon-free world. This is our responsibility and the right of present and future generations of all nations.

In our turn, we will continue to actively engage in all international efforts to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations. We stand ready to constructively cooperate with all interested States in the interest of our common interest.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.