



Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations

STATEMENT

BY

The delegation of Afghanistan

at

2017 Substantive Session of United Nations Disarmament Commission

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Madame Chairperson,

We express our deep condolences to the victims of terrorist attack occurred yesterday at the St. Petersburg.

Allow me to congratulate you on your election as the Chair of the Commission, as well as the bureau. My delegation is fully committed to the successful fulfillment of the work of the Commission and assures you of our full cooperation.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the delegation of Indonesia on behalf of NAM. We also thank Mr. Kim Won-soo, High Representative for his statement.

Madame Chairperson,

My delegation believes and reiterates its commitment to multilateral diplomacy as a crucial principle for advancing the global disarmament agenda. To achieve the goal of arms control, reduction, disarmament, and total elimination of all types of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, there is an urgent need for all the UN member states to demonstrate political will in this regard. My delegation has expressed this standing position, time and again and would like to reiterate it here as well.

Afghanistan, as a state party to Non-Proliferation Treaty and Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty calling for the total elimination of nuclear weapons as well as Weapons of Mass Destruction, strongly supports all initiatives in the sphere of nuclear disarmament.

Madame Chairperson,

Afghanistan is extremely disturbed by the humanitarian threat posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons, and the possibility of their use, intentionally or accidentally. It is for this reason that we welcomed the outcome of the third and final Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, which recognizes that total elimination of all nuclear weapons is the only definite safeguard against a catastrophic nuclear explosion.

Therefore, we are well aware of the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, particularly after the world saw human catastrophe as result of the

nuclear attacks at the Nagasaki and Hiroshima. In this context, my delegation has supported the Pledge of Austria on the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons.

Afghanistan strongly urges all states to fulfill their international obligations in signing, ratifying, and actively supporting all efforts to promote the goals of all multilateral treaties relating to disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. In this context, my delegation also condemns in strongest terms the nuclear and ballistic missile tests conducted by the North Korea.

At the same time, we fully support the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, under the verification mechanisms of IAEA.

Madame Chairperson,

My delegation notes with concern that despite some positive developments in the work of international diplomacy for the disarmament of nuclear weapons, we still face threats to human security and sustainability of an unprecedented nature. The global and regional climate of terrorism and violent extremism has made the call for nuclear disarmament, as well as elimination of weapons of mass destruction, even more urgent.

Nuclear terrorism still remains a matter of serious concern, particularly when these weapons can fall into the hands of terrorists or irresponsible individuals or groups. There is a need to indentify the areas where individuals or group are engaged in potential nuclear terrorism activities. In this regard, there is also need for regulations and capacity-building, so that such activities can be indentified and prevented by states.

Madame Chairperson

My delegation remains concerned about the mass illicit trafficking of arms, mainly small and light weapons, which has enabled terrorists and violent extremists to cause the Afghan people tremendous suffering for decades. This must be put to an end.

The presence of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) and landmines pose a severe threat to the lives of thousands of people globally and impede development activities.

My delegation is gravely concerned about the continued use of Improvised Explosive Devices - IEDs around the globe. IEDs are responsible for thousands of civilian casualties every day. They have become the primary weapon for non-state armed groups in many conflicts. Their impact on the security and stability of states is profound, as they not only damage the political, social, and economic development of a country, but also prevent the ability of necessary humanitarian aid to reach affected areas. Due to the lack of a comprehensive, systematic approach to counter the use of IEDs, which are relatively simple in their manufacturing, acquirement, and transfer, my delegation tabled a resolution last year that was adopted by consensus.

In pursuant to the GA resolution 71/72, my delegation held information consultations on 29 March 2017, with the member states and UNODA, UNMAS, World Customs Organization, Interpol, Mines Advisory Group and UN Institute for Disarmament Research. I also thank the UNODA for establishing online or e-hub, pursuant to the GA resolution 71/72, to provide impartial, authoritative information relevant to addressing the issue of IEDs.

My delegation will further arrange informal consultations on the follow up of the resolution and will keep the member states informed on the developments.

I Thank you Madame Chairperson.