

ALGERIA



الجزائر

Permanent Mission of Algeria
to the United Nations
New York

بعثة الجزائر الدائمة
لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

**Statement of H. E. Mr. Sabri Boukadoum
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of Algeria to the United Nations**

General debate

**The United Nations Disarmament Commission
2017 substantive session**

New York, le 03 April 2017

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Mme. Chair,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your election to Chair the 2017 substantive session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) and you can obviously count on our full support and cooperation. I extend our congratulations to the Vice-Chairs and the Chairs of the Working Groups on their assumption.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, Cameroon on behalf of African Group, and Qatar on behalf of Arab Group.

Mme. Chair,

Algeria attaches the utmost importance to general and complete disarmament as a mean to ensure international peace and security and reiterates its continued commitment to the multilateral diplomacy as the core principle of negotiation in the area of disarmament agenda.

In this context, my delegation continues to reaffirm the central role of the UN as a universal multilateral forum to address the disarmament issues as well as the relevance and centrality of the Disarmament Commission (UNDC) and stresses the particular importance of this session, coming at the end of the current cycle.

The Commission is expected to adopt recommendations related to its two substantive agenda items, and we look forward that it will fulfill its mandate and achieve a meaningful outcome to advance global disarmament and non-proliferation.

In this regard, my delegation calls upon all Member States to show the required political will and flexibility in order to allow the UNDC to reach agreement on substantive recommendations to the UNGA.

Mme. Chair,

As a State-party to the main treaties related to nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction, my delegation reaffirms that nuclear disarmament remains its highest priority and reiterates its concern over the existence of nuclear weapons and their potential use or threat of use. In this context, the only guarantee against the nuclear weapons lies in their total elimination with a view to achieve a world free of nuclear danger.

My delegation would like to seize this opportunity to stress again the need to universalize the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and to ensure compliance, in balanced and comprehensive manner, with each of its three pillars. In this regard, my delegation reaffirms the legitimate right to develop research, produce and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

We note with deep regret, as many Members States, the clear lack of progress in the process of the multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, in particular, regarding the implementation of the 13 measures to realize nuclear disarmament agreed upon at the 2000 NPT Review Conference and the Plan of Action adopted by the 2010 Review Conference.

My delegation reaffirms that Nuclear-Weapon States have, in particular, to fully comply with NPT's obligations, namely the dispositions concerning nuclear disarmament.

Algeria looks forward to fully participating at the preparatory process of the 2020 NPT RevConf, and calls upon all States Parties to seize this opportunity to achieve nuclear disarmament objectives.

Mme. Chair,

Algeria reiterates its deep concern over the catastrophic humanitarian consequences caused by a detonation of a nuclear weapon. With this firm conviction, my country has endorsed the Humanitarian Pledge to join its efforts to stigmatize, prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons.

In this context, my delegation welcomes the holding, last week, of the UN Conference aiming at negotiating a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination and we encourage all Members States to participate in this process in order to consolidate the other existing nuclear disarmament instruments.

My delegation reiterates its call for the convening on 2018 a High Level International Conference to review progress made in nuclear disarmament, and emphasizes the need for early and appropriate preparation in order to ensure a successful Conference.

Algeria stresses the importance of achieving universal adherence to the CTBT in order to allow its entry into force and to contribute to the global process of the nuclear disarmament.

Mme. Chair,

The establishment of nuclear-weapons-free zones constitutes not only a confidence measure, but also an important step towards achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation objectives.

Algeria, which was among the first countries that have drafted, signed and ratified the Pelindaba Treaty, calls upon, in particular, Nuclear Weapons States, which have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the relevant Annexes of this Treaty.

The example of the Pelindaba Treaty and other NWFZs should also be followed in the volatile region of Middle-East. In this context, my delegation deeply regrets that this part of the world still remaining prohibited and deprived from enjoying such status, despite

the adoption by the 1995 NPT RevConf and its indefinite extension of the 1995 Resolution on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone and all other weapons of mass destruction in this region.

My delegation reaffirms that the 1995 resolution on the Middle East remains valid and stresses its strong commitment to its full implementation.

Mme Chair,

Concerning the issue of conventional arms, my delegation would like to stress that the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons continues to threaten peace and stability in many countries and regions, particularly in North Africa and Sahel regions and constitutes a source of supply to terrorists groups and organized crime.

On the basis of its national experience, my delegation reaffirms that the United Nations Programme of Action (UN-PoA) and the International Tracing Instrument are more than ever of the utmost relevance. We continue to emphasize the importance of their full, balanced, and effective implementation. My delegation wishes also to stress that international cooperation and assistance is essential in the implementation of those two instruments.

In this context, my delegation welcomes the adoption by consensus last year of the outcome document of the (BMS-6) the 6th Biennial Meeting of States Parties to the UN Programme of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its aspects **and** looks forward to further actions to eliminate these weapons in advance of the Third Conference Review of the UN-PoA, to be held in 2018.

As for the issue of confidence-building measures (CBMs) in the field of Conventional Weapons, my delegation wishes to underline that in pursuit of the objective to contribute to international peace and security, the CBMs should be undertaken in full conformity with the United Nations Charter principals.

My delegation would like to underline the progress made last year by the working group on conventional weapons and we hope that in this session will be a consensus on meaningful recommendations.

I would like to conclude by wishing that all Member States will show the necessary political will and flexibility in order to allow the UNDC to achieve successfully its session.

I thank you Madame Chair.