Statement of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Before
The First Committee
During the works of
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Delivered By
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Mr. President,

It pleases me to start my statement by congratulating you on your election as President of the First Committee. I am 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 promotion of international peace and security approach 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 September 26 as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.
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 any efforts dedicated to this issue by a single state in region, namely Israel. 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 convened between 27 April and 23 May 2015 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.

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hopes that the reached agreement between the major countries and Iran over its nuclear program will strengthen security and stability in the region and in the entire world, will reassure countries in the region and the international community, and that Iran will be committed to the principles of good neighborliness and non-interference in the internal affairs of Arab countries and respect their sovereignty. 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.

On the other hand, my Country reaffirm the inherent right of all states to obtain nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.
Mr. President,

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stresses the importance of implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) as the Kingdom is one of the first countries that have acceded to international treaties relating to the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction. The Kingdom expresses its concern about the persistence of the Syrian regime’s use of chemical weapons against the Syrian people. Moreover, the Kingdom welcomes the Security Council resolution related to the Joint Investigation Mechanism (JIM) and asks that it quickly begins its work in order to identify the perpetrators who use these chemical weapons.

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia attaches great importance to the issue of illicit trafficking in small and light arms. The Kingdom is one of the countries who are of the view that the United Nations program to combat illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons is a starting point and a basis upon which it is possible to build. The Program 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.

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 emphasizes the importance that the use of outer space remains confined to peaceful purposes; as relative international legal agreements played a positive role in regulating the activities and strengthening the peaceful use of outer space. 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.