

ALGERIA



الجزائر

Permanent Mission of Algeria
to the United Nations
New York

بعثة الجزائر الدائمة
لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

Statement of Mr. Abdelkarim AIT ABDESLAM

**General debate of the 2016 session of
the United Nations Disarmament Commission**

New York, le 5 April 2016

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Mr Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you for your election as the Chair of the 2016 Session of the Disarmament Commission and you can count obviously on our full support and cooperation for the success of the Commission's work. I extend our congratulations to the other members of the Bureau on their election, and the Chairs of the two Working Groups.

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

Mr Chairman,

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

We also reiterate the need for all Member States to pursue with good faith multilateral negotiations, as agreed by consensus in the Final Document of the First Special Session of the General Assembly (SSOD-1), to achieve general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

My delegation reaffirms the central role of the UN as a universal multilateral framework to consider disarmament issues as well as the relevance and centrality of the UNDC, as the sole specialized and deliberative body within the UN multilateral disarmament machinery.

In this regard, my delegation would like to stress the particular importance of the substantive session of the UNDC, expected to adopt concrete recommendations related to its two agenda items, and we look forward to achieving, through the current session, meaningful outcome to advance global disarmament and non-proliferation.

Mr Chairman,

As a State-party to the main treaties related to nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction, Algeria reaffirms that nuclear disarmament remains its highest priority and reiterate its concern over the existence of nuclear weapons and their potential use or threat of use. We therefore believe in the need for substantive progress in multilateral nuclear disarmament.

My delegation would like to seize this opportunity to stress again the need to universalize the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT), the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime; and to ensure compliance, in balanced and comprehensive manner, with each of its three pillars.

Numerous States have chosen to use atomic energy for exclusive civilian application, in accordance with the NPT dispositions. Indeed, nuclear energy represents for many developing countries a strategic choice for their economic development and energy security needs.

Accordingly, we express our attachment to the legitimate right to develop research, produce and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes under the non-proliferation regime.

In accordance with the NPT, nuclear-weapon States have the primary responsibility to achieve nuclear disarmament. Accordingly, they should respect and fully implement their Treaty's obligations as well as their commitments contained in the 13 practical steps adopted in the 2000 NPT Review Conference chaired by Algeria, and in the Action Plan adopted by consensus at the 8th NPT Review Conference, held in 2010.

We express our deepest regret to the absence of outcome of the 2015 Review Conference, despite intensive consultations and endeavors. We still think that we have lost a precious opportunity and created doubt over the credibility of the whole system.

My delegation calls for an effective implementation of General Assembly Resolutions, including the urgent commencement of negotiations of a comprehensive Convention on nuclear weapons, and the convening, no later than 2018, a High Level Conference to review progress made on this matter and emphasizes the need for early and appropriate preparation to ensure a successful Conference.

We wish also to stress the importance of achieving universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty in order to allow its entry into force. The achievement of such objective will contribute to the process of the nuclear disarmament.

Algeria among other States, understanding that the irreversible devastating consequences of a nuclear weapon explosion are significant, and this will not be constrained by national borders but have regional and global effects, potentially threatening the survival of humanity. In this context, Algeria has endorsed the Humanitarian Pledge and expects to cooperate with all States and International Organizations and others parties, in efforts to stigmatize, prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons in light of their unacceptable humanitarian consequences and associated risks.

Mr Chairman,

The establishment of nuclear-weapons-free zones constitutes not only a confidence measure, but also a concrete step towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons. In this regard, we reaffirm that the entry into force in 2009, of the Pelindaba Treaty establishing a nuclear weapons free zone in Africa, represents an important contribution to the strengthening of international peace and security, in which reflects strongly the commitment of African States. My country, which was among the first countries that have drafted, signed and ratified the Pelindaba Treaty, calls on, in particular, States with nuclear weapons, which have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the relevant Annexes of this Treaty.

Obviously, Pelindaba Treaty example, and other nuclear-weapon-free zones should in particular be followed in the volatile region of Middle-East. Algeria deeply regrets that this region remains prevented and deprived of such status years after the adoption, by the NPT Review and Extension Conference in 1995, of the Resolution on the establishment of a nuclear- weapon-free zone in the this region.

Rejecting this status quo, Algeria stresses its strong commitment to the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle-East and the 2010 Action Plan. My delegation expresses its strong disappointment about the total absence of tangible progress on this issue, which is for the promotion of peace and security in this region and beyond.

Mr Chairman,

Having joined in 2015, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its three Protocols, Algeria stress that illicit trade of small arms and light weapons continue to threaten peace and stability in many countries and regions, particularly in North Africa and Sahel regions and constitute a source of supply to terrorists groups and organized crime.

On the basis of its national experience, Algeria reaffirms that the United Nations Programme of Action 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. We wish also to stress that international cooperation and assistance is essential in the implementation of those two instruments.

In this regard, Algeria wishes to underline that in pursuit of the objective to contribute to international peace and security, confidence-building measures (CBMs) should be undertaken in full conformity with the United Nations Charter principals, including the right of self determination of all peoples, taking into account the particular situation of peoples under colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation, and recognizing the right of people to take legitimate action in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations to realize their inalienable right of self-determination.

I would like to conclude by wishing that all Member States will show the necessary political will in order to allow the Disarmament Commission to fulfill its mandate by elaborating concrete recommendations.

Thank you