



The Permanent Mission of Iraq to United Nations

Statement delivered

By

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Before

High-Level- Meeting of the General Assembly

On Nuclear Disarmament

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((Long Version))

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate your Excellency on your election as President of the United Nations General Assembly in its sixty eighth session. I am confident that your experience and talent will contribute to the success of our work. I would also like to thank H.E. BAN KI-MOON, Secretary General of the United Nations and your predecessor, Mr Vuk Geremić, for their efforts in the preparation of this high level meeting.

Also, I would like to express our support for the statement delivered by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of Non Aligned Movement, and the statement delivered by (Libya or Qatar) on behalf of Arab League

Mr. President,

A total and comprehensive disarmament is a matter of special importance in the context of the international community's efforts to eliminate weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons. In response to the call of Heads of States and governments in the declaration of the United Nations Millennium, we ought to keep this matter at the highest priority in all international and regional forums related to the Non-Proliferation system. History has proved that a nuclear arms race never leads to peaceful solutions to international and regional problems, but rather it is often a cause of tension and instability. Therefore, universal adherence to international conventions related to weapons of mass destruction, compliance with their provisions without discrimination, and the complete and total elimination of these weapons represent one of the essential pillars that provide the international community with a real guarantee for international peace and security. A consensus for a binding international legal instrument is necessary to

provide the non-nuclear weapons states with unconditional guarantees that the nuclear weapons states would not use or threaten to use their nuclear weapons against them.

Despite the fact that the Negative Security Assurances is a key element and an important stride towards a disarmament goal, it would not, however, be a substitute to the desired goal of total and comprehensive disarmament. The track leading to an international consensus on disarmament should be based on a multi-lateral framework of negotiations in which the United Nations can play an important role.

Based on these principles, the Republic of Iraq has joined all major disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and participated effectively in the relevant negotiations. It was an honor for Iraq to preside over the Conference on Disarmament held between 24 June and 18 August 2013, and it was certainly an honor for me to be the first Iraqi Foreign Minister to address such a conference. I would like to emphasize here what I previously stressed during the conference - that the new Iraq is working to be a security and stability factor in the region, and respects its obligations on disarmament and non-proliferation under the Iraqi Constitution and the relevant international treaties.

In this context, I would like to mention that the conference on disarmament, which is considered the sole multilateral negotiating forum on the issue, is now going through a crucial juncture in the light of increased regional crises, terrorist threats, risk of WMDs proliferation and deadlock on disarmament issues. All these elements jeopardize regional and international stability, and divert natural and human resources away from their goals as tools for economic growth and sustainable development. Non-agreement on the program of work has caused an ongoing stalemate in the conference on disarmament and

prevents it from performing its mandate as a multilateral forum for negotiations. Therefore, we have to redouble our efforts to reach, as quickly as possible, an agreement that meets the concerns of all member states.

As regards to the Middle East, Iraq reaffirms its support for the establishment of free zones of nuclear weapons as an important step towards their total elimination. Through this high level meeting, we call upon the international community to implement the 1995 NPT review resolution on the Middle East, in accordance with the final document of the NPT review conference in 2010, and also according to the relevant UN General Assembly resolutions and the general conference of the IAEA resolutions. The failure of international efforts to convene the Helsinki conference on the establishment of a Middle East Zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction will be considered an avoidance of the obligations contained in the NPT review conference's 2010 final document, and would negatively affect the credibility of the NPT. This will incite an arms race and increase tensions and instability in the Middle East which is now witnessing unprecedented political and security developments.

Mr. President,

I take this opportunity to reaffirm the inalienable right of states, especially developing countries, to use, own and develop nuclear technology for peaceful use and to achieve economic growth without discrimination or restriction according to the NPT. However they should equally subject their nuclear facilities to the supervision of the IAEA.

Iraq shares the concern of the international community that nuclear terrorism is one of the most dangerous threats to international peace and

security. Strict nuclear security arrangements are necessary to prevent terrorists and other unlicensed parties from having nuclear and radioactive materials. Iraq joined the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism on 13/5/2013 and adheres to the provisions of the UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) which confirms that the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery constitute a threat to international peace and security.

Thank you for listening.