Statement

By
His Excellency
Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser
Permanent Representative
of
The State of Qatar to the United Nations

Before
the First Committee
at
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In the
General Debate on all
Disarmament Agenda Items

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In the Name of God Most Compassionate Most Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to begin by joining the colleagues who preceded me in congratulating you wholeheartedly on your election as Chairman of the First Committee. I wish you every success and Godspeed in your endeavors. I shall be remiss if I fail to extend to the Vice Chairmen and the members of the bureau our congratulations for their well-deserved election. We are confident that under your leadership and with the cooperation of the members of the bureau our committee’s work will be crowned with success.

Let me also on this occasion sincerely thank the Under Secretary General for Disarmament Affairs for his good efforts in the field of disarmament. We also want to thank him for the comprehensive statement he delivered at the beginning of the general debate of the First Committee. We wish him every success.

Mr. Chairman,

We meet at a most fitting occasion to confirm our determination and interest in working seriously in pursuit of peace and security for our peoples. As representatives of our peoples, governments and countries, we are duly bound to arrive at a consensus through which we can enhance international peace and security. Failure to arrive at a consensus on the different items before our committee will seriously jeopardize the question of international peace and security. This shall in turn allow the powerful, be they states or groups to prevail over the failure to show real commitment toward others, and to the agreements and treaties governing proliferation, production and threat of use of weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

The section dedicated to disarmament in the outcome document of the High Level Plenary Meeting of the Sixtieth Session of the General Assembly adopted by the Heads of States and Governments at the conclusion of the meeting does not deserve to be hailed; it was rather weak, it did not rise up to the expectations, nor did it fulfill the objective we all sought. The section on disarmament did not include a reaffirmation of the commitments undertaken in the 2000 Review Conference of the Treaty on Non Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The weakness of the section on disarmament in the Outcome Document did not come from a vacuum. It was one of the consequences of the failure of the 2005 Review Conference recently held in New York. In that conference, nuclear powers were determined to abandon their commitments, and declined to reaffirm the results of the 1995 and the 2000 Review Conferences.

The failure of disarmament conferences, particularly in the field of WMD’s, presages dire consequences that cannot serve the interests of mankind. We can only hope that such setbacks would eventually prompt us to work more seriously to face up to such perils and address them with determination.
Mr. Chairman.

Regional security remains one of the important challenges that we must address during the annual deliberations in the context of the First Committee. The way ahead is through confidence building and joint efforts among countries and states. The Middle East is one of the volatile regions of the world that could ignite given the prevailing strategic imbalances, the double standards and the attempts, or rather the race, to acquire different types of nuclear and traditional weaponry.

The fact that the international community condoned the development of the Israeli nuclear arsenal in the Middle East, and failed to demand that Israel cease such development and work still cooperated openly or secretly with it has created an imbalanced and abnormal situation that prompted others to follow suit. Such course of action exacerbated instability and aggravated tension in the region. It simply is not right to impose international sanctions on some states and exempt others from equal treatment. This approach lacks credibility since it fails to apply the same standards to all states.

Therefore, we stress the importance of eliminating all types of nuclear weapons of mass destruction and demand that no exceptions be given to this rule, and that no state should enjoy a favorable treatment to the detriment of others.

Mr. Chairman.

Speaking of the dangers of WMD's should not prompt us to underestimate the gravity of the proliferation of traditional, light, and small weapons as well as landmines. They also are a threat to international peace and security given the fact that they could fall into the wrong hands of gang or terrorist groups when states fail and their institutions cease to function.

My delegation would like to express its appreciation for the work done by the Open-ended Working Group to Negotiate an International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace Small Arms and Light Weapons. We recognize the importance of this working group, and acknowledge the strenuous efforts made to arrive at a politically binding international instrument that will add much to dry up the sources of these illicit light arms and small weapons, trace and identify them.

Mr. Chairman.

The principle of confidence building is what governments need in order to put an end to the arms race. Fear and lack of confidence in others usually prompts states to rally to acquire the most sophisticated and lethal weapons. My delegation believes therefore that the best way to check the arms race is to seek to solve the protracted political problems that were left to fester in the world, and to convince the parties to a conflict to resport to dialogue and speedily settle their differences through political means in order to avert a potential exacerbation of the situation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.