Intervention by

Mr. Hani Mohamed bin Huwaidin
Member of the UAE Delegation to the 63rd Session
of the United Nations General Assembly
before
the Thematic Discussion of the Disarmament and International
Security Committee
on the issue of nuclear weapons
New York, 16 October, 2008

Mr. Chairman,

First, I would like to express the support of my country for the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and also to the statement made by the representative of Lebanon on behalf of the Arab Group on this item.

The continued quantitative and qualitative development of existing nuclear weapons and their delivery systems by some Nuclear States and the quests of some Non-Nuclear States to acquire some of these dangerous weapons constitute a flagrant violation of the treaty of nuclear disarmament as well as the non-proliferation regime. They also contribute to undermining confidence in the system of international relations, which, in turn, threatens the maintenance of regional and international peace and security.

We, therefore, call for the following:

1- The full and balanced implementation of all provisions of the NPT, including the balancing of disarmament and non-proliferation in accordance with Article 6 of the Treaty, which requires, as a priority, the engagement of Nuclear States in immediate and serious negotiations with a view to the gradual reduction of their existing nuclear weapons and the change of the uses of these weapons towards peaceful purposes within a specific timeframe.

2- All parties of the international community, without exception, must ensure their full adherence and compliance with the principles of the multilateral system as well as the principles of all relevant treaties and international arrangements, in order to ensure the achievement of the objectives of vertical and horizontal non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

3- Reaffirming the universality and inclusiveness of the NPT, which requires the international community to exert pressure on countries which have not yet acceded to NPT to do so very soon.
4- The development of a universal unconditional instrument that provides the necessary security assurances for Non-Nuclear States against any threats or risks that might result from the use of existing nuclear arsenals.

5- To urge States which have not yet ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty to do so very soon in order to allow the Treaty to enter into force.

6- Reaffirming the leading role of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the only international entity empowered to monitoring nuclear activities and programs of States and to resolving the outstanding issues.

7- Reiterating the importance of the implementation of Article 4 of the Treaty. We must also avoid reinterpreting the inalienable right of all State Parties to the Treaty to develop, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in accordance with the permissible safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency. In this context, we call upon developed countries to support the legitimate need of the developing countries to acquire nuclear energy, allowing them to obtain nuclear materials and equipment, to the most permissible extent, as well as scientific information and technology for peaceful purposes.

Mr. Chairman,

The UAE, while it confirms its adherence to the principles of non proliferation and nuclear disarmament, reiterates its continued and full commitment to the principles of complete transparency and total cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency and refers in this context to its nuclear energy development program for peaceful purposes, which demonstrates its adherence to the principle of transparency and sets an example to the region.

Mr. Chairman,

We reiterate our appeal to make the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and emphasize the importance of demanding Israel to ensure its compliance to the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the NPT Review Conference 1995 and relevant UN resolutions which call for the placement of all its nuclear installations under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards and its unconditional accession to the Non-Proliferation Treaty like all countries of the region. We also urge the Islamic Republic of Iran to continue its cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency and the international community in order to dispel fears and doubts surrounding the nature and objectives of its nuclear program.

In conclusion, we call upon all delegations to demonstrate the necessary flexibility and political will in their positions in order to reach a consensus on pending matters under this item. We also call upon delegations to vote in favor of the two draft resolutions included in documents (A/C.1/63/L.2) and (A/C.1/63/L.1).

Thank you Mr. Chairman,