STATEMENT BY
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ON BEHALF OF
THE MEMBER STATES OF THE COOPERATION COUNCIL FOR
THE ARAB STATES OF THE GULF

BEFORE THE FIRST COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT AND
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

AT
THE THEMATIC DEBATE ON AGENDA ITEM
"DISARMAMENT MACHINERY"

DURING THE SIXTY THIRD SESSION OF
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, I have the honor to extend to you our appreciation for your efforts during your chairmanship of the First Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations on disarmament and international security. I also pay tribute to the efforts made in the area of disarmament by H. E. the Secretary-General and H. E. Mr. Sergio Duarte, the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs. We support the statement made by the delegation of Indonesia on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

Mr. Chairman,

The GCC Member States stress the importance of multilateralism and the crucial central role of the United Nations in the maintenance of the disarmament machinery in view of the latter’s importance in mitigating threats to peace and security throughout the world. Each component of this machinery has an important role to play: the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva is the venue where negotiation of disarmament and non-proliferation treaties take place; this Committee constitutes the forum where guideline-defining disarmament resolutions are taken; and the Disarmament Commission provides the parliamentary venue where various problems in the field of disarmament are discussed, and necessary recommendations are proposed, in addition to the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. Based on the above, the GCC Member States have been consistently working to strengthen the disarmament machinery at several levels. This attitude has been reflected by their positive positions in the United Nations with regard to resolutions and decisions on disarmament, as well as by organizing and hosting events that promote training and participation of technical experts in the implementation of international instruments related to the disarmament of all kinds of weapons at the regional level, in areas such as nuclear, chemical, biological, bacteriological and toxin weapons, and mines. The GCC Member States attach special importance to those instruments, particularly when their is related to strengthening the law of human rights and the international humanitarian law, including the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their additional protocols.

Mr. Chairman,

The GCC Member States have enacted the necessary national legislation for fulfilling their international and national obligations in the area of disarmament and international security. They are also training Gulf professionals and raising media awareness on implementation and verification. They are continuously coordinating among themselves to strengthen regional cooperation in the field of disarmament, including tightening export controls and bolstering the capacity of
border control in the region, in cooperation among defense and security agencies, and taking into account the environmental standards in disarmament, through the relevant environmental councils and bodies. In doing so, the GCC has become an effective and complementary regional organization to the role of the UN in the maintenance of international peace and security pursuant to Chapter VIII of the Charter.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The GCC Member States are keen on strengthening the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and activating the pillars on which the NPT is based, namely non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Since nuclear disarmament is one of the most important pillars of the disarmament machinery, those States support also the practical steps towards nuclear disarmament. The GCC Member States call for conducting a substantive and professional review of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, in accordance with internationally agreed commitments based on which the Treaty has been extended indefinitely and the Arab States have approved to join, in return for making the Middle East a nuclear-weapon free zone. The GCC supports the basic principles and guidelines on the verification of establishing nuclear-weapon free zones, which is one of the important contributions of the Disarmament Commission. The GCC Member States are therefore convinced that: Israel's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons would contribute to preserving the credibility of the disarmament machinery and its multilateralism and enhance the confidence necessary to find many solutions to the problems of the Middle East. The GCC Member States support also the early implementation of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

**Mr. Chairman,**

The GCC Member States stress the inalienable right of the State Parties to acquire nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, under the relevant articles of the Treaty. The GCC leaders have reiterated that right in their 28th Summit, held in Doha in December 2007. They were briefed on preliminary research and studies carried out by the International Atomic Energy Agency in cooperation with the secretariat of the GCC. We also note the importance of not politicizing the work of the Committee by raising issues that have nothing to do with its mandate and that are under verification by relevant organs of the United Nations. The GCC Member States stress also the importance of resolving the disputes over nuclear issues by peaceful means and refraining from the use or the threat of use of force, in accordance with the objectives and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and as stressed by the GCC summits.
Mr. Chairman,

The GCC Member States stress the importance of confidence building in the area of conventional weapons, while respecting the right of the States to acquire, transfer and stockpile conventional weapons that enable them to defend themselves and protect their territory and sovereignty in accordance with the international law.

Mr. Chairman,

The only secure safety valve that prevents terrorists from getting hold of weapons of mass destruction, lays in the complete elimination of the stockpiles of those weapons and stop manufacturing them. Other challenges facing the disarmament machinery include the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. The GCC Member States have enacted legislation that limit this problem drastically. Licenses for the possession of arms are only issued after exhaustive scrutiny and are subject to stringent controls enforced by official bodies according to terms and conditions approved by the GCC State legislations and regulations, i.e., coordination meetings of the Ministers of Justice and the Interior. Violating those regulations has been criminalized, pursuant to the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. The Council calls therefore for further efforts to ensure the success of the review conferences devoted to the problem of proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

While some may argue that it has not lived up to its full potential, the Disarmament Commission is an important pillar of the disarmament machinery. Having said that, this state of affairs does not represent a failure of the disarmament machinery, it is rather a failure of the political will to further the disarmament and non-proliferation agenda. The stalemate in the implementation of the work of the Commission reflects the political reality prevailing in the international relations among the Member States of the United Nations. As for the 2009 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission, the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf joins the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries in its position regarding the importance of having as reference both General Assembly decision 52/492, by which it was decided to include in the agenda two substantive items, with nuclear disarmament being one of them, and resolution 61/67 that directs the Disarmament Commission to prepare the draft declaration of the fourth disarmament decade and to submit it to the General Assembly at its 64th session.

I thank you.