Statement of

H.E. Ambassador/ Maged Abdelaziz

Permanent Representative to the United Nations

in New York

before

The First Committee

Thematic Debate: Other Weapons of Mass Destruction

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Thank you Mr. Chairman

Allow me at the outset to reaffirm the confidence of my delegation in your able leadership, as well as other members of the bureau, to steer the works of our committee towards achieving the desired success.

As one of the founders and among the first states to ratify the 1925 Geneva Protocol (Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare) Egypt has consistently maintained its principled position in attaching great priority to the goal of having a world free from weapons of mass destruction, Nuclear, Chemical, Biological And Radiological Weapons, with a particular view towards timely establishment of a weapons of mass destruction free zone in the Middle East.

It is equally important to recall in this regard, that the SSOD1 document, as the only viable comprehensive disarmament framework adopted by consensus, has identified clearly the priorities for disarmament of weapons of mass destruction. It has also accorded the highest priority to the goal of nuclear disarmament, to be followed by other weapons of mass destruction.

While Egypt has always stressed that the utmost priority with respect to the elimination of weapons of mass destruction must be given to nuclear weapons, we have taken an equally forthcoming position and active role in disarmament efforts relating to other weapons of mass destruction. It is in this spirit, that Egypt has translated its conviction to practical measures aiming to achieve a Middle East free from all weapons of mass destruction, when President Hosny Mubarak launched Egypt’s comprehensive initiative to free the Middle East from all types of Weapons Of Mass Destruction, in 1990, emphasizing that all states of the region should make equal and reciprocal commitments in this regard.

Moreover, Egypt has been playing a leading role which contributed to the successful conclusion of the negotiations of the Biological weapons Convention (BWC), Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) as well as the comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

Despite Egypt’s full adherence to the principles and objectives of the above mentioned legally binding commitments, Israel Persists not to join the NPT, this position remains the significant obstacle facing the accession of Egypt and other
Arab Countries to the Chemical and Biological conventions, and the ratification of the CTBT, since doing so in the current situation, would further widen the existing gap between the commitments of all the Arab states who are states parties to the NPT since 1995, and the sole State in our region which remains outside this treaty.

The plan of action adopted by the NPT 2010 review conference encompasses practical measures on the three pillars of the treaty, nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and linked them with another action plan on the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East. This plan of action brings forward an unprecedented opportunity towards the realization of a Middle East zone free of Nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. The delicate balance crafted in this document, reflects clearly the direct link between the need of having Israel acceded to the NPT as Non Nuclear Weapons State, and acceding by the Arab countries to the conventions governing other weapons of mass destruction.

Egypt is fully willing to engage in serious negotiations on its implementation, we equally look forward to positive involvement by Israel and other states of the region in this negotiations.

I Thank you Mr. Chairman.