Islamic Republic of
IRAN
Permanent Mission to the United Nations

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Statement by H.E. Mr. Mohammad Khazaee
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran
To the United Nations
Before the First Committee
On all disarmament and international security agenda items
New York, 6 October, 2010

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In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

Mr. Chairman,
I would like to express my sincere felicitation to you and other members of the Bureau on your election. I assure you of the fullest cooperation of my delegation and wish you all success.

I would also like to associate myself with the Statement made by the distinguished representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,
After almost seven decades of constant call by all nations for total elimination of nuclear weapons, regrettably, certain Nuclear-Weapon-States disregarded such calls and stubbornly continued and still continue to develop, modernize and accumulate different types of nuclear weapons in their arsenals. Today, the threat posed to international peace and security and the very survival of humankind by the existence of thousands of nuclear weapons and their possible deliberate or accidental use still persists.
It is also regrettable that NATO, through the adoption of its new Strategic Concept in 2010, maintained the rational for the use of nuclear weapons which is a clear setback to nuclear disarmament and the NPT.

A country which actually used nuclear bombs for the first time and possesses the largest nuclear weapon arsenals, still is allocating billions of dollars to modernize and develop new types of nuclear weapons in flagrant violation of Article VI of the NPT. Furthermore, in contradiction with the undertakings of the 2000 and 2010 NPT Review Conferences, this country also expands its missile defense shield to get the upper hand in strategic stability over other Nuclear-Weapon-States in Europe neighborhood and Far East. Definitely, hosting this missile system will not add to the security of the host countries or that of the country operating such system.

Limited bilateral or unilateral decommissioning of some deployed nuclear warheads are far below the expectations of the international community for real and effective steps towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Such measures can never be a substitute for the explicit legal obligations of Nuclear-Weapon-States for the complete elimination of all their nuclear weapons. Moreover, the principles of irreversibility, transparency and international verifiability shall be fully applied in undertaking all measures related to reduction of nuclear warheads as well as nuclear disarmament.

My delegation along with the overwhelming majority of Member States, stresses that nuclear disarmament is the highest priority and the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Iran supports the continued calls for the adoption of a legal framework for the total elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified timeline, including a Nuclear Weapons Convention with the deadline of 2025, as well as a universal and unconditional legally-binding instrument on Negative Security Assurances as intermediate step.

**Mr. Chairman,**
The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the best way to guarantee the vertical and horizontal non-proliferation of nuclear weapons is the full and non-selective implementation of the NPT, and assuring its universality, in particular in the Middle East, where the clandestine nuclear weapons program of the only non-NPT party in the region which has been assisted mostly by France, seriously threatens regional and international peace and security.

To overcome the threat of nuclear weapons in the region, Iran proposed the establishment of a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone in the Middle East in 1974, but efforts to
establish such a Zone have not yet succeeded due to the persistent refusal of the Zionist regime to join the NPT and to place its clandestine nuclear facilities under the IAEA Safeguards. That regime since its inception has repeatedly attacked and openly threatened to attack other countries in the region. These reckless actions show the grave threat posed by such an irresponsible regime and prove that how much the nuclear weapons in the hands of such a regime could endanger regional as well as international peace and security.

The Islamic Republic of Iran underscores the importance of implementing the 1995 NPT Resolution on the Middle East. In this context, Iran is of the firm belief that there should be international pressure on the Zionist regime, particularly in the upcoming 2012 conference, to force it to immediately accede to the NPT without condition as a non-nuclear-weapon party, and place all its unwarranted nuclear facilities under the IAEA safeguards in order to remove the only impediment in the way of the long-sought-after goal of the establishment of a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone in the Middle East.

Mr. Chairman,
Fragile consensus reached at the 2010 NPT Review Conference for the adoption of its Recommendations, illustrated that a 40-year old non-compliance with nuclear disarmament obligations under the Treaty by its Nuclear-Weapon-States Parties, including through development of new types of nuclear weapons, as well as cooperation with non-NPT parties, continues to remain the major challenge of the Treaty.

In regard to the implementation of the nuclear disarmament obligations agreed at the successive NPT Review Conferences, I would like to inform you that the Islamic Republic of Iran once again will present, in the coming days, an updated draft resolution entitled “follow-up to nuclear disarmament obligations agreed to at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.”

In line with the common position of the Non-Aligned Movement for addressing the issue of missiles within the framework of the UN, Iran has already initiated the resolution on missiles which has regularly been adopted by the General Assembly. We will continue this initiative and given that the year 2012 would be a busy year for disarmament, we opted to introduce only a draft decision on missiles in this session and hope it would be adopted again by consensus.
As a contribution towards a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World, the Islamic Republic of Iran convened for the second time “the International Conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation” in June 2011, with the participation of experts from many countries as well as regional and international organizations which was a successful disarmament meeting.

Mr. Chairman,
Concerning the Biological Weapons Convention, we underline its comprehensive and effective implementation, and while stressing the significance of the establishment of its verification mechanism and recognizing the particular importance of strengthening the Convention through multilateral negotiations for a non-discriminatory legally-binding protocol, and universal adherence to the Convention, urge the only State party rejecting the resumption of the negotiations for such a protocol, to reconsider its policy towards this Convention in the light of persistent request of all other parties.

As a victim of chemical weapons during the 8-year imposed war - waged by Saddam with the support of certain western countries - Iran underlines that failure by major possessor State Parties to comply with the 2012 final extended deadline of the Convention for total destruction of their chemical weapons would constitute a clear and serious case of non-compliance.

Mr. Chairman,
In conclusion, I reiterate that like other States party to the NPT, my country has an inalienable right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology. Iran is determined to exercise this right, and in doing so, it takes its responsibilities seriously. Contrary to the baseless allegations made by few countries in this room, Iran’s nuclear activities are, and have always been exclusively for peaceful purposes and despite all external political pressure, on the IAEA, it has repeatedly confirmed the non-diversion in peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear program.

The Islamic Republic Iran has always demonstrated its readiness to negotiations without preconditions and reiterates its willingness to engage in a serious and constructive negotiation, based on justice and mutual respect. It is up to the other parties to change their failed policy of coercion and to demonstrate their goodwill by coming back to the real negotiation and cooperation.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.