Statement by Mr. Seyed Mohammad Ali Robatjazi,  
Director, Office for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Affairs, Islamic Republic of Iran  
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*In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful*

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation associates itself with the NAM statement delivered by Indonesia.

Middle East continues to be one of the volatile regions of the world. Despite all new sources of insecurity, yet the first, oldest and chronic threat to the security of the Middle East stems from the expansionist and interventionist strategies, aggressive and warmongering policies, and offensive and brutal practices of the Israeli regime.

Invading all its neighbors and even countries beyond the region, waging over 15 wars, and repeated commissioning of all core international crimes, are only a small portion of its vandalism in this region.

For too long, the U.S. and its regional allies in the Persian Gulf also have ignored any strategy to win the peace. For too long, they have made the wrong choices in our region and then have blamed others, particularly Iran, for the consequences of their own short-sighted and trigger-happy strategic blunders:

From supporting Saddam Hussein’s invasion of my country in 1980 to aiding and abetting his use of chemical weapons; from the wars to evict him from Kuwait and then to remove him altogether; from first supporting Al-Qaeda and the Taliban, to waging a war to remove them from Afghanistan; from supporting the same brand of extremist terrorists bringing ruin to Syria to dangerously occupying parts of Syria under the guise of fighting the groups they have armed and financed; from Israel’s invasion and subsequent aggressions on Lebanon and its illegal occupation of Palestine to its routine incursions into Syrian airspace; and from the bombing of Yemen with western supplied planes. What have these actions brought the world?

The U.S. and its local clients in our region are suffering from the natural consequences of their own wrong choices. But they use this and other fora to revive the hysteria on Iran’s regional policy and obscure the reality. But did Iran force them to make all those wrong choices as some of them ridiculously claim? Are we to blame because we were on the right side of history, fighting Saddam Hussein, Al-Qaeda, Taliban, ISIS, Al-Nusrah Front and the like, while the U.S. and company were financing, arming and supporting them?
The ongoing arms race in our region is an example of the destructive and unnecessary rivalry that has made our neighborhood unsafe and insecure. The first and third biggest arms-importing countries in the world are in the Persian Gulf. Many of their weapons have been used for death and destruction in Yemen. The U.S. is the main supplier of those weapons. Without a doubt, no one should expect the U.S. to have interest in resolving the regional problems. Because all it values is money and selling more beautiful arms. It is accustomed to approach the security problems of the region from zero-sum-perspective.

By JCPOA we showed the world that our nuclear program is exclusively peaceful. The historic success of diplomacy over coercion in the resolution of that issue reflects a simple but important political lesson: all parties concerned defined the problem in a mutually acceptable way that was amenable to a mutually acceptable solution. In other words, they recognized that they had to give up their maximalist expectations in favor of a working compromise.

In our view, Persian Gulf region, which suffers from dialogue and confidence deficit, is in dire need of a change. This region requires a fresh regional security architecture to transform it into a strong region where small and large nations contribute to stability.

To that end, countries in the Persian Gulf region can establish realistic regional arrangements, starting with a ‘Regional Dialogue Forum’, based on generally recognized principles and shared objectives.

Such a forum can promote understanding on a broad spectrum of issues, including confidence- and security-building measures, and combating terrorism, extremism and sectarianism. It could eventually even develop into more formal non-aggression and security cooperation arrangements.

Immediately after the conclusion of JCPOA in 2015, Iran proposed to create such a forum. That proposal is still on the table.

All Persian Gulf States need to adopt a non-zero-sum approach that means recognizing the need to respect the interests of all, which by its very nature will lead to stability. Hegemonic tendencies by any regional – or global — power will, by its very nature, lead to insecurity.

Unless there is a collective effort to bring inclusive peace and security to the Persian Gulf region, we will be engulfed in turmoil. Iran is committed to fulfilling its responsibility in contributing to the preservation of peace and security in the Persian Gulf region.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.