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74th session of the General Assembly
General debate of the First Committee

Statement of H.E. Mr. Mohammed BESSEDIK,
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New York, 11 October 2019
Mr. Chair,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your election to conduct the work of this session, wishing you every success on this endeavor and assuring you of Algeria's full support and cooperation.

Mr. Chair,

Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation remains our highest priorities. Being a State-party to the main treaties related to weapons of mass destruction, Algeria strongly believes that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

Therefore and based on its longstanding principled position regarding the **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty** as the cornerstone of the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, Algeria calls for its full and urgent implementation as well as the full, non-discriminatory and balanced implementation of its three pillars.

We, also, call upon the nuclear-weapon States to the NPT to fulfill their Treaty’s obligations, and urge all parties outside of this Treaty to join it without delay or conditions.

The **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons** is also a significant asset conducive to the total elimination of the Nuclear Weapons. It has now almost two-third of the way to attaining the 50 ratification needed to come into force, therefore we need to intensify our collective efforts to accelerate its entry into force.

By the same token, and since it has contributed to its adoption and was among the first countries to sign the TPNW, Algeria has announced, last month, its intention to ratify this important instrument at the earliest time.

The **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty** remains a long-overdue measure to prevent the development of nuclear weapons. It is deeply regrettable that 23 years have passed since its opening for signature and still not yet entered into force. At this juncture, I have to make a special appeal towards all parties, particularly Annex II countries, who did not yet sign or ratify the CTBT to do so and to do it as soon as possible.

Algeria in its capacity as co-chair alongside with Germany of the Article IXV Conference of the CTBT, during the next two years, will spare no efforts, to work for the achievement of the entry into force of the CTBT at the earliest time possible.

Mr. Chair,

As we all admit, the establishment of **Nuclear-weapon-free zones** all over the globe have significantly contributed to strengthen the disarmament and non-proliferation norms.

In this regard, Algeria has contributed within its geographic region to adopt the **PELINDABA Treaty** establishing the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Africa, that celebrates this year its tenth anniversary. My country that was among the first African States to ratify the PELINDABA Treaty, calls upon the remaining States to sign and ratify its three annexed protocols.
In this context, my delegation welcomes the adoption by the UNGA, last December, of the decision 73/546 on convening a Conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, in accordance with the decisions adopted by the States Parties during the 1995 and 2010 Review Conferences.

This Conference, which will convene its first session the next month, seeks to negotiate and bring to a conclusion, in good faith, a legally-binding Treaty on the establishment of a WMD Free Zone.

Concerning the other instruments related to weapons of mass destruction, Algeria considers that the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention constitutes relevant components of the international legal architecture and calls for their effective implementation. We also call for further fostering international cooperation to allow transfer of chemical and biological technologies, especially to the benefit of the developing countries.

Mr. Chair,

The UN disarmament machinery continues to be harmed. The Conference on Disarmament still suffers from the lack of political will that constitute the major reason for the regrettable deadlock. In this regard, we call upon the Member States to agree on a balanced and comprehensive program of work. My country, which will assume the first rotating presidency of the CD in 2020, hopes that Member States will join efforts to make positive progress in its work during this session.

Furthermore, Algeria expresses its grave concern at the inability of the UNDC to convene its organizational and substantive sessions in 2019, and hope that, by both addressing the underlying issues and avoiding the politicization of its work, the UNDC will hold its substantive sessions in 2020, in a formal setting, so as to fulfill its mandate.

Mr. Chair,

Regarding the Conventional weapons, the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons constitutes a source of supply to terrorist groups and organized crime, and is indeed a major concern for my country. In this context, Algeria expresses its satisfaction with the outcome of the 3rd Review Conference of the UN-PoA, and looks forward to the 7th Biennial meeting of States under UN-PoA, to be convened in June 2020.

Whilst making allowance for its Mediterranean policy, based upon the principles of cooperation, good-neighborliness and mutual respect, Algeria has the honor, as in previous years, to submit to the First Committee and the General Assembly of this 74th session its annual draft resolution entitled “Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region”. In this regard, the Algerian delegation counts on the support of all Member States for the adoption of this text.

In closing Mr. Chair,

Let me point out that the year 2020 presents a golden opportunity to make the practical gains that will ensure the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime continued viability. The 2020 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference will be a defining moment. It will mark the 50th anniversary of the NPT’s entry into force and the 25th anniversary of its Indefinite extension.
Another failure is not permitted. It would, undoubtedly, set a poor precedent and might diminish the validity of the NPT. The upcoming RevCon should overcome the failure of its three preparatory committees and of the 2015 NPT RevCon. Our responsibility is bigger and the time to demonstrate the willingness of States to reap the benefits of our commitments has come.

Finally, my delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, the African Group and the Arab Group.

I thank you for your kind intention.