Statement of
The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Delivered by
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On the occasion of
International Day for
The Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons
On the sidelines of the 70th Session of
The United Nations General Assembly

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Mr. President,

It pleases me to start my statement by congratulating you on your chairmanship of the General Assembly's 70th Session; and I am confident that your diplomatic capabilities and extensive experience will undoubtedly contribute to the success of this Session and the achievement of its objectives. Moreover, I stress the determination of the Delegation of my Country to cooperate with you to ensure the success of your mission.

In addition, the Delegation of my Country aligns itself with the statements of the Arab Group and the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. President,

Emanating from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's commitment to the provisions of the UN Charter and the principles of international legitimacy as fundamental pillars of its foreign policy, it attaches special importance to strengthening the role of the United Nations in all fields, particularly in relation to issues of international peace and security, and disarmament. It is the Kingdom's belief that these issues are integral, and without which the world cannot live in peace and stability. Accordingly, strengthening international peace and security approach requires genuine political will and strong determination from all countries, particularly those possessing nuclear weapons, in order to dispose of the reliance on nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction as instruments of national security.

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stresses the importance of efforts dedicated to achieve the goals of eliminating nuclear weapons which begin by realizing the need that the entire international community embraces the already existing treaties and legal and ethical frameworks aiming to reach a nuclear-free world, especially in the Middle East region. The security and stability in any region cannot be achieved through the possession of weapons of mass destruction, it could be achieved through cooperation and consultation between countries; the pursuit of development and progress; and by avoiding the race to own this devastating weapon. It should be noted that Saudi Arabia has announced its support for the document issued by the Vienna conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons.
Mr. President,

Despite the universality of the NPT, and that it is the cornerstone in building the international system of disarmament and non-proliferation, international efforts within the multilateral framework remain below the aspired level. This makes the political landscape fraught with ambiguity.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia believes with certainty that the current stall of the situation would lead to a much more difficult situation; as the lack of achieving a tangible progress in the implementation of the decision to make the Middle East a zone free of nuclear weapons may push the slide toward the nuclear arms' race.

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia regrets the failure of the 2015 Review Conference of the NPT convened between 27 April and 23 May 2015 to reach an agreement about the outcome document; which disrupted the efforts aimed to establish a zone free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hopes that the reached agreement between the major countries and Iran over its nuclear program will strengthen security and stability in the region and in the entire world, will reassure countries in the region and the international community, and that Iran will be committed to the principles of good neighborliness and non-interference in the internal affairs of Arab countries and respect their sovereignty. Furthermore, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reaffirms the inherent right of the states of the region to the peaceful use of nuclear energy in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the International Atomic Energy Agency and under its supervision.

In conclusion Mr. President,

The Government of my country can only reaffirm that the elimination of nuclear weapons is the certain guarantee against their use or threat of use. In addition, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is of the view to seriously address the concerns of many non-nuclear-weapon states in light of the continuity of instability in the Middle East; and growing risks resulting from recent events in the region through the development of a binding international instrument which should ensure the safety and stability of non-nuclear-weapon states and the entire elimination of the weapons of nuclear-weapon states.

Thank you Mr. President.