Intervention of the Delegation of the I.R.IRAN

OEWG Session, MAY 10TH 2016

Morning:

Panel IV: Essential Elements of effective legal measures

Mr. Chairman,

In view of the Panel IV discussion, let me reiterate the position of my country as following:

Nuclear weapons are the most horrendous weapons ever made. They are unique in their destructive power; in the unspeakable human suffering they cause; in the impossibility of controlling their effects in time and space; and in the threat they pose to the environment, to future generations, and indeed to the survival of humanity. For such reasons, in the view of the Islamic Republic of Iran, there is no absolute guarantee against the threat or use of nuclear weapons other than their total elimination. This is a 71-year old strong global demand and, since the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1970, is a 46-year old explicit legal obligation, the accomplishment of which is neither conditional nor optional. Nuclear disarmament is an obligation that cannot be replaced, either by nuclear weapon reductions and the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, or by any other arrangement or mechanism short of the total, irreversible and internationally verifiable elimination of all nuclear weapons globally in accordance with a universal legally binding instrument that also assures they will never be produced again.

Mr. Chair

The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly believes that the main purpose of the Non-Proliferation Treaty is to ensure, through preventing the non-nuclear-weapon States from acquiring nuclear weapons and disarming nuclear-weapon States, that no one have nuclear weapons. Accordingly, Iran continues to strongly reject, and to consider incompatible with the object and purpose of the Treaty, any assumption that the indefinite extension of the Treaty implies the indefinite possession by the nuclear-weapon States of their nuclear arsenals or they are legitimately held weapons. Iran asserts that, as unanimously concluded by the International Court of Justice in its advisory opinion, taking all necessary practical measures for the total elimination of all nuclear weapons worldwide,
including to pursue in “good faith” and “bring to a conclusion negotiations” leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control, is a legal obligation to which all States Parties of the Non-Proliferation Treaty are committed under its Article VI.

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the main challenge of nuclear disarmament is the lack of genuine political will by the nuclear-weapon States to fulfil their legal obligations under article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and implement their unequivocal undertakings to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals. A fair and realistic assessment of the actual results of policies, efforts, decisions, initiatives and other measures, on nuclear disarmament, at the unilateral, bilateral, regional, and international levels, indicates that, in the absence of a strong genuine political will by the nuclear-weapon States, even the adoption of the most practical decisions, action plans, and above all, having in place a universal legally binding instrument, will not lead the international community of States to a nuclear-weapon-free world. Current lack of genuine political will by the nuclear-weapon States, definitely will add to already existing frustration of the non-nuclear-weapon States, and gradually erode the validity and credibility of the Treaty, lessen its effectiveness, and negatively impact the international peace and security, which certainly is not in the common interest of the present and future generations. Accordingly, Iran is of the view that the urgent fulfilment of obligations under article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty is an urgent task and highly imperative.

Mr. Chairman,

While expressing deep disappointment over the lack of tangible progress so far in the implementation of the obligations under article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and the unequivocal commitments under the 13 practical steps for the systematic and progressive efforts to implement Article VI of the Treaty and the 2010 action plan on nuclear disarmament, the Islamic Republic of Iran underlines the continued validity of all such obligations and commitments until all their objectives are achieved. Iran strongly believes that the lack of practical progress on the fulfilment of such obligations and the unequivocal commitments cannot continue indefinitely, and therefore, their implementation should be time bound, defined by taking into account the long delay in their fulfilment and the urgent need for their full implementation.

Iran acknowledges the strong support, expressed at the first ever high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, on 26 September 2013, for taking urgent and effective measures to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons, as well as the “urgent compliance with the legal obligations and the fulfilment of the
commitments undertaken on nuclear disarmament”. In this regard, Iran underscores that the United Nations General Assembly, through its resolutions 68/32, 69/38 and 70/34, has repeatedly called upon all States to urgently commence the negotiations, in the Conference on Disarmament, for the early conclusion of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use and to provide for their destruction. Iran strongly holds that such a comprehensive convention is the only practical way and the best concrete effective legal framework required for achieving and maintaining a nuclear-weapon-free-world.

Taking into account the longstanding strong international demand for the total elimination of nuclear weapons worldwide, Iran believes that the only main challenge of multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations is the lack of genuine political will by the nuclear-weapon States to fulfil their legal obligations under article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and implement their unequivocal undertakings to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals. Therefore, in regard to the lack of progress in multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, one should not point the finger at the relevant institutions, as they have accomplished, with the same structure and rules of procedure, considerable achievements in the past. In this context, Iran believes that the international community should continue to urge all nuclear-weapon States to demonstrate strong genuine political will to advance multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations in the fulfilment of their legal obligations to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control. In so doing, the international community is advised to take advantage of the momentum on nuclear disarmament, created, inter alia, by the first ever high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, on 26 September 2013, the annual high-level meetings of the General Assembly in 2014 and 2015 to observe the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, as well as the three conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, in 2013 and 2014.

Having said that, We appreciate the efforts of all those delegations as well as respected civil society in this OEWG meeting, to put forward their proposals in the form of working papers and interventions to examine whether there is a legal gap to take forward nuclear disarmament negotiations or not? Of course my delegation belongs to the group that believes there is a legal gap ensuing that Article VI of the NPT remained unfulfilled and lack of genuine political will among NWs to engage in good faith in nuclear disarmament negotiations, taking into account that the NPT originally negotiated to serve the non-proliferations objective to differentiate parties as haves and have-nots.
In some invaluable working papers and proposals, views been expressed that the ban or prohibition treaty, at present, is the only or a renewed protagonism on nuclear disarmament by NNWSs, in the face of their historic responsibilities. In this connection, my country does not share these views that the ban/prohibition treaty in some forms, contribute much to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations; rather such approaches would deal with consequence than the cause. So as said, we are yet of the view that, comprehensive approach with the objective of once for all elimination of nuclear weapons with participation of NW Possessors, remain as the only legally binding viable option to take forward nuclear disarmament.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.