Statement by H.E. Ambassador Hesham Badr
Head of the Delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt
To the 2015 NPT Review Conference
Main Committee 1
4th of May 2015
Mr. Chair,

Allow me, at the outset, to congratulate you on assuming the chairmanship of Main Committee 1. You are undertaking this responsibility at a time and in a context which is both delicate and difficult for the NPT. This calls for all of us to extend to you the support and assistance that you require in order to enable this Committee to carry out the mission devolved on it.

Mr. Chair,

Egypt attaches the highest priority to global, non-discriminatory, verifiable nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons in a time bound manner. In this context, we would like to express our deep concern at the continuous threat posed to humanity by the existence of nuclear weapons, and reaffirm that the total elimination of nuclear weapons, which represents the primary objective of the NPT, is the only guarantee against the use or threat of use of these weapons. This objective remains dependent upon implementation by the nuclear weapon states of their obligations under Article VI and the achievement of universal adherence to the Treaty.

The NPT was originally created with 25 years duration, during which Nuclear-Weapon States were expected to eliminate their nuclear arsenals and realize the objectives stipulated in Article VI. The Nuclear-Weapon State status was thus seen under the Treaty as a transitional status. The indefinite extension of the NPT in 1995 did not mean, in any way, allowing nuclear weapon States to continue to possess these weapons indefinitely. Any such Assumption would be contrary to the spirit and letter of the object and purpose of the NPT.

The Middle East has and will continue to have a special status within the NPT framework and its Review Process. The 1995 Resolution on the establishment of an effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and 1995 Decision on Principles and Objectives of Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, adopted as essential part of the indefinite extension package highlighted the essential foundation that the goals of universality and nuclear disarmament represent for the indefinitely extended Treaty, its effectiveness and credibility.
Furthermore, the 13 Practical Steps by all Nuclear-Weapon States adopted at the 2000 Review Conference leading to nuclear disarmament remain unimplemented. The Plan of Action adopted at the 2010 Review Conference, identified specific actions that Nuclear-Weapon States have to take in order to promote nuclear disarmament, including Actions 5, 20 and 21, along with other relevant Action Points, these also remain to be implemented.

As I said yesterday the outcome of the 2010 Action Plan turned out to be very limited. The role of nuclear weapons in military and security doctrines of nuclear weapon States has remained largely the same, with several States reaffirming their belief that nuclear weapons are the ultimate guarantee of their security. The continuous efforts to pursue billions of dollars programs to modernize stockpiles of nuclear weapons signal long term reliance on nuclear weapons. The incessant attempts to introduce new interpretations that article VI does not quite refer to nuclear disarmament collectively, leaving it to the discretion of some members states, cast doubts on nuclear weapon States commitment to nuclear disarmament and put into question the credibility of the Treaty and its utility as a tool for nuclear disarmament. Egypt expresses deep concern at the continued lack of progress in the implementation of nuclear disarmament obligations and calls for the full, effective and urgent implementation of the obligations under Article VI of the treaty without any further delay.

Egypt would like to reiterate, in this context, that all the obligations under the Treaty including the cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament represent an integral package of commitments, the implementation of which, along with relevant decisions adopted at Review Conferences, would collectively contribute to its effectiveness and the realization of its objectives, while its lack of implementation would undermine the object and purpose of the NPT. Nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing elements where each of such objectives would be of limited value if implemented without the other.

Mr. Chair,

The humanitarian consequences process during the conferences convened in Oslo, Norway, in March 2013, Nayarit, Mexico, in February 2014, and in Vienna, Austria, in December 2014
managed to bring to the attention of the international community, more than any other time, a more thorough understanding of the sheer scale of impact of even a single detonation of a nuclear weapon and the inability of the international community to respond adequately to the consequences of such detonation. Egypt fully supports this process and the Austrian pledge leading to filling the legal gap in addressing the effective measures towards the elimination of nuclear weapons. It is our conviction that main committee 1 should dedicate proper attention to this issue as a central component of the march towards the de-legitimization of nuclear weapons and their total elimination.

The Government of Egypt strongly endorses the negotiation of a Nuclear Weapons Convention which would aim at the realization of the total and irreversible elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified framework of time, under effective multilateral verification and control. The 2010 Plan of Action mentioned the Convention as a viable route to nuclear disarmament and the 2015 Review Conference needs to build on this. If necessary, a first step towards that objective can be the negotiation of a Treaty banning the manufacture, possession, transfer and use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. The New Agenda Coalition in its paper submitted to this Review Conference. (NPT/CONF. 2015/WP. 9), introduced four options that addresses possible effective measures to nuclear disarmament to implement article VI of the treaty, and ‘with a view to facilitating a meaningful exchange as well as decision-making on this issue at the 2015 Review Conference.’

Egypt recalls that the 2010 Review conference reaffirmed and recognized the legitimate interest of all non-nuclear weapon States parties to the Treaty in receiving unequivocal and legally binding security assurances from the nuclear weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Receiving such assurances is a legitimate right pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Egypt, therefore, reiterates that efforts to conclude a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on security assurances should be pursued as a matter of priority and should be materialized without further delay.

In this regard, the role of the Conference on Disarmament, as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating body within the United Nations system is to be preserved and utilized. It is of notable
importance that the Conference on Disarmament, while moving forward on a legal instrument banning and/or seeking to totally eliminate nuclear weapons, should begin negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices (FMCT), in accordance with the report of the Special Coordinator of 1995 (CD/1299) and the mandate contained therein, within an agreed, comprehensive and balanced program of work. In order for an FMCT to contribute to nuclear disarmament, it should cover all existing fissile material stocks and should create conditions under which Nuclear-Weapon States will not be able to produce further nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

Mr. Chair,

Egypt recommends that Main Committee 1 should:

- Review the implementation of obligations in the field of nuclear disarmament, under the Treaty, taking into account relevant obligations adopted at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences and discuss the necessary measures for the full implementation of Treaty obligations.

- Call for the prompt and full implementation of the 2010 Action Plan on nuclear disarmament in a time bound manner and urge the nuclear weapon States to fully comply with their nuclear disarmament obligations under the Treaty and fully implement their unequivocal nuclear disarmament commitments.

- Agree on measures and a timeframe for the immediate implementation of Article VI of the NPT to commence negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament.

I would like to conclude by underscoring the need to demonstrate the political will by all parties necessary to achieve progress on these important issues during the deliberations of Main Committee 1.

Thank you.