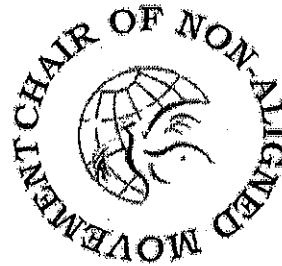




*Permanent Mission of the
Islamic Republic of Iran
to the UN - Geneva*

Chair of the NAM



**Statement by H.E Mr. Seyed Mohammad Reza Sajjadi,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in Geneva
on behalf of the Group of Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement
Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
at the General Debate of the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee
for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
Geneva, 22 April, 2013**

Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Group of Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement Parties to the NPT. I congratulate you and other bureau members on your election. The Group is confident that under your able stewardship the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference would lead to a successful conclusion. On its part, the Group assures you of its cooperation and active and constructive engagement in the deliberations to achieve progress.

2. As the NPT Review Conference is mandated to evaluate the results of the period under review, including the implementation of undertakings of the States parties under the Treaty, and identify the areas in which, and the means through which, further progress should be sought in the future to strengthen the implementation of the Treaty and to achieve its universality, accordingly, I would like to express the Group's position as follows:

3. The Group stresses once again that nuclear disarmament is its highest priority with the objective of achieving the total elimination of nuclear weapons. We remain extremely concerned at the threat to humanity posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible use or threat of use. The Group reiterates its deep concern over the slow pace of progress towards nuclear disarmament and the lack of progress by the Nuclear-Weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals in accordance with their legal obligations and undertakings.

4. The Group stresses that reductions in deployment and in operational status cannot substitute for irreversible cuts in, and the total elimination of, nuclear weapons. Accordingly, the Group urges the NWS to fulfill, in good faith, their overdue legal obligations under Article VI of the Treaty, and also to comply with their unequivocal undertakings assumed under the 13 practical steps and the 2010 action plan on disarmament of nuclear weapons, in particular its Action 5, to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals. In this regard, the Group reaffirms the importance of the application by NWS of principles of transparency,

irreversibility and international verifiability in all measures related to the fulfillment of their nuclear disarmament obligations and undertakings.

5. The Group emphasizes that the indefinite extension of the Treaty does not imply the indefinite possession of nuclear arsenals, and that any such assumption is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Treaty, its integrity and sustainability, as well as with the broader objective of maintaining international peace and security.

6. The Group deplores the strategic doctrines of the NWS and the Strategic Concept for the Security of the NATO Members, which are based on the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and maintain unjustifiable concepts on international security based on promoting and developing military alliances and nuclear deterrence policies. The Group therefore strongly calls upon them to exclude completely the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons from their military and security doctrines.

7. The Group reaffirms the importance of the unanimous conclusion of the ICJ that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and to bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control. The Group also emphasizes the necessity to start negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, including a Nuclear Weapons Convention to prohibit their development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use, and to provide for their destruction, without further delay.

8. The Group emphasizes that continued vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons jeopardizes the integrity and credibility of the Treaty, hence it should be prevented. The Group expresses grave concern at the nuclear-weapon test explosions in alternative ways and the use of new technologies for upgrading the existing nuclear weapons systems as well as the development of new types of nuclear weapons, which may result in the resumption of tests and a lowering of the nuclear threshold, and strongly calls on the NWS to put an immediate end to such activities.

9. The Group firmly believes that the mere possession or any use or threat of use of nuclear weapons would be in violation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, in particular, International Humanitarian Law. The Group therefore stresses that, pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, as the only absolute guarantee against the threat or use of nuclear weapons, the NWS must refrain, under all circumstances, from the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against any non-nuclear-weapon State Party to the Treaty. In this connection, the Group calls for the commencement, without any further delay, of the negotiation for conclusion of a universal legally binding instrument on effective, unconditional, non-discriminatory and irrevocable security assurances by all NWS to all NNWS parties to the Treaty against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

10. The Group attaches great importance to international efforts and initiatives aimed at the total elimination of nuclear weapons. In this context, the Group emphasizes the importance of the High-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, to be held on 26 September 2013, and encourages all Member States to participate in this important meeting at the highest level. The Movement looks forward to constructive deliberations to contribute to achieving the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

11. The Group of NAM States Parties to the NPT emphasizes the significance of full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of article IV of the Treaty on "the inalienable right of all the parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with articles I and II of this Treaty", which constitutes one of the fundamental objectives of the Treaty. The Group stresses that, as stipulated in that article, nothing in the Treaty shall be interpreted as affecting this inalienable right. Furthermore, the Group once again reaffirms that each State party, in line with its national

requirements and in accordance with its rights and obligations under the Treaty, has a sovereign right to define its national energy and fuel-cycle policies, including the inalienable right to develop, for peaceful purposes, a full national nuclear fuel-cycle. Accordingly, the Group stresses that the choices and decisions of each State party in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be respected without prejudice to its international cooperation agreements and arrangements for peaceful uses of nuclear energy and its fuel-cycle policies.

12. The Group firmly believes that any measure aiming at hampering, fully or partly, the fullest exercise of the inalienable rights under Article IV of the Treaty, would seriously jeopardize the delicate balance between rights and obligations of States parties, in contravention with the Treaty's object and purpose and would widen the gap between developed and developing countries in this field.

13. The Group reaffirms the importance of the right of all States parties to participate in the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Group strongly rejects, and calls for the immediate removal of, any restrictions or limitations posed on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including restrictions on exports to other States parties of nuclear material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes.

14. The Group emphasizes that proliferation concerns are best addressed through multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive and nondiscriminatory agreements. Non-proliferation control arrangements should be transparent and open to participation by all States, and should ensure that they do not impose restrictions on access to material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes required by developing countries for their continued development. Furthermore, such arrangements must pursue and implement, without exception, the condition of adherence to IAEA comprehensive safeguards and to the Treaty as a condition for the supply to or cooperation with States not party to the Treaty.

15. The Group once again reaffirms the inviolability of peaceful nuclear activities and that any attack or threat of attack against peaceful nuclear facilities, operational or under construction, poses a threat to international peace and security and a great danger to human beings and the environment and constitutes a grave violation of international law, the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and the regulations of IAEA.

16. The Group reaffirms that the exclusive purpose of safeguards is to verify the fulfillment of obligations assumed by States parties under the Treaty. Safeguards shall be implemented in a manner designed to comply with article IV of the NPT, and to avoid hampering the economic or technological development of the parties to the Treaty or international cooperation in the field of peaceful nuclear activities, including the international exchange of nuclear material and equipment for the processing, use or production of nuclear material for peaceful purposes in accordance with the provisions of article IV and the principle of safeguarding set forth in the preamble of the Treaty.

17. The Group recognizes that the IAEA is the sole competent authority for the verification of compliance with obligations under the respective safeguards agreements of Member States. The Group expresses its full confidence in the impartiality and professionalism of the IAEA and strongly rejects any politically motivated attempts by any State to politicize the work of the IAEA, including its technical cooperation program, in violation of its Statute.

18. In this context, the Group underlines the importance of strict observance of the IAEA statute and relevant comprehensive safeguards agreements, in conducting verification activities. Bearing in mind the Agency's responsibility in protecting safeguards' confidential information and given the undesirable incidents of leakage of such information, the Group stresses the need for strengthening the regime for the protection of safeguards confidential information.

19. The Group rejects any attempt aimed at reinterpreting the rights and obligations under the NPT, in a manner inconsistent with its object and purpose and rejects any conditionalities that go beyond the Treaty's provisions. In the same vein, the Group believes that the right of withdrawal from treaties should be governed by international treaty law. The Group reaffirms its position, expressed when this issue was first raised in 2005, that the proposals put forward then went beyond the provisions of the NPT.

20. The Group is of the firm belief that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, which is an important contribution towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons, does not substitute the legal obligation of the total elimination of nuclear weapons by the NWS. The Group calls upon the NWS to fulfill their obligations in achieving the objectives of the treaties to establish NWFZ and their protocols. In this regard, the Group strongly calls for the withdrawal of any related reservations or unilateral interpretative declarations that are incompatible with the object and purpose of those treaties.

21. In this regard, the Group strongly supports the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, as a priority, and calls for the full implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, which is an integral and essential part of the package of decisions reached without a vote that enabled the indefinite extension of the Treaty in 1995. This resolution remains valid until its objectives are achieved.

22. NAM State Parties to the NPT express their serious concern over the long delay in the implementation of the 1995 Resolution and urge the three cosponsors of the Resolution to take all necessary measures to fully implement it without any further delay. Recalling the consensus decision contained in the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference on convening, in 2012, of a Conference on the establishment of a NWFZ in the Middle East, NAM State Parties to the NPT express their profound disappointment on not convening the conference in 2012 as scheduled, and are of the view that the failure to convene the Conference in 2012 is contrary to the letter and spirit of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East and contradicts and violates the collective agreement of the States Parties contained in the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference. They strongly reject the alleged impediments presented by the Conveners for not convening the Conference on schedule, and express their serious concern that the 2nd PrepCom for the 2015 NPT RevCon is meeting while the Conference has not been convened yet. They urge the UN Secretary General, the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Russian Federation, to convene the Conference without any further delay in order to avoid any negative repercussions on the relevance and credibility of the NPT, its 2015 Review process and the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime as a whole.

23. In this regard, I would like to refer to the Final Document of Tehran Summit in August 2012, in which the Heads of State or Government, while recalling the initiatives by Iran, Egypt and Syria and resolutions submitted on behalf of the Arab Group on the establishment of a NWFZ in the Middle East, called upon all parties concerned to take urgent and practical steps for the establishment of such a zone and, pending its establishment, demanded that Israel, the only country in the region that has not joined the NPT nor declared its intention to do so, to renounce possession of nuclear weapons, to accede to the NPT without precondition and further delay, to place promptly all its nuclear facilities under IAEA full-scope safeguards and to conduct its nuclear related activities in conformity with the non-proliferation regime. They expressed great concern over the acquisition of nuclear capability by Israel which poses a serious and continuing threat to the security of neighbouring and other States, and condemned Israel for continuing to develop and stockpile nuclear arsenals. They also called for the total and complete prohibition of the transfer of all nuclear-related equipment, information, material and facilities, resources or devices and the extension of assistance in the nuclear related scientific or technological fields to Israel.

24. The Group underscores that efforts, by the Conveners and the Facilitator, related to the Conference should be undertaken in accordance with the mandate entrusted by the 2010 NPT Review Conference, and should be

focused on convening the Conference at the earliest date in 2013 and on seeking out in advance, by the Conveners and the Facilitator of the Conference, credible assurances regarding the unconditional participation of Israel, the only country of the region that has not declared its participation in the Conference.

25. The Group is determined to continue pursuing, as a matter of high priority, the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East and the action plan on the Middle East adopted by the 2010 NPT Review Conference. In this regard, the Group urges all States parties, in this session of the Preparatory Committee, to shoulder their responsibility to prevent further negative repercussions of not implementing the decisions and resolutions on the Middle East adopted in 1995 and 2010, including the convening of the Conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, as mandated.

26. The Group welcomes continued consultations between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the nuclear-weapon States on the Protocol to the Bangkok Treaty and urges the five nuclear-weapon States to sign and ratify the Protocol as soon as possible.

27. The Group reaffirms that universal adherence to the Treaty is an urgent priority and every effort should be made by all States parties, individually and collectively, to achieve this objective. All States not yet party to the NPT shall accede to the Treaty without any further delay.

28. The Group calls for the full implementation of the action plans adopted in 2010 NPT Review Conference on nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle-East.

29. The Group underscores that full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the Treaty related to nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, as well as fulfilling, entirely and in good faith, the undertakings assumed through the decisions, resolutions, final documents and plans of action of the 1995, 2000 and 2010 NPT Review Conferences is necessary to preserve and enhance its relevance, credibility and effectiveness. The Group therefore urges all States parties to fully comply with their obligations under the Treaty and fulfill entirely their undertakings under the consensus documents of the Review Conferences.

30. The Group is of the view that the "Conclusions and Recommendations for Follow-on actions" of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, represent an outcome that the 2015 NPT Review Process can build upon to strengthen the implementation of the Treaty and to achieve its universality.

31. The Group is determined to continue its collective efforts in pursuing the realization of NAM priorities in the 2015 NPT review process, inter alia, to begin negotiations on a Nuclear-Weapons-Convention and a universal legally binding instrument on Negative Security Assurances.

32. As a contribution to the substantive discussions during this session of the Preparatory Committee, the Group of NAM States Parties to the NPT is submitting eight Working Papers, which represent the detailed positions of the Group on the various related issues.

33. The Group underscores the urgency of the renewed political will by all States parties to achieve befitting progress in the 2015 review process.

34. Let us discharge our respective responsibilities effectively and work determinedly to bring about a more peaceful and secure future for everyone. **Thank you, Mr. Chairman.**

