

بِسْمِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



STATEMENT
OF
THE STATE OF QATAR

DELIVERED BY

**His Excellency Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser
Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar
to the United Nations**

BEFORE

The U.N. Disarmament Commission

IN

The General Debate of Its 2008 Session

NEW YORK, 07 APRIL 2007

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the UNDC in its 2008 session, and I would also like to extend congratulations to the members of the Bureau. I wish you every success in your discharging your function, while assuring you of our full support in this regard. I would like to seize this opportunity to commend the efforts expended in the field of disarmament by the Secretary General and Mr. Sergio Duarte, the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, since assuming his post last year.

Mr. Chairman,

Each part of the U.N. multilateral disarmament machinery plays an important role in mitigating the threats to peace and security all over the world, be it the First Committee of the General Assembly, the Conference on Disarmament or the Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. There is no doubt that this Commission plays an indispensable role as the competent, deliberative body within this machinery that holds in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, which results in the submission of concrete recommendations on them. Therefore, earnest efforts must be made to ensure that the meetings of the two working groups of the Commission would provide an opportunity to arrive at concrete positive results, each on its respective item.

Mr. Chairman,

Nuclear disarmament is the most important item in the universal disarmament agenda, but the five nuclear states designated by the NPT refuse to implement the most important article in the treaty, which is halting the development of their nuclear arsenals and reducing them. The work of the Second Prep Com. of the 2010 will be launched in Geneva this month. In this regard, we would like to underscore the need for the review process to be undertaken in the light of the resolutions and decisions of the two previous conferences. In order for the Second Prep. Com not to fail, all States Parties must take sincere, practical positions and refrain from politicizing the work of the Committee, so that the conference will not meet the fate of its predecessor.

Mr. Chairman,

In its international relations, the State of Qatar is committed to the strengthening of the NPT and consolidating its foundations, to wit, the prevention of proliferation, disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In this regard, we emphasize the inadmissibility of compromising the inalienable right of the States Parties to acquire nuclear technology for useful purposes, and the need not to impede the efforts of non-nuclear States Parties to develop their nuclear capabilities for peaceful purposes. The selective approach to the implementation of the provisions of the treaty only serves to increase proliferation and intensify the race to develop the power of deterrence, instead of controlling them.

It is imperative to activate the resolution of 1995 relevant to the Middle East and establish a practical mechanism for its implementation, conducive to the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. The States Parties to the NPT, esp. the three nuclear states that sponsored the Middle East resolution, need to break the silence over the Israeli nuclear policy that continues to contravene the NPT, and which will drag the entire area into an arms race and jeopardize Arab national security, the security of that sensitive region and that of the entire world.

Mr. Chairman,

Among the other challenges in the area of disarmament, which pose a threat to international peace and security, and which must not be overlooked, we would like to single out the following questions:

- The problem of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, as the results of the relevant Review Conference, held in 2006, were disappointing.
- A source of profound concern is the proliferation of land mines such as those planted by Israel in South Lebanon during its invasion of the area. In this regard we condemn the failure of Israel to hand over the maps of the mine fields which continue to claim the lives of civilians injure and maim them, in spite of the relevant Security Council resolutions.
- We share the concern of the international community over the danger posed by conventional weapons and their continued development. Practical confidence-building measures must be taken in this domain, provided such measures are consistent with the U.N. Charter, and that they are implemented on a voluntary, mutual basis.
- We note with concern the trend towards increasing world military expenditure, which has exceeded one trillion annually. We all know the

amount of resources this consumes, which resources could otherwise be used in the service of development.

Mr. Chairman,

The State of Qatar is party to many international conventions in the field of disarmament. It is party to the NPT, The Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty, The International Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons, and on Their Destruction. Also, the State of Qatar is currently studying other convention and treaties with a view to signing them or acceding to them. The State of Qatar has taken part in all disarmament conferences, and has supported all resolutions designed to promote peace and security in the world through disarmament. It also strives to enhance international efforts to create an appropriate climate to facilitate the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty.

On the national lever, the task of arms control and the prohibition of weapons has been assigned to a commission which was established for that purpose in 2004, and includes representatives of the relevant ministries and State authorities. This Commission actively discharges its functions, and has recently concluded, for instance, the drafting of enforcement regulations for Law no. 17 of 2007, which was enacted last year with the aim of prohibiting the use, production, acquisition or stockpiling chemical weapons by any person or party. Moreover, the Commission recently organized a national workshop to promote the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in the State of Qatar, publicize the convention and exchange experiences in this regard, with the participation of 120 experts from State entities and the industrial sector.

Thank you.