

EGYPT



مصر

The Permanent Mission of Egypt
to the United Nations
New York

بعثة مصر الدائمة
لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

Statement by
Ambassador Hisham Badr
Permanent Representative of Egypt
To the United Nations in Geneva

On Behalf of the
New Agenda Coalition

General Debate
Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty
2010 Review Conference
4 May, 2010, New York

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honor to take the floor today on behalf of the seven members of the New Agenda Coalition; Brazil, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden and my own country, Egypt. At the outset and on behalf of the Coalition, allow me to extend to you our congratulations on your appointment as President of this important event, and reaffirm our readiness to fully engage with you and all delegations to ensure its success. Mr. President, you have our full cooperation and support.

It is often stated that the NPT is the bedrock of the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. This is a statement of fact that the Coalition fully subscribes to. Because of our firm commitment to this Treaty and its objectives our Coalition has been working, for over a decade, to advance nuclear disarmament as a central goal. The total elimination of nuclear weapons and the assurance that they will never be produced again is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

With that in mind, and 40 years after the entry into force of the Treaty, the Coalition calls upon all States Parties to fulfill all their Treaty commitments and obligations. Moreover we call upon China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States to comply with their disarmament commitments and obligations under Article VI. The Coalition further reaffirms that achieving NPT universality is of paramount importance. In that regard, we call upon India, Israel and Pakistan to accede to the Treaty promptly and without any conditions as non-nuclear-weapon States and,

pending their accession, to adhere to its terms. Furthermore we urge the DPRK to rescind its announced withdrawal from the Treaty.

Mr. President,

The NAC welcomes the recent signature of the New START agreement between Russia and the United States, significantly reducing their deployed nuclear arsenals and looks forward to its early entry into force. This agreement is an important step forward, but only one of many necessary steps needed to achieve nuclear disarmament. As a next step, further, deep cuts should be agreed, including in the area of non-deployed and non-strategic nuclear weapons. Moreover weapons reductions need to be irreversible, transparent and internationally verifiable.

The NAC also welcomes moves towards reducing the role and potential uses of nuclear weapons in the security strategies of some nuclear weapon States, most recently as announced by the United States. However, further significant doctrinal shifts by all nuclear-weapon States are urgently needed to bring us closer to a nuclear-weapon-free world.

Mr. President,

The Coalition has serious concerns regarding the continued existence of nuclear weapons so long after the entry into force of the Treaty. Furthermore the CTBT has as yet not entered into force, the conclusion of a treaty on fissile materials still eludes us, and the creation of a zone free from nuclear weapons in the Middle East has still not been realized. Those are all serious matters that deserve our urgent attention.

Mr. President,

The New Agenda Coalition notes that there has been an increased global momentum to advance nuclear disarmament objectives. This is a positive development welcomed by the Coalition as a signal that the political will necessary to achieve our common and agreed upon objectives may be forthcoming and we see this Review Conference as a critical opportunity to turn rhetoric into action and herald a new era of progress on global disarmament. However, given the disappointing outcome of the last Review Conference in 2005, we are forced to look further back for our reference point from which to move forward. For us as a Coalition those reference points are the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference, and the three Decisions and the Resolution on the Middle East agreed in 1995.

In 2015, we want to be quoting the success of the 2010 Review Conference as the base from which to move forward, and not have to search 15 or 20 years back for a common position that remains unfulfilled to a Treaty whose credibility and viability would thus be in serious jeopardy. We are committed to working with you and all delegations to ensure that this Treaty, our Treaty, is respected, strengthened, and adhered to. This can only be achieved if the balance between all three pillars of the Treaty is respected. Further progress is urgently needed on the disarmament pillar.

Mr. President,

This Review Conference must move beyond mere words and political posturing and get to the heart of matters quickly and directly if success is to be achieved. It is critical that the outcome include a reaffirmation of the unequivocal undertaking by nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, and a call upon all States Parties to the Treaty to accelerate the implementation of the practical steps for systematic

and progressive efforts to achieve nuclear disarmament that were agreed upon at the 2000 Review Conference and to pursue policies that are fully compatible with the objective of achieving a world free from nuclear weapons.

Beyond looking at the past, we must also look towards the future and agree clear benchmarks with which to evaluate our success as we move forward towards a world free from nuclear weapons. A forward looking action plan that provides a clear framework and measurable benchmarks for our work in the coming period will be key.

With that in mind, the Coalition has submitted a working paper (working paper 8) to this Conference that contains a wide range of concrete and practical measures to advance the cause of nuclear disarmament- the paramount goal of the Coalition- aimed at achieving a world free from nuclear weapons as enshrined in the NPT. It is important to highlight that this working paper draws upon all NAC working papers submitted during this entire Review Cycle, which in turn remain valid and current. It is our hope that the concise and practical approach adopted by the Coalition in formulating the recommendations and elements in our working paper will help enhance its utility. The fact that it encompasses the views of a cross regional grouping of countries should also serve to maximize the possibility of fostering consensus around the elements and language it contains.

Mr. President,

In relation to nuclear-weapons-free zones, the Review Conference should also welcome the entry into force of the Semipalatinsk Treaty on 21st March

2009 and the Pelindaba Treaty on 15th July 2009 and encourage the establishment of further additional nuclear weapon-free zones, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the regions concerned. In addition the Coalition urges all concerned States to take all necessary measures to bring about the entry into force of the relevant Protocols to Treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones, and the withdrawal of any related reservations or unilateral interpretative declarations that are incompatible with the object and purpose of such Treaties

Mr. President,

The 1995 Middle East Resolution is a matter of paramount importance. To date no progress has yet been achieved on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in that region. The Review Conference should renew its support for the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons, as well as other weapons of mass destruction, and for the taking of concrete and practical steps towards the full implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East. The Conference should renew its call to Israel, as the only State of the region not yet a party to the Treaty, to accede to it as a non-nuclear-weapon State promptly and without conditions, and to place all of its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards.

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion allow me, on behalf of the Coalition, to reiterate our support to you and your team and stand ready to fully and effectively engage with all Parties to ensure success.

Thank You.