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Statement by

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**before
The Conference on Disarmament**

Geneva, 13 March 2007



Mr. President,

I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament and wish you success in discharging your arduous task to move the work of this august body forward. I would also like to extend my appreciation to the six Presidencies of the Conference who could build upon the efforts of previous year CD presidents to propose an organizational framework for the work of the Conference and to appoint Coordinators for all items on the agenda.

The ultimate goal of these initiatives and any other common efforts should be getting the Conference back to its substantive work, complete and comprehensive disarmament in particular nuclear disarmament, through adoption of a comprehensive and balanced program of work in which the priorities and concerns of all Member States are addressed.

Mr. President,
Distinguished Participants,

The continued existence of thousands of nuclear warheads in the arsenals of Nuclear- Weapon States and their program for the development of new types of nuclear weapons as well as the threat of possible use of them by certain Nuclear- Weapon States demonstrate the insincerity in their declared policy.

The existence of estimated 27000 nuclear warheads in the Nuclear-Weapon States' stockpiles which is a great threat to the whole humanity can not be overlooked. The lack of progress towards nuclear disarmament and the failure of certain Nuclear- Weapon States to fulfill their international obligations continue to be a source of threat for the international community.

It is worth mentioning that the only country that has ever used nuclear weapons still maintains a sizable arsenal of thousands of nuclear warheads, of which many are operational and the reminder in reserve or stockpiles. Many warheads are deployed on land-based missile systems, on bombers, and on submarines at trigger- hair situation. Deployment of hundreds of tactical nuclear weapons which consist of Tomahawk land attack cruise missiles and B-61 bombs in several European countries and the construction of new facilities for the production of new nuclear

warheads, in particular easy- to- use nuclear weapons (Mini Nukes), are in clear contravention with the provision of the NPT.

Moreover, transferring nuclear technology and materials to the non- members of the NPT whose nuclear facilities are operating outside the IAEA full scope safeguards monitoring contributes to the proliferation of nuclear weapons. This would certainly weaken and undermine the credibility and integrity of the non- proliferation regime.

In the Final Document of the 14th Summit of the Non-Aligned-Movement, held in Havana, Cuba, in September 2006, the Heads of States or Governments of 118 countries "reiterated their call on the Conference to agree on a balanced and comprehensive program of work by establishing, inter alia, an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament as the highest priority ". Likewise, they "emphasized the necessity to start negotiations on a phased program for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time, including a Nuclear Weapons Convention." We stand by the common NAM position.

Mr. President,

We are of the view that it is now more urgent than ever for us to endeavor for peace and security and redouble our efforts and live up to our commitments to the goal of creating a nuclear-weapon-free world. The misuse of the non proliferation principle as a political tool can, in no way, lead us to the elimination of nuclear weapons. The recent military intervention by the USA against Iraq in our region is a clear evidence of the failure of such a policy. The basic argument for the attack on Iraq was to combat weapons of mass destruction and to bring more security to the region. After years of searching for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq it is obvious that the preparation of such an attack was based on false or in fact forged information. On the other side one can easily judge if there is more security or insecurity in the region as the result of such a huge military operation. Those who created such a situation in Iraq can not disregard their responsibility. Despite the total failure of the previous NPT Review Conference due to disregard of the above mentioned commitments and the unilateral approach adopted by some, we hope that the first Preparatory Committee for the Seventh NPT Review Conference would take practical steps for paving the way for a successful Review Conference.

We also attach great importance to the other three core issues of NSA, PAROS and FMCT which are on the CD's agenda for a long time. Adoption of a universal, unconditional and legally-binding instrument on security assurances against the use of nuclear weapons has been a long-

standing goal of the Non- Nuclear Weapon States. It is a pressing issue on which the discussion needs to be reinvigorated at the CD.

On the other hand, there is an attempt to seek military and strategic superiority in outer space which may lead to the weaponization of outer space in the near future endangering global peace and security. Therefore negotiating a legally binding instrument on prevention of an arms race in outer space is also an urgent task for the CD.

Mr. President

Iran has consistently been a fervent advocate of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation for decades and has actively and creatively contributed to international political and legal norm setting at the global as well as regional context. It was Iran who proposed the establishment of the Middle East as a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone and has vigorously pursued it together with other countries ever since. It is a great concern that after so many years since this initiative introduced, and against the will of states in the region, the establishment of Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in the Middle East has yet to be realized. In spite of the international grave concerns, Zionist regime continues to be the only one in the region that refuses to accede to the NPT, rejects international inspection of its nuclear facilities and refuses to place these facilities under the IAEA safeguards. We strongly condemn the statement made by the Prime Minister of that regime on 11 December 2006 in which he publicly admitted the possession of nuclear weapons.

This acknowledgement definitely has a negative impact on the efforts to the establishment of the Middle East as a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone. It is undisputable that nuclear weapons in the hands of the Zionist regime with a long and dark record of crimes and atrocities such as occupation, aggression, militarism, state-terrorism, crimes against humanity and apartheid as well as violation of all UN Security Council resolutions, pose a uniquely grave threat to regional and international peace and security and requires to be seriously dealt with by international community through taking practical measures.

Regrettably, after the admission of possession of nuclear weapons by Zionist regime, instead of condemning this acknowledgement and taking measures against that regime, the members of the European Union have lifted the ten-year old sanctions imposed by the European banks regarding the investment in the projects of this regime.

Mr. President

It is surprising that while no practical step is taken to contain real source of nuclear danger in the Middle East, my country is under

tremendous pressure to renounce its inalienable right for peaceful use of nuclear energy under the NPT.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is of the belief that the NPT contains both rights and obligations for its Parties. No Party of a treaty can be expected to carry the burden of its commitments but being deprived of its rights. The Islamic Republic of Iran while committed to its obligations is also determined to benefit from its rights. It is a legitimate and reasonable expectation that any Party of the NPT may have. With regard to building confidence around our nuclear activities, my country has done every effort in its hands. We accepted the inspections by the Agency even beyond our legal obligations. We even suspended our activities for more than two years in order to find a long term solution with the EU3. But unfortunately we witnessed that suspension turned to be an instrument for imposing an arbitrary permanent cession of our peaceful program.

Mr. President

Our interlocutors instead of working towards a constructive approach to resolve the issue referred the case to the Security Council and derailed this issue from its legal framework. They made the suspension as the key for resolving the whole Iran's nuclear issue but it should be asked: what was the result of the previous three- year suspension of my country's peaceful nuclear activities?

An issue such as Iran's nuclear issue can not be solved through pressure or the Security Council Resolutions. The durable solution to this issue is to follow the logic, and international law and regulations. My country is committed to a negotiated solution and is of the belief that the issue can be resolved through negotiations without any pre- conditions, as the NAM Heads of States and Governments emphasized in their special statement in Havana.

Let me seize this opportunity and in order to show our readiness to resolve the issue, underline that if 5+1 countries refer back Iran's nuclear issue from the Security Council to the IAEA, my country will be prepared to offer necessary guarantees in order to create confidence regarding non-diversion of its nuclear program.

If we can achieve a political understanding on the aspects of the solution, the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran would be ready to pave the ground for the commencement of the negotiations.

I thank you Mr. President.