First Committee on Disarmament

October 7

Speech of Kuwait

KUWAIT: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, Mr. Chairman, at the outset it pleases me to express on behalf of the State of Kuwait our sincere congratulations on your election Chairman of the First Committee. We are certain that thanks to your experience, you shall contribute to the success of the work of this Committee. We also would like to seize this opportunity to greet the members of the Bureau as well as to show Your Excellency that my country's delegation will cooperate with you as well as with the Bureau staff to see your mission succeed. Furthermore, I would be amiss if I do not welcome what was contained in the statement of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman, the State of Kuwait totally believes that the position of nuclear weapons does not achieve security to any country whatsoever, but rather the proliferation of these destructive weapons will have a negative impact on the international security and stability. My country also views nuclear disarmament and its nonproliferation as two basic elements for international security.

Out of my country's trust in the vital roles that the United Nations plays in this issue, the government recognizes the demands posed by international challenges which have been increasing lately, particularly the challenges relating to the failure of nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction whereby summits and international conferences were convened to discuss. Yet despite the difficulties of the issue of disarmament first is there are still before us and before all the parties concerned, the timely opportunity to achieve our purpose towards bringing about a world that is safe and free of weapons of mass destruction.

My country views with concern the developing dangers from the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the regional as well as the international level; also, the dangers of the possession of such weapons or some of their components by terrorist groups. Hence, the State of Kuwait signed in September 2005 the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

Kuwait has submitted its national report to the United Nations Secretariat which clarifies the measures taken to ensure compliance to the provisions of Resolution 1540 concerning measures to be taken by states to prevent terrorist groups from obtaining the components of weapons of mass destruction. The State of Kuwait also ratified the international conventions and agreements such as the NPT, the CWC, and BWC, in addition to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the CTBT, and the Agreement of Earlier Reporting of Nuclear Accident, as well as the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements and the additional protocol.

Mr. Chairman, we are optimistic vis-à-vis the developments in disarmament and welcome the international momentum towards disarmament as well as the convening by the Secretary General of a high-level meeting to revitalize the conference on disarmament held in New York on 24 September 2010, as well as the convening of the 2010 Review Conference of the NPT, which was held last May at the United Nations headquarters in New York. This is considered an important event in confronting the ... [?] [01:08:26] challenges of the disarmament mechanism in support of the multilateral negotiations aimed at disarmament under an effective international supervision. There is hope that the international conference scheduled for 2012 to commence negotiations with the participation of all the states in the Middle East with the view of reaching an agreement to make the Middle East region free of nuclear weapons, and that can be verified virtually and internationally. In this context, we express our trust in the importance of the resumption of negotiations by the concerned parties to reach an agreement on creating the region free of nuclear weapons in the Middle East.

Mr. Chairman, on the regional level, agreements making Central Asia and Africa zones free of nuclear weapons free zones entered into force last year. We look forward to see the Middle East also as a region free of nuclear weapons. Since it is still a region facing security risks and challenges from the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction despite the resolution, which was issued by the 1995 Review Conference of the NPT, requiring the establishment of a nuclear weapon free zone in the Middle East.

My country hopes that all states party to the NPT shall adhere in an unselective and total form to their duties and commitments within the framework of the NPT in all of its three parts.

There is also a need for an effective implementation of the practice of supervising radioactive waste across international borders that was put forth by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Mr. Chairman, it is incumbent upon us to demand from this forum that Israel, the only country in the Middle East region that did not accede to the NPT as well as its being the only country in the region that possesses nuclear weapons in defiance of the resolutions of international legitimacy to accede immediately to the treaty and subjected to nuclear facilities -- all of its facilities to the safeguard regimen of the IAEA. We also have to emphasize that the Israeli position vis-à-vis the treaty shall provide excuses and reasons for other states to obtain and possess nuclear weapons, which will embroil the region in chaos which it did with dangerous negative implications.

As regard the Iranian nuclear program, the State of Kuwait is not geographically far from the reactor in question. In case any nuclear leaks may occur due to natural causes, my country believes that all states including the Islamic Republic of Iran has the right to conduct scientific research and produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination.

However, the need to cooperation with the IAEA and resolve all issues that arise through dialogue and cooperation for confidence building is an important requirement to reassure the countries in the region as well as the international community about the nature of this program according to the requirements of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, we hope that the consultations in this Committee will be positive and inclusive in order to fulfill the aspiration of the member states towards achieving international peace and security and in this context, I wish to quote His Excellency, the Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, who said in his statement, "A world free of nuclear weapons would be a global public good of the highest order." Thank you, Mr. Chairman.