

UNIDIR
NPT 40 Year commemoration
Statement by Ambassador H. Badr
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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I join you today to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the entry into force of the NPT, a Treaty to which Egypt attaches particular importance and one which has been at the center of global disarmament efforts and indeed intricately linked to the maintenance of International Peace and Security.

This is a moment for reflection, deep thinking but above all a point to pledge future action and not future rhetoric.

In looking back after 40 years, the question we need to ask ourselves is, has the NPT served to enhance our collective security? Has it merely helped preserve a global strategic imbalance and maintain the status quo between the haves and the have-nots... ? Wasn't the divide between the "haves" and the "have nots" supposed to be a temporary one? Or has the definition of the word "temporary" in the dictionary changed recently? These are important questions whose answer, I believe, will allow us to discern the optimum paths for moving forward.

I may not presume to be able to present a full answer to these questions. I hope, however, that our discussion will allow us to collectively move closer to developing a clearer vision about these hard questions which beg an urgent answers.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Egypt, like many others, considers the NPT to be an original bargain whereby Non-Nuclear Weapons States gave up the option to develop nuclear weapons in return for

the promise that Nuclear Weapons States would get rid of theirs. The access of the Non-Nuclear Weapons states to nuclear energy and technology for peaceful purposes was also guaranteed. It is against this bargain, that the success and/or failure of the NPT need to be examined.

40 years on, it is evident that while almost all NPT Non-Nuclear Weapons States have abided by their commitments not to develop or acquire nuclear weapons, Nuclear Weapons States continue to regard nuclear weapons as part and parcel of their security doctrines and available military arsenal. This is not very encouraging.

The NPT was born into a world in which existed 5 Nuclear Weapon States; its aim was to gradually move from 5 to Zero. We are now living in a world in which those 5 countries still retain their arsenals and in fact other countries, all outside the NPT, now possess nuclear weapons, and one has announced its withdrawal from the Treaty and is also in possession of nuclear weapons.

It is therefore somewhat puzzling that efforts seem to be currently focused on strengthening the obligations of Non-Nuclear Weapons States that are in compliance with the Treaty and remain members, rather than on achieving the universality of the Treaty and the commencement of negotiations on general and complete nuclear disarmament. Achieving universality is not rhetoric. It must be worked on with concrete steps. The world cannot wait another 40 years, in which time it will be safe to assume that the number of countries possessing nuclear weapons may only increase. Nuclear Weapon States have now, more than ever, got to realize that the only ultimate guarantor against proliferation is disarmament.

This view is shared by the overwhelming majority of Nations, and in that regard, It is important to highlight that 135 member and observer States of the Non Aligned Movement which my country has the honor of Chairing, reiterated at the level of Heads and State and Government, at the 2009 Sharm ElSheikh Summit, " *emphasized the necessity to start negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear*

weapons with a specified framework of time, including a Nuclear Weapons Convention. They reaffirmed 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." Until such an objective is achieved, it has been reaffirmed that there is a need for the conclusion of a universal, unconditional and legally binding security assurances to non nuclear weapon states. Concern was also clearly expressed on the strategic defence doctrines of Nuclear Weapon States, and at efforts to develop new types of nuclear weapons.

NAM countries also reiterated their support for the establishment of Nuclear Weapon Free Zones, and in particular in the Middle East, and for implementation of the 1995 Resolution. In that context, The NAM Summit demanded that Israel renounce possession of nuclear weapons, accede to the NPT, and place their facilities under IAEA Safeguards.

Those demands and declarations were made at the highest political level, by the majority of World States, and thus the collective weight of such a position needs to be a critical element in how we plot our paths for the next 40 years, and more specifically how we conduct our work at the NPT 2010 Review Conference.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Disarmament lies at the root of a successful, credible and viable NPT. This is a cross regional view, shared by a wide array of countries. Egypt currently has the distinct honor to also chair the New Agenda Coalition, which is a key cross regional group that was instrumental in achieving the 13 steps of 2000 and attaches prime importance to disarmament.

In order to advance those ends, and with a view to preserving and strengthening the NPT, the NAC has purposely developed a short and concise working paper for the 2010 Review Conference with language and elements to advance the goal of nuclear disarmament and in so doing advance the NPT. It is our aim to assist the President and

conclude a successful Review Conference as we did in 2000. Those elements can be drawn upon directly to be included in a possible final outcome, and include views on Universality, Negative Security Assurances, Fissile Material, Military Doctrines, Operational Readiness, Nuclear Weapon Free Zones, Regional Alliances and other matters of importance.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I will now turn to the matter of the 1995 Middle East Resolution to which Egypt and the Arab World attached particular importance, and which all have agreed will be a pivotal determining element of the success of the 2010 Review Conference, and thus is intricately linked to the future well being of the NPT and any evaluation of its past success and future viability.

The fact is that we in the Middle East who have joined the NPT feel that we have— for the lack of a better word – been tricked into giving concessions for promises that never materialized. When Egypt ratified the NPT, we were assured that this step would be seen as a highly valuable confidence building measure that would encourage others in the region to follow suit “shortly”. In our declaration made on Feb 26th of 1981 at the time of ratification we stated that:

"In conclusion, Egypt wishes to point out that it has ratified the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons out of strong belief that this step complies with its supreme national interests, provided the Treaty succeeds in curbing the proliferation of nuclear weapons through-out the world, particularly in the Middle East, which should remain completely free of nuclear weapons if it is to contribute constructively to peace, security and prosperity for its people and the world at large."

And then in 1995, when the Treaty was to be indefinitely extended, we were again assured that the Resolution on the Middle East would be the vehicle through which to effectively address our legitimate security concerns. Almost fifteen years later, there is

still no positive change. There is widespread resentment in the region towards the NPT and what it seeks to achieve, the double standards and lack of political will, all of which have tainted the NPT's noble objectives which we adhere to.

We are hopeful therefore that this Review Conference will be conducted in a positive and healthy atmosphere and will muster the necessary political will to move forward on the implementation of the 1995 Middle East Resolution. Egypt to that end has submitted a list of suggestions during the Review Cycle.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The 2010 NPT Review Conference, is a crucial juncture that could be seminal in projecting either the success and progress of the NPT regime which we are seriously working towards, or declares the unfolding of this crucial setup. To be successful, which we all hope it will, a concerted world effort is needed. We share the vision outline in President Obama's Prague Speech of a world free of nuclear weapons, but we are more ambitious. We want to achieve this in our life time. Can we do that after forty years of coming into force of this important instrument? I say in the language of the day: "Yes we Can". We call upon every delegation in this room and beyond, to rise to the challenge, to bear its responsibility, to implement previous commitments and to work in good faith to reaffirm our trust and belief in this vision of a world free from nuclear weapons. A world where our efforts are focused on facing global warming and climate change; not dealing with the spectre of nuclear winter.

Thank you.
