



CHAIR NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT GENEVA CHAPTER



Thematic Seminar on Pillar I (Disarmament) of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

*Statement
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Geneva, 30 January 2020

Mr. Chairperson, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).
2. I would like to re-emphasize the major elements of NAM position with regards to NPT as reflected in the Final Document of the NAM Baku Summit.
3. The NAM Heads of State and Government reiterated their continued concern over the current difficult and complex situation in the field of disarmament and international security. They called for renewed efforts to resolve the current impasse in achieving nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects.
4. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the Movement's principled positions on nuclear disarmament, which remains its highest priority, and on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects. They stressed the importance of ensuring that efforts aimed at nuclear non-proliferation are parallel to simultaneous efforts aimed at nuclear disarmament. They expressed concern at the threat to humanity posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible use or threat of use.
5. They reiterated their deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, and in this context reaffirmed the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law. They stressed the need to address this issue in the context of the efforts aimed at the realization of a nuclear-weapon-free world and in this regard, they noted continuing relevant international efforts. They also reiterated the call in UNGA Resolution 73/40 for the commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament (CD) on a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons.
6. Reaffirming the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, the NAM Heads of State and Government reiterated their determination to promote multilateralism as the core principle of negotiations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, and underlined that multilateralism and multilaterally agreed solutions, in accordance with the UN Charter, provide the only sustainable method of addressing disarmament and international security issues.
7. The NAM stressed the importance of ensuring that efforts aimed at nuclear non-proliferation are parallel to simultaneous efforts aimed at nuclear disarmament, and reaffirmed that these efforts, global and regional approaches and confidence building measures complement each other and should, wherever possible, be pursued simultaneously to promote regional and international peace and security.

8. The NAM Baku Summit expressed concern at the threat to humanity posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible use or threat of use. In this context, NAM Member States further reiterated their deep concern over the slow pace of progress towards nuclear disarmament and the lack of progress by the Nuclear-Weapon States (NWS) to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals in accordance with their relevant multilateral legal obligations. The Summit emphasized, in this regard, the urgent need to commence and to bring to conclusion negotiations on comprehensive and complete nuclear disarmament without any further delay.
9. While noting the statements by the NWS of their intention to pursue actions in achieving a world free of nuclear weapons, the NAM Summit reaffirmed the importance of the application of the principles of transparency, irreversibility and verifiability by the NWS in all measures related to the fulfilment of their nuclear disarmament obligations. The NAM Summit reiterated, with concern, that improvements in existing nuclear weapons and the development of new types of nuclear weapons violate legal obligations of the NWS on nuclear disarmament, as well as the commitments made to diminish the role of nuclear weapons in their military and security policies and contravene the negative security assurances provided by the NWS, and violate also the commitments undertaken by the NWS at the time of the conclusion of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and at the NPT Review Conferences.
10. The multilateral efforts towards nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of nuclear weapons were welcomed by the NAM Baku Summit. The NAM Member States took note of the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 7 July 2017 at the UN conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination.
11. The Summit reaffirmed the importance of the CD as the single multilateral negotiating body on disarmament, and reiterated its call to the CD to agree on a balanced and comprehensive program of work by, inter alia, establishing an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament as soon as possible and as the highest priority. The NAM Member States emphasized the necessity to start negotiations in the CD, without delay, on further effective nuclear disarmament measures to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons, including, in particular, on a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons.
12. The NAM Heads of State and Government reiterated the importance of the convening a UN High-Level International Conference on Nuclear Disarmament, in follow-up to the High-Level Meeting of the UNGA on Nuclear Disarmament held on 26 September 2013, to review the progress made in this regard.
13. The NAM Summit welcomed UN annual meetings and activities held on 26 September for the commemoration of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, and they invited Member States, the UN system, NGOs, academia, parliamentarians and media to commemorate and promote this International Day through all means of educational and public awareness-raising activities.
14. The NAM Summit underlined the importance of UNGA Resolutions 68/32, 69/58, 70/34, 71/71, 72/251 and 73/40 as a roadmap on nuclear disarmament and accordingly stressed the need for an active participation of the NAM Member States in all activities related to their implementation, including enhancing public awareness and education on this issue.
15. The NAM Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. They called for the early commencement of negotiations on effective, universal, unconditional, non-discriminatory, irrevocable and legally binding security assurances to all Non-Nuclear-Weapons States (NNWS) by all the NWS against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under all circumstances as a matter of high priority.
16. Finally, underscoring the importance and urgency of renewed political will by all NPT States Parties to achieve a successful conclusion of the 2020 review process, the NAM stands ready to engage constructively towards this objective and attain a peaceful and secure world for present and future generations.

Thank you.