

Position Paper for the General Assembly First Committee

The topics before the United Nations (UN) General Assembly First Committee are: The Role of Science and Technology in International Security and Disarmament, Global Nuclear Disarmament and Increasing Women's Role in Disarmament and Non-Proliferation. The State of Libya strongly believes in the importance of these questions and is looking forward to discussing this issues with the Member States and addressing them.

I. The Role of Science and Technology in International Security and Disarmament

The last report produced on the issue of the Role of Science and Technology in International Security and Disarmament was presented to the General Assembly on 17 October 1990. Consequently, the General Assembly resolution 45/60 (1990) was adopted, firmly recalling that the Member States should pay attention to the scientific and technological progresses made in the fields of International Security and Disarmament assisted by the United Nations (UN). Since then major breakthroughs of science and technology have been made to address issues such as international security and disarmament but on the meantime, few decisions have been adopted on the matter by the General Assembly: The General Assembly resolution 61/55 (2006) pledging for the development of disarmament-related technologies and the General Assembly procedural decision of the Seventieth Session (2015) keeping this item for the next session. Thus, whereas the proliferation of weapons, especially nuclear ones, is still strong and the technologies progress in disarmament are significant, the State of Libya recalls the necessity for the Member States to position themselves better to implement technological breakthrough in the fields of International Security and Disarmament.

Libya supports the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) in its actions to address the issue of the role of science and technology in disarmament and recalls its strong stands on the subject during the General Assembly on the 4 April 2016 and during the 2010 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) Review Conference. The State of Libya has also acted in favour of the implementation of disarmament-related technologies by using technologies of destruction of chemical weapons on 54% of its weapons and communicating on its armament policy with transparency. Thus, Libya is looking forward to address the issue of the Role of Science in International Security and Disarmament as it has been eager to address it in the past.

The State of Libya strongly believes in the implementation of new sciences and technologies to tackle the issue of uncontrolled proliferation of weapons, especially nuclear ones. Libya emphasizes the importance for the Member States of assisting the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) in his work of encouraging the international community to invest in disarmament-related technologies and follow the breakthroughs in this specific field of research. Furthermore, Member States already committed to the NPT and other disarmament treaties should not only be committed to abiding by their non-proliferation objectives but also be encouraged to invest in disarmament-related scientific research to pursue their non-proliferation goals.

II. Global Nuclear Disarmament

The one that possesses Nuclear Weapons – be it a country, an individual, a government or a non-state actor – must understand that it does not only own a particularly damaging weapon. It has to be aware of the galactic scale forces it can deploy, causing devastating effects, which overcomes by far what a human brain can conceptualize. Nuclear Disarmament is therefore a major issue to be addressed in order to assure sustainable peace and security. Libya is committed to a nuclear free world.

For now, ten countries have that unacceptable power of life and death over their peers, but ten is too much: Nuclear weapons continue to be the basis for their national security policy, which means that

their security rests on the ability to burn the world to ashes. Ten is too much, that is why Libya pledges support to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), and to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) which prohibits non-nuclear weapons states from developing nuclear weapons. However, non-proliferation is not enough, that is why Libya calls for the respect of the Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (NWFZ) defined in the General Assembly resolution 3472B (1975), and for the entering into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1996.

Libya advocates for nuclear disarmament, emphasizing its exemplary role shown through its 2003 decision to dismantle all materials, equipment and programs aimed at the production of nuclear weapons, with oversight from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Its compliance with the international communities demands and norms is beyond doubt, and Libya calls for every member state to show as much transparency.

Thus, Libya brings to the fore the necessity to create a body whose function would be to observe and evaluate security issues in the nuclear disarmament process, in order to make sure that non-nuclear weapon states are not targeted or threatened by Nuclear powers, ruining the destructive and sterile spiral of the balance of power. It also requests Nuclear States to provide the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) with more widely transparent information over the size of their arsenal and stocks of fissile. Acknowledging the risk that Nuclear Weapons could be acquired by non-state actors such as terrorist groups, Libya asks for the adhesion and respect of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Terrorism by State Parties. These initiatives will help broaden the UN's insight into the Member States' Nuclear Weapons programs, and to control the Disarmament processes in order to make the world safer.

III. Increasing Women's Role in Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

Women tend to be underrepresented in fields that bear on nuclear policy, such as high-level politics, diplomacy, military affairs, science and technology. Thus, the share of women in diplomatic forums where nuclear weapons are discussed (the meetings of the parties to NPT and the First Committee which deals with disarmament and international security) is highly representative of the issue: on average, around 70 per cent of the participants are men. This gender imbalance affects the reflexion on disarmament and non-proliferation, as group problem solving benefits from a wider variety of perspectives at the negotiation table. It must be annihilated for two reasons: firstly, because women have the right to full and equal representation, as affirmed in major human rights documents; secondly, because the involvement of both men and women in decision-making improves both its quality and effectiveness.

Therefore, in order to increase the role of women in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, Libya calls for the setting of institutions at the international level devoted to the promotion of male-female parity in the Nuclear Disarmament field, and the benefits that male-female parity brings. Libya also encourages the creation of UN subsidiaries like HeForShe and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which reinforces the participation of women in global politics.

Furthermore, sexist social customs that hinder the participatory role of women in Nuclear Security politics have to be eradicated, through the creation of a regulation body aiming at tackling behaviours that block out women's role in Nuclear Disarmament policies. Libya also demands that the profile of outstanding women should be raised by awards and honours to women and/or organisations that support the full participation of women to the elaboration of Nuclear Security programs and search. Libya supports the UNODA initiative concerning the Women Scholarship for Peace (WSP) of the Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education Partnership, that helps women acquire visibility in the academic and executive field.