

Syrian Arab Republic



الجمهورية العربية السورية



Statement by

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To the Conference on Disarmament

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Mr President,

We congratulate you on assuming the Presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. We are pleased that, under your Chairmanship, the Conference has made already its first step for this Session by adopting its Agenda for 2010.

We are confident that your experience and the large activities you and your delegation are holding will lead our work to success. I would like to assure you and all the Presidents of 2010 of my delegation's full cooperation and support.

I would like also to welcome our new distinguished colleagues, Ambassadors of Sri Lanka and Ireland, and assure them of my delegation's readiness to fully support them.

My delegation joins the statement delivered on 26th January by the distinguished Representative of the DPRK on behalf of the Group of 21.

Mr President,

We are pleased and greatly encouraged by the statement delivered, in this room, by the distinguished Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, Dr. Dipu Moni, especially when she emphasized the importance of the four core issues of the Conference and the need to establish a zone free of nuclear weapons in the Middle East.

We deeply regret that this region did not receive yet serious international attention despite the fact that there is only one country in the region which owns.

advanced nuclear military capabilities and weapons outside the framework of any international control.

Nuclear disarmament remains the first priority for Syria, because as long as nuclear weapons exist in the arsenal of one country in the Middle East, the risk of use or threat of use will remain present. This country continues to reject all peace initiatives while threatening its neighbours with a fully fledged war that will transform the region to become the most dangerous area in the world since the end of the Second World War.

I would like to mention what Minister Evans, the Co-Chair of the International Commission on Nuclear, Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, said in this room a few days ago, and I quote: *“The use of nuclear weapons may happen, some time due to a mistake, or some time due to a miscalculation or a technical error”*.

Syria reaffirms, once again, its commitment to its international obligations under the provisions of the NPT and calls on the international community to urge all the Parties in the Middle East to join the NPT.

Mr. President,

We have adopted last year the document number 1864 and I would like to pay tribute to the efforts done by the distinguished Ambassador Al Jazaïry of Algeria and by the five Presidents of the Conference in 2009.

The 1864 document was a compromised text but as you notice it does not address the concerns of all CD Members, because it does not give clear answers to the issues of verification mechanism and existing stocks. Syria regrets the

absence of any concrete treatment of the other three core issues: the nuclear disarmament, NSA and PAROS, and it supports all constructive proposals to deal with these very important issues with the view to reach legally binding instruments.

We believe that, for this year, we should engage in a constructive dialogue to adopt a program of work for the 2010 Session, based on a mutual compromise and in spirit of understanding. Cloning the document 1864 which does not deal today with the concern of all States, will not acquire the consensus. We have to display our flexibility and readiness to negotiate. We can partially build on 1864 but we need to introduce new necessary elements to improve it.

Mr. President,

We hope that you will continue your consultations with all interested delegations and we are confident of your wisdom and understanding.

Syria will support the efforts to address all issues and will endorse any balanced accord which meets the satisfaction and concerns of all Member States of the Conference on Disarmament.

Syria believes that the enlargement of the membership of the Conference deserves due attention. This enlargement can enrich our work.

My delegation will work with all serious proposals to bridge the existing gaps in the Conference work and we look forward to a constructive 2010 Session in a spirit of mutual understanding and benefit.

I thank you