Statement

by

H.E. Seyed Mohammad Reza Sajjadi
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran

before

the Conference on Disarmament

Geneva, 15 June 2010

Please check against delivery
Mr. President
It is an honor for me to join you, as the new Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva. I have the great pleasure to congratulate you on your assumption of the Presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. My appreciation also goes to your predecessors for the clarity and coherence they brought to the work of the Conference. I assure you of my full support and cooperation in the work of the Conference.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to H.E. Celso Amorim the distinguished Foreign Minister of Brazil for his important statement, which underscores Brazil’s strong commitment to disarmament.

Mr. President
Multilateralism is a key element in the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Promoting the international and regional peace and stability including through disarmament and non-proliferation also, as a high priority, is in the agenda of my government. For both these reasons my delegation attaches great importance to the work of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. In our view the Conference on Disarmament should perform its responsibilities in a manner to meet the security concerns of all nations. We would like the Conference to play its role in the current international affairs by adopting a balanced and comprehensive program of work responsive to the four core issues before it. The rules of Procedure of the Conference should be the guiding principle for our endeavors.

Mr. President
Nuclear disarmament remains the highest priority for my delegation in the work of the CD. Nuclear weapons are the most inhumane weapons ever conceived. It is a matter of regret that after two decades of the end of Cold war, the legacies of the Cold war still remain strong. Nuclear weapons and the doctrines and strategies based on the use of nuclear weapons, particularly against Non-Nuclear Weapon States, continue to exist and being updated. Today the international community is more than ever concerned by the continued existence of thousands of nuclear
warheads in the stockpiles of certain countries and the military doctrines based on the possible use of nuclear weapons. Tons of highly enriched uranium and separated plutonium are available in the stocks that could easily be turned into weapons.

The international community can not wait forever to witness the total elimination of the nuclear weapons. There exists an urgent need to commence the nuclear disarmament. The CD can not stand indifferent on this serious and legitimate concern of the international community. In the 2010 Review Conference of the NPT which took place very recently in New York, my delegation together with the members of the Non Aligned Movement proposed to adopt a legal framework with specified timeline for the full implementation of Article VI of the NPT and the total elimination of nuclear weapons, including a Nuclear Weapons Convention by 2025. However it is a matter of regret that the outcomes of the NPT Review Conference particularly in the field of nuclear disarmament commitments are coming short of the expectations of the international community. We will resolutely follow the cause of nuclear disarmament particularly in the framework of the CD. We request to prepare the program of work in a manner that enables the CD to commence negotiations on nuclear disarmament.

Mr. President

As it has been stated in numerous occasions, my delegation believes that in addition to Nuclear Disarmament, the CD should be able to commence negotiations on the other three core issues under its agenda. On the FMCT I should reiterate our position that such a treaty should be a clear and meaningful step for nuclear disarmament and non proliferation in all its aspects. The FMCT should be a comprehensive, non discriminatory, internationally and effectively verifiable Treaty. Past production and existing stocks as well as the future production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices must be covered under the scope of the Treaty.

Mr. President

The Islamic Republic of Iran considers the total elimination of nuclear weapons as the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons should not imply political clout and capability to shape and influence world events or change the decisions of sovereign States. Pending the total elimination of these inhumane weapons, efforts for the conclusion of a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States should be pursued as a matter of priority by the international
community. Therefore, we call on that the Conference on Disarmament would establish an Ad-hoc Committee to negotiate a legally binding instrument on the Negative Security Assurances within a specified framework of time, to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

Mr. President
My country has always supported the prevention of an arms race in the outer space and is of the strong view that every effort should be done to keep the outer space out of any Weaponization or any arms race. In view of my delegation the outer space is a common heritage of mankind and must be used, explored and utilized for peaceful purposes in a spirit of cooperation. My delegation is fully prepared to work through the Conference on Disarmament on the possible ways to secure the use of outer space solely for peaceful purposes and preventing an arms race in outer space.

Mr. President
I hope the Conference on Disarmament through your efforts will be able to agree on a balanced and comprehensive program of work which would enjoy the consensus of the CD members. My delegation would spare no efforts in supporting you in that regard.