

**Statement by the Arab Republic of Egypt
77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly First Committee
Thematic Debate on Other Weapons of Mass Destruction (Cluster 2)**

Check Against Delivery

Mr. Chairman,

Egypt aligns itself with the statements of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Arab Group.

Mr. Chairman,

The First Special Session of the General Assembly on Disarmament had confirmed the effect of disarmament on international peace and security. The entry into force of the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in 2021 represents a historical step in terms of prohibiting nuclear weapons, as chemical and biological weapons are prohibited by their respective conventions. It also establishes a customary rule in international law with regard to prohibiting nuclear weapons.

Egypt has joined the NPT in a good faith and implemented all the commitments under the treaty. Egypt joined consensus on indefinite extension of the NPT in 1995 Review and Extension Conference upon the understanding that the package includes the 1995 resolution on establishing the Middle East NWFZ, which is not implemented until now. Egypt also was the first country in the region to propose including

other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East NWFZ.

Egypt calls for an immediate action to face the strategic imbalance in the Middle East due to persistence of one state to impede the efforts of establishing a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. Such persistence impedes achieving security and stability in the region, which leads to more conflicts, arms race, instability, international intervention and lack of sustainable peace.

Mr. Chairman,

Egypt condemns any use of weapons of mass destruction by any side under any circumstances. In this regard, Egypt has always supported the implementation of international resolutions especially Security Council resolution no. 1540 to avoid the illegal diversion of weapons of mass destruction to sub-state actors and terrorist groups.

We highlight once more the double standards in the position expressed by some Member States, when they call on certain Member States by name to accede to the conventions on chemical and biological weapons, while not calling on the only Member State in the Middle East non-state party to the NPT to join it without delay. They become hesitant when it comes to supporting the Conference on Establishment of the Middle East NWFZ using the pretext that the political and security circumstances in the region are not ready yet for such a step.

In fact, many Member States, which call for the universal adherence to the conventions on chemical and biological weapons, owns

nuclear weapons or under what so called nuclear security umbrella. The same Member States claim that the circumstances are not ready yet for disarmament and refuse to deal on equal footing with nuclear weapons on the one hand and chemical and biological weapons on the other hand in terms of prohibiting their use and ownership, although nuclear weapons are the most destructive weapons of mass destruction and are in conflict with the main principles of humanity and international humanitarian law.

Egypt reminds those Member States that the principles are indivisible, the security of some Member States are not more important than others, as all Member States are equal in terms of rights and sovereignty. We advise those Member States to reconsider their positions, which reflect a clear case of double standards.

Thank you.