

**Statement by the Arab Republic of Egypt  
77<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly First Committee  
Thematic Debate on Nuclear Weapons (Cluster 1)**

**Check Against Delivery**

Mr. Chairman,

Egypt aligns itself with the statements made by the Non- Aligned Movement, the African Group and the Arab Group, and wishes to make the following remarks:

Egypt reiterates its concern over the grave threat posed to humanity and international security by the continued possession of nuclear weapons by a few States, and reaffirms that the total, verifiable, and irreversible elimination of nuclear weapons is the only guarantee against their proliferation, use, or threat of use.

Arguments which set preconditions for, or artificial impediments to, the implementation of nuclear disarmament obligations will only lead to the gradual demise of the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), taking into consideration the failure of the 10<sup>th</sup> NPT Review Conference. The rising levels of tensions at the global level coupled with rapid technological developments make the risk of intentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons at one of its highest levels since the Cold War era.

The intensified competition among a number of States to develop, test, and deploy faster and more powerful delivery systems such as

hypersonic missiles or nuclear-powered missiles, in combination with the rising levels of malicious uses of cyber and outer-space technologies, exponentially raises the risk of triggering a nuclear war either intentionally or by mistake.

Immediate progress is necessary to restore trust and faith in the current regime through reconfirming the validity of all previous obligations and reaffirming the commitment of all States Parties to the NPT to implement them without any conditionality, and further build on them with practical time bound measures.

Mr. Chairman,

The decades-long stalemate in the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, as well as countless similar resolutions, is eroding the credibility and sustainability of the disarmament and non-proliferation regime and multilateral norms, as well as the rule of law at the international level. This stalemate is one of the root causes of the instability and lack of security in a region that already suffers from chronic military conflicts and an arms race.

In this regard, we believe that the Conference on the Establishment of a Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Middle East represents an important step towards the full and effective implementation of the 1995 resolution, through an institutional, inclusive and consensus-based process. The Conference has successfully convened its First Session in November 2019 under the presidency of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. It also convened its

Second Session in November 2021 under the presidency of the State of Kuwait. We look forward to the Third Session of the Conference in November 2022 under the presidency of the Republic of Lebanon.

We reiterate that this Conference aims at reaching arrangements freely arrived at by the States of the region on the basis of consensus. It is a genuine attempt to achieve a longstanding agreed international commitment in a nondiscriminatory manner that does not aim at singling out any State in the region.

At the holistic level, this process could serve as a platform to address all regional disarmament, non-proliferation challenges. We sincerely hope that all invited Members and Observers will participate in the following sessions of the Conference, which could lead to a major contribution to strengthening the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and a breakthrough in addressing the deteriorating security conditions in the region.

In the same vein, we also count on the continued support of all Member States to the Conference, as well as to the resolution that Egypt tables annually on “the Establishment of a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in the Middle East” which used to be adopted by consensus until the year 2017, and the resolution that we table on behalf of the Arab Group entitled “The Risk of Nuclear Proliferation in the Middle East”. We consider the support of all Member States to our resolutions to be a proof of their commitment to nuclear disarmament, collective security and sustainable peace in the Middle East, and achieving the agreed upon obligations in this regard.

EGYPT



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The Permanent Mission of Egypt  
to the United Nations  
New York

بعثة مصر الدائمة  
لدى الأمم المتحدة  
نيويورك

Thank you.