Note verbale dated 27 April 1977 from the Permanent Mission of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, in connexion with resolution 31/189 B on general and complete disarmament, adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-first session, has the honour to communicate herewith the views of the Algerian Government concerning the agenda and other relevant questions relating to the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, scheduled for May-June 1978 in New York.
VIEWS OF THE ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT CONCERNING THE AGENDA AND OTHER RELEVANT QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT

The problem of disarmament has always been a central concern of the United Nations, which has ceaselessly endeavoured to bring about general and complete disarmament under international supervision which would ensure peace and security in the world. Unfortunately the results achieved thus far do not measure up to the efforts made and do not meet the needs of the international community.

Like other non-aligned countries, Algeria has repeatedly expressed its concern at the acceleration of the arms race and the production of new and advanced weapons, the constantly growing amount of human and financial resources being devoted to them instead of being used for the advancement of mankind and the economic and social development of peoples, especially at a time when efforts are being made to establish a new international economic order, and the lack of progress in disarmament negotiations, particularly in the nuclear field.

Algeria has also worked unceasingly for the dissolution of rival military blocs, the withdrawal of foreign troops from foreign territories, the eradication of colonialism and racism and the elimination of zones of influence and hegemony.

For that reason, Algeria joined in sponsoring resolution 31/189 B, believing that a session of the General Assembly devoted exclusively to the problems of disarmament would reflect the urgent concern of the international community at the arms race and would promote disarmament negotiations, since the special session would certainly constitute the broadest and most representative forum ever convened to deal with the question of disarmament.

Algeria believes that the special session should first of all make it possible to evaluate the present disarmament situation, the results of the negotiations and the effect of the continued arms race on international peace and security and on the economic and social development of peoples. It should also make it possible to reach agreement on a programme of measures and priorities in matters of disarmament. Lastly, it should ensure a greater role and more active participation for the United Nations in the disarmament process.

In the light of those considerations, Algeria believes that the agenda of the special session should include the following questions:

1. Evaluation of the present situation in the field of the arms race and disarmament;

2. Elaboration and adoption of fundamental principles and objectives in matters of disarmament;

3. Elaboration and adoption of a Programme of Action in the field of disarmament;
4. Examination of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament and of the various types of machinery and organs for negotiation;

5. Question of the convening of a World Disarmament Conference.

Moreover, Algeria believes that the following principles should govern future negotiations on disarmament:

- The principle of universal dedication to the work of disarmament, a pre-condition for the implementation of the decisions adopted;

- The principle of incompatibility between the arms race and the maintenance of international security;

- The principle of the special responsibility of the nuclear Powers for the implementation of disarmament measures;

- The principle that the nuclear Powers will not resort to the use, or threat of use, of nuclear weapons against other States;

- The principle of equal security for all States;

- The principle of free and equal access of all States to the broadest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technical information for the utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes;

- The principle of complementarity between disarmament, the maintenance of international peace and security, and development.

Furthermore, while all efforts and negotiations should be aimed at general and complete disarmament under effective international control, it is desirable to fix an order of priorities for them, which may be the following:

1. Nuclear weapons;

2. Chemical and biological weapons;

3. Incendiary weapons;

4. Other weapons of mass destruction;

5. Conventional weapons.

With regard to the measures to be implemented with a view to an early ending of the arms race, the greatest attention should be given to the following measures:

- Cessation of all nuclear-weapon tests;

- Cessation of research and development relating to new types of nuclear weapons;
- Respect for the status of nuclear-weapon-free zones and zones of peace;
- Prohibition of the manufacture and stockpiling of chemical and biological weapons;
- Prohibition of the use of incendiary weapons;
- Withdrawal of foreign troops and foreign military bases.

In addition to the well-known conditions which have led to the present stagnation in the field of disarmament, emphasis should be placed on the inadequacy of existing machinery for disarmament negotiations. The need for an effective multilateral organ for the negotiation of disarmament measures is becoming more and more evident. It is generally felt that the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament has failed to meet the hopes placed in it. It has confined its efforts to partial or collateral measures for the control and limitation of armaments. For that reason, the special session should provide an opportunity for improving the structure and methods of work of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, establishing an organic link between that body and the United Nations General Assembly and ensuring that all nuclear Powers will participate in its work.

As a member of the Preparatory Committee, Algeria is determined to make a positive contribution to the efforts for the preparation and success of the special session, which should constitute a decisive step towards the cessation of the arms race and an advance along the road to genuine disarmament.