Statement by
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At the general debate of the First Committee
69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you for your election to the Chairmanship of the First Committee and assure you of my full support and cooperation. We are confident that you will ensure, through your capabilities and experience, the success of the Committee’s work. Let me also congratulate other members of the Bureau on their election.

My delegation would like also to commend your predecessor, H.E. Ibrahim O. A. Dabbashi of Libya, for his leadership and laudable efforts as a Chair of the First Committee during the last session of the General Assembly.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and by Nigeria on behalf of the African Group as well as with the statement delivered by Egypt on behalf of the Arab Group.

Algeria would like to seize this opportunity to reiterate its commitment to the multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and international security. During the previous years, we have seen renewed efforts, proposals and initiatives trying to address a wide range of issues in the field of disarmament and international security. Nevertheless, the need for effective steps and substantive progress in this area is still required.

In this regard, all Member States should pursue in good faith multilateral negotiations, as agreed by consensus in the Final Document of the First Special Session of the General Assembly (SSOD-1), to achieve general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

Mr. Chairman,

As State-party to the main treaties related to weapons of mass destruction, Algeria reaffirms that nuclear disarmament remains its highest priority and expresses its serious concern over the danger to humanity posed by the existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible use or threat of use.

Algeria welcomes the commemoration for the first time, on 26 September 2014, of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons devoted to furthering the objective of a nuclear-weapon-free world;
Algeria reaffirms its full confidence and commitment in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, unique international instrument and cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and would like to stress, once again, the need to universalize the Treaty and to ensure compliance with each of its three pillars: disarmament, non-proliferation and the promotion of the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

According to the NPT, nuclear-weapon States have the primary responsibility to achieve nuclear disarmament. Accordingly, nuclear-weapon States should respect and fully implement their Treaty’s obligations as well as their commitments contained in the 13 practical steps adopted in the 2000 NPT Review Conference chaired by Algeria, and in the Action Plan adopted by consensus at the VIIIth NPT Review Conference, held in 2010.

In this context, deeply concerned by the lack of progress in the implementation of the 2010 Action Plan, Algeria calls on all States Parties to the NPT to renew their commitments more firmly at the 2015 NPT Review Conference.

In fact, We consider that it is necessary to initiate in 2015 a momentum to achieve real progress in the field of nuclear disarmament. The Algerian delegation calls, therefore, for an effective implementation of the General Assembly Resolution 68/32, including the urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament for the early conclusion of a comprehensive Convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use and to provide for their destruction.

With a view to strengthening the global architecture for non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, my delegation would like to reiterate the importance of achieving universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty in order to allow its entry into force. In this context, Algeria wishes to reiterate the need for the conclusion of a legally binding instrument on Negative Security Assurances to all Non-Nuclear-Weapon States.

Furthermore, Algeria welcomes the convening of conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. Such meetings offer the
opportunity of highlighting, once again, the irreversible devastating effects of nuclear weapons and immeasurable suffering caused to human-beings. Algeria, having been, unwillingly, a nuclear ground test, in the early 60's, understands and fully shares the trials and the consequences-till this very day- of these bitter facts.

Mr. Chairman,

A majority of Member States have chosen to use atomic energy for exclusive civilian applications, in accordance with Article IV of the NPT. Indeed, the nuclear energy represents for many developing countries a strategic choice for their economic development and energy security needs. Accordingly, Algeria reaﬀirms the legitimate right to develop research, produce and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes under the non-proliferation regime.

The establishment of nuclear-weapons-free zones constitutes, not only a conﬁdence measure, but a concrete step towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

In this context, we reaﬀirm that the entry into force, on 15 July 2009, of the Pelindaba Treaty establishing a nuclear weapons free zone in Africa, represents an important contribution to the strengthening of international peace and security, and show the commitment of Algeria to that goal. Algeria, which was among the ﬁrst countries to have signed and ratiﬁed the Treaty of Pelindaba, calls on, in particular, States with nuclear weapons, which have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the relevant Annexes of this Treaty.

The example of Pelindaba Treaty, and other nuclear- weapon-free zones should in particular be followed in the volatile region of Middle-East. Algeria deeply regrets that this region remains prevented of such status years after the adoption, by the NPT Review and Extension Conference in 1995, of the Resolution on the establishment of a nuclear- weapon-free zone in the Middle-East.

Rejecting this status quo, Algeria stresses its strong commitment to the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East and the 2010 Action Plan. My delegation expresses its strong disappointment to the postponement of the Conference on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle-East.
Mr. Chairman,

While we share the disappointment and frustration among Member States at the continuing impasse in the Conference on Disarmament (CD) as well as in the Disarmament Commission, my delegation considers that this situation is caused by a lack of political will. In this regard, Algeria reaffirms the importance of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral negotiating body for disarmament. At the same time, while recalling the decision CD/1864, adopted by consensus on 29 May 2009, under the Algerian presidency, Algeria calls on the CD to agree on a balanced and comprehensive programme of work.

With such cases of persistent deadlock in some parts of the UN disarmament machinery, it will be relevant to convene a Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly (SSOD-IV) devoted to the review thoroughly all disarmament issues.

Regarding the other instruments related to mass destruction, Algeria calls for balanced, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions.

Concerning the issue of conventional arms, my delegation would like to stress that illicit trade of small arms and light weapons continue to threaten peace and stability in many countries and regions, particularly in North Africa and Sahel regions. This illicit trade is a source of supply to terrorist groups and organized crime, and is therefore an ongoing concern to my country. On the basis of its national experience, Algeria reaffirms that the UN Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument are more than ever of utmost relevance. We continue to emphasize the importance of their full, balanced, and effective implementation. We wish also to stress that international cooperation and assistance is essential in the implementation of those two instruments.

My delegation welcomes the adoption by consensus, in June 2014, of the outcome document of the Vth Biennial Meeting of States Parties to the UN Programme of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its aspects. On this occasion, Algeria has submitted its 2014 national report, on the implementation of the Programme of Action, as well as on the implementation of the International tracing Instrument.
In closing, Mr. Chairman, Algeria views the First Committee as an essential component of the UN Disarmament machinery and remains committed to working actively and constructively with all Member States in order to strengthen it during this 69th session of the General Assembly.

I Thank you