Views of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Resolution 78/26

On Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation

Nuclear weapons pose the greatest threat to human security and nuclear disarmament and total elimination of all nuclear weapons is the highest priority for overcoming this threat and the only guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. The Islamic Republic of Iran expresses deep concern at the continued lack of progress on nuclear disarmament especially in the Conference on Disarmament.

The Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is an essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. Nuclear disarmament forms one of the fundamental pillars of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. In the course of the negotiations leading to the conclusion of the Treaty, an integrated and balanced package of rights and obligations was introduced according to which non-nuclear weapon States undertake not to acquire nuclear weapons and to place their facilities under the safeguards agreements. In return, the nuclear-weapon States undertake not to transfer and develop nuclear weapons and commit themselves to practical steps towards nuclear disarmament.

The continued deadlock over multilateral negotiation on disarmament coupled with the lack of any bilateral commitment by major Nuclear Weapon States on nuclear disarmament is a matter of high concern. We strongly believe The multilateral decision-making process of the United Nations, in strict observance of the Charter and the principles of international law, is the only viable mechanism for preventing the international system from becoming a mechanism for the imposition
and legitimization of unilateral measures contrary to the multipolar, just and equitable world order we need.

Practice has shown that the goals of disarmament, arms control, and non-proliferation cannot be achieved through unilateral measures. Unilateral measures and bilateral or regional agreements on disarmament and non-proliferation are no substitute for the scope and meaning of agreements reached through multilateral negotiations. Multilateralism must be the core principle underpinning all negotiations on disarmament and non-proliferation.

In the end, as a State Member of the United Nations and a State party to numerous treaties on disarmament and non-proliferation, the Islamic Republic of Iran reaffirms its commitment to the promotion, preservation, and strengthening of multilateralism, and has reiterated the absolute validity of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as its determination to promote multilateralism as a core principle underpinning negotiations on those matters, including the priority theme of nuclear disarmament.