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Statement of Algeria

**Delivered by H.E. Mr. Amar Bendjama
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**2026 Review Conference of the Parties to
The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

General Debate

New York, 28 April 2026

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Allow me, **President**, to congratulate you on assuming the presidency of this Review Conference.

You have the full support of my delegation.

Algeria is honored to serve as a Vice-President.

Mr. President,

We meet at a moment of grave uncertainty.

Uncertain time for this Treaty, for the disarmament regime, and for our collective security.

The first resolution ever of the General Assembly was dedicated to the elimination of atomic weapons.

Eighty years later, the specter of a nuclear disaster is not behind us.

To the contrary, arsenals are amplified and modernized. They are not dismantled.

The nuclear testing moratorium is openly questioned.

Furthermore, the legacy of some past experiments is far from being forgotten, but more painfully, they are not even recognized, nor addressed.

In this regard, let me remind Algeria's painful experience.

In the sixties, our soil was the theatre of seventeen nuclear tests conducted by France.

The first detonation fallout reached over three thousand kilometers away.

Generations later, the consequences of these tests remain an open wound.

Decades later, the IAEA still recorded elevated radio-activity in these areas. The affected communities suffer these consequences daily: illness, congenital disorders, and barren land.

Generations have gone, together with those still enduring these consequences, are denied the answers to some simple questions:

-First, why France has not provided us the maps of the exact locations of these nuclear tests and buried waste?

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-**Second**, what prevent the disclosure of historical archives, radiological data, and medical records essential for environmental remediation and public health? Are those barriers transcending basic principles and fundamental rights?

-**Third**, while Algeria has offered concrete and constructive proposals for the rehabilitation of contaminated sites, the former colonial power continues to reject these proposals. How can this refusal be justified, when the same country, France, has already dismantled its technical facilities and conducted decontamination efforts and addressed humanitarian consequences in French Polynesia?

Mr. President,

Algeria chose the path of multilateralism.

We acceded to this Treaty, and we have met all our obligations.

Algeria's priorities, including the Middle East nuclear weapon free zone, are clearly outlined in our working papers.

My country has twice held the presidency of this Conference.

We know what this Conference can achieve when there is political will, and we know how swiftly its credibility erodes when it is lacking.

Mr. President,

This Treaty rests on a balanced reciprocal commitment: non-nuclear-weapon States renounced the nuclear option; while nuclear-weapon States committed to eliminate their arsenals.

Today, we must be frank: one side has met its part. The other, on the elimination of these weapons, not yet.

Moreover, the failure of two consecutive Review Conferences has placed the relevance of this regime at a crossroads.

We must therefore federate our efforts to restore the integrity of our Treaty, and to free the world from nuclear weapons.

I thank you.