

**Statement of the Arab Republic of Egypt
United Nations Disarmament Commission
General Exchange of Views
7-8 April 2025**

Check Against Delivery

Mr. Chairperson Minister Jose Pereira Sosa,

- 1- Egypt aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, Arab Group and the African Group.
- 2- We congratulate the Republic of Paraguay on your election at the helm of this year's UNDC, and congratulate also the members of this year's bureau. We assure you of Egypt's full support, including as one of the vice-chairs, to your endeavors.
- 3- In the same connection, we extend sincere appreciation to H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Osman Gadoon, Deputy Permanent Representative of Pakistan for his efforts during his tenure.

Mr. Chairperson,

- 4- The UNDC is the UN's only universal deliberative body on disarmament matters, with a capacity to undertake in-depth deliberations and present recommendations supporting the implementation of the outcomes of

SSOD-1. We are convinced that the contribution of this second year of the current cycle is crucial to an aspired success.

- 5- This delegation attaches importance to the work of this commission, and supports an active and robust UN's multilateral disarmament machinery at large. We recall the recognition under Action 26 of the Pact for the Future of the importance of maintaining and strengthening the role of the United Nations disarmament machinery.
- 6- Egypt believes that the UNDC is able to and should be doing more. While we welcome previous successes such as the recommendations by Working Group II on conventional weapons in 2017 and on transparency and confidence building measures in outer space activities in 2023, we deeply regret the recurrent failure to produce meaningful and substantive outcomes at WGI on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. An even, equitable and balanced progress at both working groups is a prerequisite for the success of the UNDC as a whole.
- 7- SSOD-1's identified nuclear disarmament and prevention of nuclear war as its highest priorities. This remains the frame of reference for measuring progress. Taking steps in the right direction will require constructive engagement by all Member States, particularly by Nuclear Weapon States.

Mr. Chairperson,

- 8- Substantial progress and unwavering commitment to nuclear disarmament are needed more than ever to avert the occurrence of a most catastrophic scenario. We are at a time of declining security environment, great powers

competition and polarization, continuous quantitative, qualitative expansion in nuclear arsenals and security doctrines and above all the threat of use of nuclear weapons as justified by outdated notions of deterrence and strategic stability. Recently, there has been some initial positive signals, such as President Trump's announced interest in resumption of arms control talks and achieving progress. We need to build upon these signals and employ any possible thaw towards supporting nuclear disarmament.

- 9- The horrific humanitarian and environmental consequences of the use of nuclear weapons is a nightmare that must be averted at any cost. The only sound and effective guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is their total elimination. Nuclear Weapon States need to honor their respective obligations and commitments including under Article 6 of the NPT, the outcomes of its review conferences and numerous UN resolutions. No confidence building or risk reduction measures is admissible as a substitute to nuclear disarmament.

Mr. Chairperson,

- 10-With regard to the work of WG I, we call upon Member States to agree on recommendations in support of the following:

First: Urgent, concrete, time-bound measures of nuclear disarmament in a manner which is transparent, verifiable and irreversible.

Second: A successful conclusion of the 11th review conference of the NPT in 2026. Realizing the universality of the Treaty and full and effective

implementation of obligations and commitments under the Treaty in a balanced manner, including addressing the substantial lapse on nuclear disarmament, are essential for attaining this objective and the preservation of the relevance and credibility of the Treaty as well as the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation global regime as a whole. Meanwhile, we reiterate the inalienable right to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy without discrimination. NPT is the vehicle in facilitating international cooperation for peaceful purposes.

Third: Progress at discussions on transparency and accountability by all nuclear weapon states through detailed reporting benchmarks and measurable actions on nuclear disarmament can provide a window of opportunity. The actual deficit is related to nuclear disarmament, and it can be responded to by the reporting by nuclear weapon states which is subject to interactive dialogue under the 1st pillar of the NPT.

Fourth: Pending elimination of nuclear weapons, we underline the importance of concluding a universal, unconditional, irrevocable, non-discriminatory and legally binding instrument to effectively assure all non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances. Egypt reiterates its appeal to Nuclear Weapon States to commit themselves to a no-first use policy. In addition, we caution against any attempt to integrate artificial intelligence applications to managing nuclear weapons and explosive devices, and call for maintaining meaningful human control over nuclear weapons and their delivery systems.

Fifth: The establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East pursuant to numerous UNSC and UNGA resolutions, as well as the Middle East Resolution at the 1995 review and indefinite extension Conference of the NPT and the 2010 roadmap. The recommendations should support the realization of the universality of the NPT including by Israel's accession, like the rest of the region, to the Treaty and the placement of all its nuclear activities and facilities under the comprehensive safeguards regime of the IAEA.

Sixth: Acknowledging and supporting progress at the UN Conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East region pursuant to UNGA resolution 73/546. After 5 substantively rich sessions, all Conference Members and invited observers are called upon to participate and engage constructively and in good faith, if they have not already done so.

Seventh: Underlining the central role of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) as the sole multilateral negotiating body on disarmament and reiterate the call to agree by consensus on a balanced and comprehensive program of work without any further delay including by building on the Conference's decisions on its work last year and this year and the work of its Subsidiary bodies.

Mr. Chairperson,

- 11- As for WG II, the rapid scientific and technological developments are having a growing impact on international security. The scope of application of new and emerging technologies is of particular

importance as it impacts a number of strategic domains including the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs), the exploration of outer space and the military applications of Artificial Intelligence, particularly in the area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons.

- 12- While we take note of a number of initially positive developments in addressing these emerging aspects in our disarmament discussions, it is clear that more efforts are needed to pave the way towards a more UN-led inclusive multilateral processes that base themselves on the purposes and principles of the UN charter, promote the full compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law, and robustly support international cooperation including capacity building, technology transfer and technical and financial assistance.
- 13- Finally, Egypt believes that approaching the issue of emerging technologies should be done in a way that deals with the risks and challenges they pose while harnessing their potential benefits. To achieve that, a proper mix of both non-binding and legally binding instruments, should be envisaged at the areas of military applications of AI including lethally autonomous weapons. We reiterate Egypt's previous proposals on the application of a two tier approach on in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems, that prohibits weapons that are not and cannot be subject to human control while regulating other manifestations.

Thank you.