

UNION DES COMORES



Mission Permanente de l'Union des Comores auprès des Nations Unies
866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 495, New York, N.Y. 10017
Téléphone : (212) 750-1637 - Téléfax: (212) 750-1657 - e-mail: comores.nu@gmail.com

**the fourth session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of
Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction**
by Kadim Oussein , Counselor/ Charge d'Affaires a,i
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Mr. Chair,

First and foremost, I would like to express my deep gratitude for giving me the floor. Allow me first to extend my warmest congratulations to lead this fourth session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapon. It is a well-deserved honor that reflects the confidence and esteem that this assembly places in your leadership and expertise.

It is with a profound sense of responsibility that we gather here for the fourth session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction. We are not merely drafting recommendations but laying the foundation for a future where the specter of nuclear conflict does not loom over the next generation.

In this context, my delegation reaffirms, unequivocally, our support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). This landmark agreement is a vision that transcends political divides and stands as a testament to the international community's dedication to a world free from the threat of nuclear war and use of nuclear weapons. It is a call to action for all nations that cherish human life and global stability.

For that reason, my delegation is alarmed by the issuance of two nuclear threats by high-ranking Israeli officials within less than two months, with the most recent threat voiced by the Israeli Minister of Heritage, against the people of Gaza and fully aligns with the Joint Communique issued by the Member States of the OIC on 06 November 2023 on this matter.

Consequently, we must collectively acknowledge, in no uncertain terms, that the TPNW strengthens the fabric of peace by bolstering internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free zones. These zones are not just empty gestures but concrete steps towards diminishing the nuclear shadow cast over our planet.

The TPNW has courageously filled a significant void in international law. For the first time, there exists a comprehensive, universally applicable prohibition against nuclear weapons. This is a historic achievement that lays the groundwork for a future where such armaments are relegated to the annals of history.

Permit me to recognize the instrumental role played by the Arab League Member States in the negotiation and adoption of the TPNW in 2017, as they continue to demonstrate leadership in charting the course for a more secure region and world.

However, Mr. Chair, the Middle East continues to be riddled in conflict and deserves a future defined by peace and security. It is clear, however, that the objectives of the TPNW align seamlessly with our ambitions for a Middle East devoid of nuclear arms and other WMDs. In this regard, my delegation firmly believes that this treaty is an essential pillar of the global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime that we must all continue to strive to uphold and advance, as it remains a beacon of hope in a world fraught with geopolitical tensions.

We therefore look forward with enthusiasm to the forthcoming second meeting of states parties to the TPNW in New York, from the 27th of November to the 1st of December 2023 and I urge all Member States here today, who have yet to join the ranks of the States Parties, to observe this meeting. Let it be a testament to our united will against the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

In closing, I call upon all nations to sign, ratify, or accede to the TPNW without further delay. Let us not waver in our resolve. Let us act with the urgency that this moment in history demands. Let us chart a course towards disarmament and peace.

Together, we have the power to transform the Middle East and the world at large into a safe haven for future generations. The time to act is now. Our decisions today will echo throughout history. I wish to reiterate my country's unwavering commitment to a world free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

May peace and wisdom guide our proceedings.

I thank you.