

Remarks by the Delegation of Egypt

4th UN Conference on A Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and other Weapons of Mass destruction, 13-17 November 2023

Thematic Discussion: Peaceful uses of nuclear weapons

Mr. President,

- 1- The delegation of Egypt renews its appreciation to Y.E. on the extensive consultations around the substantive issues to be tackled at the thematic discussion agenda item of the 4th session of the conference. Some of the elements included in this statement were outlined previously at an Egyptian national submission to the Conference on 14 July 2021.**
- 2- Egypt welcomes the inclusion of the topic on peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and considers the obligations and measures related to this inalienable right as a pillar of the core principles, objectives and obligations under the aspired treaty on the establishment of the zone.**
- 3- In addition to being the 3rd pillar under the NPT, we underscore also the crucial importance of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy with its increasing potential considering their essential role in, and increasing contributions to, sustainable development and combating climate change.**
- 4- As previously indicated, the treaty should ensure that nothing in it shall be interpreted as affecting the inalienable right of its parties to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination, including under the relevant articles of the NPT particularly articles 1, 2 ,3 and 4.**
- 5- Imperative to highlight in this regard that questions of implementation of nuclear safety and security measures and standards continue to be the full responsibility of the State concerned, and should not constitute at any time an additional**

impediment or restriction against the realization of the inalienable right to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes or result in any obligations that exist beyond those under the comprehensive safeguards regime or be featured, discussed or used interchangeably with safeguards.

- 6- Practices and measures that unjustifiably and illegally restrict or impede the access to this right are contrary to the purposes, spirit, and objectives of the Treaty and the relevant resolutions of the IAEA. Moreover, the same States that impose such undue restrictions and conditions continue to cooperate with States that have not even acceded to the NPT and that continue to refrain from implementing the IAEA comprehensive safeguards, thereby hampering efforts to achieve the universality of the treaty.**

- 7- These practices also represent a clear breach of paragraph 12 of the Decision of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference on "Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament". In the same vein, supply conditions that go beyond the requirement of the implementation of a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement are also inconsistent with the Treaty and should be taken into consideration in the prospect treaty.**

- 8- All parties to the treaty shall have the right to participate in the fullest extent possible exchange of equipment, material and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Each States' choices and decisions in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be respected including the sovereign right to identify the national energy mix including as addressed at the 2010 Action Plan and its Action 47.**

9- This delegation is also of the view that the establishment of the nuclear weapons and other weapons of destruction free zone can enhance trust and confidence among its parties in manner that further encourage and motivate regional and international cooperation in the areas of nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes, as well as matters of nuclear safety, nuclear security, emergency preparedness and response, benefits sharing, capacity building and, as appropriate, sharing and dissemination of knowledge.

10- The realization of this inalienable right must always be within the remits provided by the NPT to ensure at all times the exclusive peaceful nature of the activities, and thus the treaty is expected to provide for the effective verification of compliance with the commitments made by the parties to the treaty, mainly and primarily through the placement of all their nuclear facilities and activities under the IAEA full scope comprehensive safeguards which are equivalent in scope and effect to the agreements required under article III of the Non-Proliferation Treaty being the standard and universally applicable benchmark for verifying and confirming compliance.

Thank you Mr. President.