

# **A L G E R I A**

## **INTERACTIVE DEBATE**

### **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HUMANITARIAN IMPACT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

**OSLO, 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2013**

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentleman  
Distinguished Co-Chairs,

I would like to express to the Norwegian Authorities the sincere gratitude of the Algerian delegation for the excellent organization of the timely and useful Conference which brings the human dimension at the heart of our activities. I also wish to underline the pertinence of this initiative new approach together with the partnership envisaged with Governments, United Nations, International Organizations and civil society as well.

We are convinced that this important gathering will help promoting a common perception on our collective security. Algeria perceives this Conference as a step forward in our common efforts for disarmament and non proliferation as they are closely related to peace and international security.

In this context, my country was encouraged by the plea of President Obama, in 2009, to free our world from nuclear weapons, a goal that meets the Algeria's constant commitment for the total elimination of nuclear arsenals. However, one year later the NATO strategic concept adopted at Lisbon Summit put in jeopardy this objective since nuclear deterrence was reaffirmed to be the best mean for assuring the security of the Alliance.

I do echo my colleague from Brazil who regretted the absence of the P5 Nuclear Weapon States. The importance of their participation to this Conference is inherent to the responsibility belonging to them on these crucial issues.

As a country that is facing the consequences of nuclear tests in the Algerian Sahara, my delegation is of the view that learning from the Hiroshima and Nagasaki as well as on other experiences worldwide, will help develop a global approach including a modus operandi that could assist in an efficient way how to overcome the nuclear contamination and other inter related impacts on human health, fauna and flora that were damaged by nuclear weapons.

My delegation shares the concerns expressed by several panelists on the lack of preparedness at national, regional and international levels. This situation calls for more cooperation on strategic issues related to collective security.

Algeria views the momentum of this Conference as an opportunity for launching a process that could lead to a tangible recommendations on preventing nuclear explosions while avoiding the destruction of humankind, the environment and the basic infrastructures as well.

In this regard, international cooperation and technical assistance are crucial for strengthening national capacities while clarifying the economic, financial and technological aspects including those related to rehabilitation and remediation concepts. These efforts are particularly needed for countries that are facing decontamination challenges and damages as a result of nuclear tests that took place at their respective territories. I do hope that the discussions within the next working sessions of the Conference will address these important aspects.

In conclusion, I am confident that the Co-Chairs will steer our important gathering to a successful outcome that will bring about a concrete steps leading to furthering our efforts on collective security that encompasses the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons.

I thank you.