



Statement of Lebanon

by

**Ms. Maya Dagher
Counsellor**

at the

First Committee General Debate

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Check Against Delivery

*Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations
866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 531, New York, NY 10017*

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me first to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your election and to assure you of my delegation's full support and engagement throughout this session.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the States Parties to the Non Aligned Movement and on behalf of the Arab Group.

Mr. Chairman,

The 70th session of the General Assembly started with an international, all-inclusive pledge to achieve sustainable development leaving no one behind, and promoting peace and security at all levels.

In turn, international peace and security shall not be sustainable unless disarmament and the total elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction is set as a priority on the global agenda.

Lebanon strongly supports the urgent need for the conclusion of a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on nuclear weapons.

Lebanon deeply regrets the failure of the NPT Review Conference last May (in New York) to reach a consensual outcome, mainly on a concrete roadmap for the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East.

In this regard, Lebanon reminds that Israel is the only non party to the Treaty, and that it continues to threaten peace and security in the region by continuing to amass nuclear weapons, let alone refusing to place its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards.

While reaffirming the right for each state to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, Lebanon believes that the goals and commitments enshrined in the NPT remain pertinent as ever, and calls on all parties for the implementation of their engagements, and particularly the implementation without further delay of the 1995 Resolution on the establishment of a Middle East Free Zone of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Chairman,

This year marks also 70 years on the first use of nuclear weapons.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki still stand as painful witnesses of the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons.

The world needs no additional proof nor can it afford another catastrophic use or misuse of nuclear weapons.

Lebanon has joined more than 119 countries in supporting the Humanitarian Pledge, and looks forward for a universal commitment on the engagements initiated in Oslo, Nayarit and Vienna and which Lebanon endorsed.

Lebanon also believes that educating younger and future generations on the imperativeness of nuclear disarmament remains a priority in building a peaceful world.

Mr. Chairman,

This year also marks the 15th anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325, on Women Peace and Security. Lebanon believes that gender issues should be broadly mainstreamed in all aspects of the work of this Committee. The inclusion of a provision on gender based violence in the Arms Trade Treaty is an achievement in this regard.

Lebanon welcomes the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty and looks forward for its universal, strong and effective implementation.

Lebanon also reaffirms its commitment for the implementation of the Program of Action on Small Arms and light weapons and welcomes the adoption of goal 16 target 4 of the Sustainable Development Agenda to significantly "reduce by 2030 the illicit financial and arms flow and combat all forms of organized crimes".

Lebanon reiterates its engagement towards the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and based on its continuous painful experience as a victim of these weapons since 2006, Lebanon condemns any use of cluster munitions and calls for the universalization of the Convention.

Finally Mr. Chairman,

The world is facing today challenges to commitments made 70 years ago, from armed drones, to autonomous weapons to cyberspace and outer space activities, we should not forget the values upon which these commitments were made.

Human rights and International Humanitarian Law should remain our guiding principles and universality and inclusiveness the framework to regulate any action.

I thank you Mr. Chairman, and looking forward for the positive outcome of this session, I wish you and the members of the bureau every success in your work.