



Statement of Lebanon

by

**Ms. Maya Dagher
Counsellor**

**at the
General Debate**

**of the
First Committee**

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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,

Nuclear weapons remain the only weapons of mass destruction not yet explicitly prohibited by an international treaty.

From the overwhelming international support to the humanitarian pledge, to the successful outcome of the second open-ended working group on multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, and its recommendation for a conference in 2017, this session convenes with the background of a unique opportunity to move forward towards prohibiting the most destructive and inhumane weapon ever created.

While reaffirming the right for each state to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, Lebanon strongly supports the urgent need for the conclusion of a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on both nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

Despite the regretful failure of the last NPT Review conference to reach a consensual outcome, mainly on a concrete roadmap for the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, 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.

In this regard, Lebanon reminds that in the Middle East, 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.

Mr. Chairman,

15 years after the adoption of the UN Program of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Lebanon reaffirms its commitment for its implementation and welcomes the particular attention in the outcome document of the sixth Biennial Meeting of States (BMS6) to the link between sustainable development and peace and security, mainly the importance 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".

In this context, the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty is a positive development as well, and Lebanon looks forward for its universal, strong and effective implementation.

Lebanon also welcomes the inclusion of the gender perspective in the outcome document of the BMS6 and takes this opportunity to reaffirm the necessity to continue mainstreaming gender issues in all aspects of the work of this Committee.

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.

Mr. Chairman,

With regard to new challenges such as armed drones, autonomous weapons, cyber-security and outer space activities, Lebanon reaffirms the need to regulate the use of such technologies in a universal and inclusive manner based on the principles of Human rights and International Humanitarian Law.

Finally, Mr. Chairman,

This year has been described by many as the year when the world has awakened to the need to restore our humanity. Not only should we stress here that technology should not exceed our humanity, but more than any time before we need to remember the noble *raison d'être* of this Committee. The establishment and maintenance of international peace and security should be made with the least diversion to armament of human and economic resources, as stated in article 26 of the Charter of the UN. And only when justice, democracy, human rights and the rule of law prevail, international peace and security shall be sustainable.

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.