Views of the Islamic Republic of Iran pursuant to operative paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 70/39 on the “Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices”

In the view of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the existence of nuclear weapons, their vertical and horizontal proliferation, and the risk of their possible use, accidentally or on purpose, is the most serious threat to international peace and security. Therefore, the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against their threat and use, and a prerequisite for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free world. The first and the best practical measure to achieve this noble goal is the urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament for the early conclusion of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use, and to provide for their destruction globally at the earliest date, in an irreversible and transparent manner and under strict international verification. Taking into account the fact that nuclear disarmament is the highest priority on the international disarmament agenda, Iran strongly believes that negotiations on this comprehensive convention must be at the top of the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament.

Such a comprehensive convention should, inter alia, prohibit, forever, without exception and under any circumstances, research on, and the production, possession, acquisition, transfer and stockpiling of any amount of fissile materials for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices worldwide; set, within a phased programme, a clear and unextendable deadline for the total elimination, or conversion to materials usable exclusively for peaceful purposes, of all existing fissile materials for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices worldwide; prohibit, forever, without exception and under any circumstances, any kind of direct or indirect cooperation in, or assistance to, or encouragement or inducement of, any activity related to such fissile materials; and establish a robust international verification mechanism to ensure the total absence of any amount of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, as well as the sustainability of such a situation worldwide under all circumstances.

However, in case the Conference on Disarmament adopts, by consensus, a Program of Work, which ensures, inter alia, the simultaneous commencement of negotiations on, and the simultaneous conclusion of, two separate universal legally-binding instruments, namely a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use, and to provide for their destruction, and a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices, Iran will be in a position to support also the start of such negotiations on a single instrument banning the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices.

In any case, the scope of such a treaty shall cover the past, present and future production of fissile materials, and it must identify, within a phased programme, a clear and unextendable deadline for the total elimination, or conversion to materials usable exclusively for peaceful purposes, of all existing fissile materials for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices worldwide, in an irreversible and transparent manner and under strict international verification. Moreover, it should be of a nuclear disarmament nature, and must treat equally with all its States parties, in terms of their respective rights and obligations under the treaty. Additionally, it should be comprehensive and non-discriminatory and have to oblige all countries possessing nuclear weapons, without exception, to completely end the production of fissile material for nuclear
weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, and to declare and destroy all their stockpiles of such materials in accordance with the treaty.

The Islamic Republic of Iran would like to stress, however, that any possible negotiation on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices should be conducted in an open and transparent manner, and without any possible external pressure on negotiating States. Furthermore, all past, present and future proposals, as well as the security concerns and interests of all States, shall be equally taken into consideration. Above all, rule of consensus shall be strictly applied to all issues during the negotiations till the final adoption and conclusion of the possible treaty.

As regards the report of the Group of Governmental Experts to make recommendations on possible aspects that could contribute to but not negotiate a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, contained in document A/70/81, and recalling the fact that the resolution 67/53 had mandated the group to operate on the basis of consensus, Iran believes that, as the group has made only a few, and at the same time, non-substantive recommendations by consensus, and consequently, was unable to make consensual recommendations on almost all substantive issues, and as a result of which, its report is merely a compilation of considerable differences of opinion of the governmental experts, such a report definitely lacks the very basic criteria of a governmental experts group recommendations to be given “due consideration” by Member States or be “fully examine[d]” by the Conference on Disarmament. Nevertheless, recalling the rules of procedure of the Conference on Disarmament, according to which the Conference is the master of its own business and would decide independently whether and how to deal with such reports, in the view of Iran, the Group of Governmental Experts’ report may only be cited, by the Conference on Disarmament, among the long list of relevant past, present and future proposals and reports on the subject.

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