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76th session of the General Assembly
General debate of the First Committee

Statement of Mr. Nazim Khaldi,
First Secretary

New York, 6 October 2021
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

Based on its firm belief that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee to forestall the world from their danger, Algeria continues to call for the full and urgent implementation of the NPT, as well as the full, non-discriminatory and balanced implementation of its three pillars.

In the meantime, we reiterate our call upon the nuclear-weapon States to the NPT, which bear the primary responsibility for achieving nuclear disarmament, to fulfill their Treaty’s obligations, and translate into facts their unequivocal engagements related to nuclear disarmament. Furthermore, we urge all parties outside of this Treaty to join it without delay or conditions.

The upcoming NPT Review Conference presents, therefore, a timely opportunity for the States Parties to undertake a comprehensive review and assessment of the current status of the Treaty, the implementation of legal obligations and the fulfillment of the previous commitments undertaken within its framework.

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

Algeria welcomes the recent entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in January of this year. Having actively participated in the process leading to its drafting and adoption, Algeria was among the first countries to sign this Treaty, and remains confident that this instrument constitutes a millstone achieved towards delegitimizing nuclear weapons and achieving their total elimination.

Algeria’s commitment to the nuclear disarmament efforts stems from its unique experience caused by the devastating nuclear tests conducted on its national territory during the colonial power.

Therefore, Algeria is convinced of the vital importance of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty as a core element of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.
I would like to seize this opportunity to invite all countries who did not sign or ratify the CTBT, in particular the remaining 8 Annex II countries, to do so without delay, in order to reap the benefit of this milestone instrument, after 25 years of its opening for signature.

Algeria in its capacity as co-chair of the Article 14 Conference of the CTBT, from 2019 to 2021, spared no efforts, to work for the achievement of the entry into force of the CTBT, and will continue to do so.

**Excellencies,**
**Distinguished delegates,**

The establishment of **nuclear-weapon-free zones** is not only a confidence building measure, but a concrete step towards the complete and total elimination of nuclear weapons.

In this spirit, Algeria has contributed within its region to adopt the **PELINDABA Treaty** establishing the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Africa. My country that was among the first African States to ratify the PELINDABA Treaty, calls upon the remaining States to sign and ratify its three annexed protocols.

We express the hope to see this example followed in other parts of the world, particularly in the Middle East.

In this context, Algeria welcomes the convening of the first Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, in 2019. We call on all invited parties to constructively participate in its second session, in November 2021, in order to negotiate a legally-binding Treaty that satisfies the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East.

**Excellencies,**
**Distinguished delegates,**

The illicit trade of small arms and light weapons continues to pose a deep and enduring threat to peace, security and stability in many regions around the world, particularly in Africa. In this context, Algeria welcomes the unanimous adoption of the outcome document of the 7th Biennial meeting of States to consider the implementation of the UNPOA on **Small Arms and Light Weapons**, and looks forward to the BMS8, to be convened in 2022.
Whilst making allowance for its Mediterranean policy, based upon the principles of cooperation, good-neighborliness and mutual respect, Algeria has the honor, as in previous years, to submit to the First Committee and the General Assembly of this 76th session, its annual draft resolution entitled “Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region”. The Algerian delegation counts on the co-sponsorship and the support of all Member States for the adoption of this text.

Finally, my delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, the African Group and the Arab Group.

**The full version of this statement will be made available online.**

**I thank you for your intention.**