Statement by the Arab Republic of Egypt
76th Session of the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly
Thematic Debate on Other Disarmament Measures, Regional Disarmament and Disarmament Machinery

Check Against Delivery

Mr. Chairman,

Egypt aligns itself with the statements of the Non-Aligned Movement, the African Group, the Arab Group, and the POA cosponsoring countries, and wishes to make the following remarks:

In the area of cyber-security and the possible malicious use of information and telecommunication technologies as a means of warfare, achieving meaningful progress towards establishing a reliable regime based on agreed rules has been stalled for more than a decade.

We welcome the conclusion of the OEWG established by Resolution 73/27 and adopting its outcome document by consensus, and are looking forward to convening the first session of the new OEWG, to continue our constructive dialogue and elaborate rules and principles on States’ use of ICTs, building on international law and the recommendations that have already been endorsed by the UN with a view to addressing the rising threats and the existing gaps.
The OEWG witnessed many creative ideas and constructive proposals, including on the future of regular institutional dialogue under the auspices of the UN such as the possible establishment of a UN Programme of Action as a mechanism to follow-up the implementation of the agreed norms and examining the possible developments of further norms pending an agreement on launching negotiations on a legally-binding instrument.

This proposal of a possible UN Programme of Action on cybersecurity aims at establishing a more concerted global effort under an inclusive UN platform that is action-oriented, and would be developed in a complementary and coordinated manner with other relevant UN processes. We are looking forward to further elaborating this proposal in an open and inclusive manner, primarily within the new OEWG with the participation of all stakeholders.

Mr. Chairman,

The Middle East remains one of the most volatile regions in the world. The situation continues to worsen with the unprecedented spread of conflicts, proxy wars, terrorism and sectarian violence.

Today, in the year 2021, there’s a need to recognize that peace and security cannot be achieved in the Middle East under deterrence and the accumulation of weaponry, instead of engagement on the establishment of an equitable security architecture that achieves the collective and collaborative security of all the States and peoples of the region.
In this regard, we believe that the Conference on the Establishment of a Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Middle East, which has successfully convened its First Session in November 2019 under the chairmanship of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and managed to reach a number of important and significant outcomes as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/75/63, represents an important opportunity for the United Nations to take meaningful practical steps in this direction through an institutional inclusive and consensus-based process. We look forward to the Second Session of the conference in November 2021 under the chairmanship of the State of Kuwait.

Mr. Chairman,

The failure of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) to adopt a balanced and comprehensive program of work for more than 24 years, requires immediate action to rectify this situation. We believe that this can only be achieved through launching negotiations on the verifiable and irreversible total elimination of nuclear weapons with specific benchmarks and timelines.
There is also a need for similar efforts to revitalize the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) and to allow it to adopt recommendations on nuclear disarmament. Egypt also expresses its serious disappointment regarding the inability to convene the formal sessions of the UNDC in 2019 and 2020 and considers this to be another very alarming indication of how threatened the UN Disarmament Machinery is.

Thank you.