

Mottaki calls for global nuclear disarmament

Article of Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki

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In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

The International Community is still facing the threats of more than tens of thousands of nuclear warheads. It is deplorable that despite the wish of the majority of the NPT members for nuclear disarmament, the existence of nuclear arsenals all over the world and above all, the mentality to use or threat to use these inhuman weapons, still threaten the whole members of the international community.

We are approaching to the NPT Review Conference, which can be a good opportunity to tackle the main challenges of the NPT, if this conference touches the root causes and the main issues. We have to bear in mind that NPT was formed around three main pillars namely nuclear disarmament, peaceful uses of nuclear energy and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. What happens to these three pillars? The response is disappointing. Due to unjust, self centered, discriminative and selective approaches of the nuclear weapon states, the balance between three main pillars has been totally ignored. The result of 24 hours work of propaganda machine of those that believes might makes rights, the truth has been sacrificed.

The non- nuclear weapons states members of the NPT, accepted the discriminative nature of the NPT with this conviction, that the balance between the main pillars of the NPT, can ensure the widest possible exchange of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, implementation of disarmament commitments and total elimination of all nuclear weapons. Needless to say those non-proliferation obligations have not been implemented by certain nuclear weapon states, due to the fact that these nuclear weapon states assisted non-parties to the NPT to acquire nuclear weapons or develop such inhumane weapons further. Unfortunately the events of the last forty years proved the expectations of non-nuclear weapon states were wrong. The non-compliance of certain nuclear weapon states with their obligations according to articles 1-3-4 and 6 of the Treaty, generates qualitative and quantitative development of more than 35000 nuclear warheads, introduces the illegal concept of nuclear sharing, deprives the member states from their inalienable rights, and rewards the non-members of the NPT with generous nuclear offers, while punishes the loyal members of the Treaty.

The disobedience of the nuclear weapon states is a matter of serious concern. For example, the decision of the United Kingdom to renew and further develop its nuclear weapons capability , by approving the Trident Project is in full contravention with Article VI of the NPT and

in defiance with the unanimous decision of the 2000 NPT Review Conference

The full support of some nuclear weapon states to the Zionist Regime creates a situation for this regime that is beyond the international norms and laws. The unbridled endeavors of this regime, in developing nuclear weapons in clandestine nuclear facilities, threaten seriously the security of the Middle East and beyond. While the unsafeguarded nuclear weapons facilities of this regime are a major danger for the security of the region, the long-lasting calls of states of the region during last 4 decades for universality of the NPT and adding pressures of the nuclear weapon states to this regime to join the NPT, fall in the deaf ears. The clandestine proliferation of nuclear weapons by the Zionist regime not only constitutes the greatest threat to the peace, security and prosperity of the region but also is the sole obstacle in the realization of establishment of a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in the Middle East.

Despite the false propagations of the United States and few other western countries, the peaceful nature of my country's nuclear program has been confirmed by various IAEA reports which inter alia underline that the Agency has not seen any diversion on nuclear materials to nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. With the resolution of all outstanding issues of nuclear program of my country, there is no justification for the U.N Security Council to act further on this issue and the safeguard implementation in Iran should be conducted in a routine manner as underlined by 118 countries of the Non-Align Movement and the OIC members. The main question is whether the unlawful referral of Iranian nuclear dossier to the UNSC and the adoption of the illegal Resolutions strengthen international peace and security? Do they augment the credibility of important international mechanisms such as the NPT, the IAEA and even this very Council? Do they enhance the confidence of countries and developing nations that they can attain their rights through these mechanisms and instruments? Do they increase trust in multilateral mechanisms? Do they decrease unilateralist tendencies? Certainly, the answer to all these questions is NO. The only outcome of this illegal process is that peace-loving people and governments in the world would gain confidence that they cannot rely on multilateral institutions to attain their legitimate rights, due to the instrumental use of such bodies for political and narrow-minded considerations.

It is the right time to find solutions for these main problems and challenges which rooted in injustice and discrimination. The following practical steps can help restoring the original balance among the main pillars of the NPT and subsequently save the credibility of this Treaty:

- 1- The full and non-discriminatory implementation of all NPT provisions would, undoubtedly, benefit all States Parties.
- 2- Achieving the universality of the NPT by adding incentives for membership of the Treaty and putting pressure to the outsiders instead of rewarding them is an urgent need
- 3- The nuclear weapons States should fully abide by their obligations according to the article VI of the Treaty for nuclear disarmament by reaching an agreement on a fixed timetable for total elimination of nuclear weapons and fulfill their obligations as asserted by the ICJ in its Advisory Opinion in 1996.
- 4- Formal renouncing of nuclear weapons from defense doctrine of all nuclear weapon states is prerequisite for nuclear disarmament.
- 5- There is a delicate balance between the rights and the obligations in the NPT. According to the Article IV of the NPT, nothing in this Treaty should be interpreted as affecting the rights of all parties to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination. Therefore there is no pretext for depriving member states from their rights of uses of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, including fuel cycle technology
- 6- All parties to the Treaty should facilitate, and have the right to participate in, the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for peaceful uses of nuclear energy which includes the fuel cycle and enrichment for nuclear power plants. Removal of all illegal limitation and sanction is a minimum necessary task.