

*Mission Permanente
du Royaume du Maroc
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***Statement of G21 on effective international
arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon
States against the use or threat of use of
nuclear weapons***

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autres Organisations Internationales à Genève**

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Statement of G21 on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons

Mr. President,

1. On behalf of G21, let me at the outset begin by congratulating you for assuming the Presidency of the Conference on Disarmament and assuring you of the Group of 21's full cooperation and support.

Mr President,

2. The Group reaffirms that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. The Group expresses concern at the threat to humanity posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible use or threat of use. As long as nuclear weapons exist, the risk of their proliferation will remain.

3. The Group recalls the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the "Legality of the Threat or Use by a State of Nuclear Weapons in Armed Conflict" that stated, inter alia, that there is in neither customary nor conventional international law any specific authorisation of the threat or use of nuclear weapons and that a threat or use of force by means of nuclear weapons that is contrary to Article 2, paragraph 4, of the United Nations Charter, and that fails to meet all the requirements of Article 51, is unlawful.

4. Pending the achievement of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, the Group reaffirms the urgent need to reach an early agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. In this context, the Group recalls paragraphs 32 and 59 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, which underscores the need for effective arrangements, as appropriate, to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

5. The Group notes with satisfaction that in the Conference on Disarmament there is no objection, in principle, to the idea of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, although the difficulties with regard to evolving a common approach acceptable to all have also been pointed out.

6. While various approaches exist, the Group expresses its conviction that efforts to conclude a universal and legally binding instrument on security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States should be pursued. The Group of 21 considers that the conclusion of such an instrument would be an important step towards achieving the objectives of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects. The obligation of nuclear weapon States to provide negative security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States, once enshrined in a legally binding instrument, will also help build trust of non-nuclear-weapon States.