Mister Chairman,

I would like to express my delight to be in Vienna the city I cherish and to participate to the International Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Arms perfectly organized by the Austrian Authorities. Excellent presentations were made on different angles related to the human dimension. I wish to thank Ambassador Alexander Kmentt who kindly offered me to co-chair with him Session III devoted to ‘Scenarios, Challenges and capabilities regarding Nuclear Weapons Use and other events’.

Undoubtedly, the Vienna Conference represents a step forward in the process launched at previous both Conferences at Oslo, Norway and Nayarit, Mexico, that resulted on fruitful partnership between governments, civil society, academia/research institutions, on ways and means to best prevent the use of nuclear weapon.

The Conference new insights helped to deepen our knowledge on the multifaceted impact of nuclear arms, in particular the inarguable fact that the use of nuclear arms in populated areas violates international humanitarian law. We also learned the limits of deterrence taking into consideration the growing inter dependence of our World which is challenged by new transnational risks and threats such as terrorism, cybercrime, disease pandemics, Climate Change, that neither State nor an International Organization can face alone.

Algeria is fully committed to the total elimination of nuclear weapons with the objective to free our planet from these lethal arms, starting with our region, Africa, which became a NWFZ since July 2009 under the Pelindaba Treaty, as a contribution to achieving the common goal on nuclear disarmament that includes the establishment of a MWFZ in the Middle East.

Significant progress is needed in the field of Nuclear disarmament in particular the realization of the existing undertakings under the provisions of Article VI of the NPT. In this context, I wish to welcome the participation of the United States and the United Kingdom to the discussion in Vienna on humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons that places the Human being at the heart of our endeavors.
In the same token, transparency and accountability are essential part of the nuclear disarmament process as the production of nuclear weapons continues through sophisticated nuclear technologies. In this regard, the entry into force of the CTBT will certainly enhance the accountability of nuclear test explosions above and underground, in particular, in assessing the radioactive and toxic waste that harms the people of Nuclear and non Nuclear Weapon States.

Continued efforts to build confidence and mutual understanding on collective peace and security are key, as the uncertainties remains on technical, technological and systemic aspects that could lead to a non authorized or inadvertent use of nuclear arms with devastating and long term consequences.

The lesson learned on the scale and the long term effects from the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki makes it imperative to prevent by all means the occurrence of any nuclear explosion. The suffering of victims and the decontamination related issues resulting from the testing that was conducted in several regions of the Globe, among them the French nuclear sites in the Algerian Sahara, needs to be tackled.

In this connection, I wish to echo the appeal by NGO’s International Seminar held at the city of Tamanrasset in Algeria, on May first 2014, for a UN International Conference on nuclear explosions consequences aimed at launching a normative work on these topics.

The renewed resolve of participants in Vienna to working together to develop a cooperative security system without nuclear weapons as a matter of urgency is encouraging as we are preparing for the 2015 NPT Review Conference that I am honored and privileged to be the President-designate.

I rely on the support of all of you to make this important event a success.

I thank you.