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General and complete disarmament

Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report outlines the views of Member States with regard to achieving the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, in particular on effective nuclear disarmament measures, including elements of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons.

* [A/74/50](#).



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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 73/40 on the follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, the General Assembly:

(a) Underlined the strong support expressed at its high-level meeting on nuclear disarmament, held on 26 September 2013, for taking urgent and effective measures to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons (para. 1);

(b) Called for urgent compliance with the legal obligations and the fulfilment of the commitments undertaken on nuclear disarmament and endorsed the wide support expressed at the high-level meeting for a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons (paras. 2 and 3);

(c) Also called for the urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on effective nuclear disarmament measures to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons, including, in particular, on a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons (para. 4);

(d) Requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States with regard to achieving the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, in particular on effective nuclear disarmament measures, including elements of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons, and to submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its seventy-fourth session, and also to transmit the report to the Conference on Disarmament (para. 13).

2. Pursuant to that request, a note verbale was sent to Member States on 5 February 2019 inviting them to provide information on the subject. The replies received are contained in section II below. Any views received after 15 May 2019 will be posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs in the original language of submission. No addenda will be issued.

II. Replies received from Governments

Bahrain

[Original: Arabic]
[25 April 2019]

The Kingdom of Bahrain welcomes the decision to hold a high-level meeting with the participation of Member States to commemorate International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and promote the goal of eliminating such weapons. It also calls for the early commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons, and expresses its strong support for the speedy establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[26 April 2019]

The legitimate aspiration of achieving the total elimination of nuclear weapons, as the only way to guarantee that humanity never again suffers their terrible effects, validates the goal of ensuring that nuclear disarmament is, and should remain the highest priority in the area of disarmament.

The high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, held in 2013, at the initiative of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, was of historic significance in United Nations efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons. One of the most important outcomes of that meeting was the declaration of 26 September as International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

We encourage Member States to participate in the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the Day. In 2018, the President of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers of Cuba, Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, delivered a statement during the general debate at the seventy-third session affirming our country's commitment to multilateralism and nuclear disarmament.

We call on the United Nations system, Governments, parliaments and civil society to take additional steps each year to commemorate that Day and to mobilize international action to achieve this common goal. In that shared endeavour, the full implementation of General Assembly resolutions concerning the follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting, namely, resolutions [68/32](#), [69/58](#), [70/34](#), [71/71](#), [72/251](#) and [73/40](#), is also of great importance.

We welcome the events that have been held internationally to promote a world free of nuclear weapons. The momentum behind the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons contributed to the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 7 July 2017. Cuba is honoured to have been the fifth State to ratify it, on 30 January 2018.

Our country will continue to work together with the international community so that the next high-level United Nations conference on nuclear disarmament can review the progress made and identify additional measures and actions to eliminate nuclear weapons as soon as possible.

Disarmament and international security issues must be addressed through multilateralism and concerted solutions, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

Dominican Republic

[Original: Spanish]

[12 March 2019]

The Dominican Republic greatly appreciates the content of General Assembly resolution [73/40](#), in particular, because, in keeping with the spirit and objective of that instrument, it believes that all the relevant legal measures should be agreed, that the necessary actions should be taken, and that a consensus should be built, in order to achieve nuclear disarmament, which is a way to ensure the achievement and promotion of a safer world for all and peace and security in a world without nuclear weapons.

With regard to the call in the resolution for “urgent compliance with the legal obligations and the fulfilment of the commitments undertaken on nuclear disarmament”, our country has demonstrated that commitment at the highest level, as article 67, paragraph 2, of the Constitution explicitly stipulates that “the release, development, production, possession, commercialization, transport, stockpiling and use of chemical, biological, nuclear and agro-chemical weapons that are internationally banned are prohibited, as are nuclear residues and toxic and dangerous waste”.

In addition, the country has adopted legal instruments that regulate matters relating to proper management, at its various institutions and levels, in order to continue taking stronger measures and adopting effective mechanisms, as appropriate,

in accordance with the objectives of resolution 73/40. We wish to highlight the following of those instruments:

- The Constitution, proclaimed on 26 January 2010;
- The Code of Criminal Procedure;
- General Act No. 64-00 of 18 July 2000, on the environment and natural resources;
- Act No. 3489 of 14 January 1953, establishing the customs regime
- General Act No. 125 of 19 July 2002, on electricity
- Act No. 42-01 of 8 March 2001, General Health Act;
- Act No. 496-06 of 28 December 2006, establishing the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Planning and Development
- Act No. 100-13 of 2 August 2013, establishing the Ministry of Energy and Mines
- Act No. 155-17 of 1 July 2017, on money-laundering and the financing of terrorism (which repealed Act No. 72-02 of 7 June 2002, on the laundering of the proceeds of illicit drug trafficking);
- Act No. 267-08 of 4 July 2008, on terrorism, establishing the National Counter-Terrorism Committee and the National Counter-Terrorism Directorate;
- Decree No. 244-95 of 18 October 1995, approving the radiation protection regulations
- National Energy Commission Decision CNE-AD-00-2013, approving regulations on the physical security of radioactive sources, including their transport

Regarding the recommendation and call for broad support for international conventions and instruments and international cooperation in relation to nuclear weapons, paragraphs 1 and 2 of article 26 of our Constitution stipulate that “the Dominican Republic is a member of the international community and a State open to cooperation and attached to the norms of international law. Consequently:

- (1) It recognizes and applies the norms of international, general and American law, to the extent that their public authorities have adopted them; and
- (2) The norms in force under international conventions that have been ratified will apply domestically, once they have been officially published.”

Our Government has demonstrated a firm commitment to the international instruments relating to this topic, including:

- Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;
 - o Signed on 1 July 1968 (Washington, D.C.);
 - o Instrument of ratification deposited on 24 July 1971 (Washington, D.C.).
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction
 - o Signed on 13 January 1993 (United Nations);
 - o Instrument of ratification deposited on 27 March 2009 (United Nations).
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction
 - o Signed on 10 April 1972 (Washington, D.C.);

- o Instrument of ratification deposited on 23 February 1973 (Washington, D.C.).
- Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare
 - o Accession: 8 December 1970 (Paris).
- Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)
 - o Signed on 28 July 1967 (Mexico City);
 - o Instrument of ratification deposited on 14 June 1968 (Mexico City).
- Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and 2005 Amendment thereto
 - o Signed on 3 March 1980;
 - o Instrument of ratification deposited on 30 April 2009.
- Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
 - o Signed on 3 October 1996 (United Nations);
 - o Instrument of ratification deposited on 4 September 2007 (United Nations).
- Inter-American Convention against Terrorism
 - o Signed on 16 July 2002.
- International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism
 - o Instrument of accession deposited on 11 June 2008 (United Nations).
- Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation
 - o Signed on 31 May 1972 (Montreal);
 - o Instrument of ratification deposited on 28 November 1973
- Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#)
 - o Unanimously adopted on 28 April 2004; all States and Governments are required to comply with its provisions. No signature, ratification or accession required.

Our country is a member of the following organizations:

- International Atomic Energy Agency:
 - o Instrument of ratification deposited on 11 July 1957.
- Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons:
 - o The Dominican Republic has been a member of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons since the Convention was signed and ratified on the aforementioned dates, namely, 13 January 1993 (signature) and 27 March 2009 (deposit of instrument of ratification).

In addition, the Vice-Ministry of Nuclear Energy, a substantive institutional body within the Ministry of Energy and Mines reporting to the Minister, exercises its authority over the Regulation and Safety Directorate and the Directorate for the Development and Promotion of Nuclear Energy. The Vice-Ministry's functions include:

- Addressing issues related to the procurement, transfer, transport and peaceful uses of atomic energy and fertile, fissile and radioactive materials;
- Regulating, overseeing and monitoring nuclear equipment and devices and radioactive waste disposal facilities throughout the country, from a nuclear and radiological standpoint;
- Advising the Minister on all matters related to nuclear energy.

Kyrgyzstan

[Original: English]
[25 April 2019]

One of the fundamental principles of foreign and domestic policy of the Kyrgyz Republic, which does not possess nuclear, chemical or biological weapons nor the means to deliver them, is adherence to the principle of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The Kyrgyz Republic has ratified the main international treaties in the field of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, as follows:

- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction;
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction;
- Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;
- Agreement between the Kyrgyz Republic and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the application of safeguards in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Protocol Additional to the agreement;
- Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia;
- Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management.

The Kyrgyz Republic, on a regular basis, carries out work on the implementation of those international treaties.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[15 May 2019]

Mexico is firmly committed to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, as it is aware of the devastating short-, medium- and long-term effects that an intentional or accidental nuclear detonation could have at the regional and global levels.

Mexico recognizes the importance of the 2013 high-level meeting as an event that demonstrated the legitimate desire of a vast majority of Member States for the United Nations to address, without further delay, the issue of the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Mexico welcomes the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 7 July 2017. Mexico signed the Treaty on 20 September 2017 and ratified it on 16 January 2018.

The negotiation and adoption of that Treaty is consistent with the obligation set out in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and

contributes to its implementation. Upon entry into force, the prohibition is expected to be an element of the process that will culminate in the total elimination of nuclear weapons and to complement other processes that are of high priority for the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime.

Mexico reiterates its commitment to continue calling on those countries that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, with a view to achieving its prompt entry into force. Similarly, Mexico will continue to participate actively and vigorously in the forums in which the nuclear disarmament agenda is addressed, with a view to promoting initiatives that help in achieving and maintaining a world free of nuclear weapons.

In 2018, Mexico participated at the ministerial level in the commemoration of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, whose aim was to raise international awareness of the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons and the necessity for their total elimination, in order to mobilize international efforts towards achieving the common goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

With regard to a comprehensive convention on nuclear disarmament, should the international community decide to begin negotiations, Mexico would consider it relevant, inter alia, to include the following elements:

- (a) Prohibitions on nuclear weapons to guarantee the irreversibility of nuclear disarmament;
- (b) Prohibitions on the existence and production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;
- (c) The establishment of a mechanism for the elimination of existing nuclear weapons, with defined time frames;
- (d) Dismantling or conversion of plants that produce fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;
- (e) International verification mechanism to ensure compliance with obligations under the convention;
- (f) Institutional arrangements that support the objectives and principles of the comprehensive convention.

Netherlands

[Original: English]
[14 May 2019]

At its seventy-third session, the General Assembly adopted its resolution [73/40](#), entitled “Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament”. The Kingdom of the Netherlands herewith submits the view of the Government of the Netherlands on the issues covered by the resolution.

The Netherlands wishes to emphasize that it fully shares the ultimate goal of resolution [73/40](#), a world free of nuclear weapons. The Netherlands participated at the ministerial level in the high-level meeting on nuclear disarmament, held on 26 September 2013, during which various perspectives on how best to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world were discussed.

The Netherlands notes with regret that resolution [73/40](#) reflects only one particular viewpoint, while various other proposals made during the 26 September 2013 meeting were not reflected.

As stated in the explanation of vote that was read by the delegation of the Netherlands on behalf of a group of like-minded countries during the seventy-third session of the General Assembly, the resolution includes no clear references to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, while the Netherlands would have very much preferred a broader reference to the Treaty and an underlining of its pivotal importance to nuclear disarmament.

The Netherlands further regrets that, by focusing on one core element of the work of the Conference on Disarmament, the resolution does not do justice to the urgent attention that needs to be paid to the many other issues on the agenda of the Conference that merit at least equal consideration. The Netherlands also believes that starting negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention without the participation of the States that possess nuclear weapons does not advance the overall goal of nuclear disarmament.

The Netherlands notes the postponement of the high-level meeting. In that context, the Netherlands reiterates that efforts should be focused on making progress in the context of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, with the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference having just concluded.

Panama

[Original: Spanish]
[15 May 2019]

The Republic of Panama considers that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by State and non-State actors is a problem that concerns all States. As such, only by taking a multilateral approach to the problem can consensus among nations be reached.

As a State Member of the United Nations, Panama is committed to the implementation of Security Council and General Assembly mandates, which are intended to deter Governments and non-State actors or power groups from developing, optimizing or pursuing nuclear programmes of a non-peaceful nature.

As part of its commitment to peace, Panama has ratified the Treaty Banning Nuclear Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water (1963), the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (1967), the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (1968), the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof (1971), the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (1996), and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (2017).

Panama therefore encourages those States that have not yet done so to explore the possibility of initiating the domestic legal procedures, if they so desire, for considering the ratification of the above-mentioned treaties and all other treaties on disarmament.

Ukraine

[Original: English]
[15 May 2019]

Ukraine is convinced that a disarmament and non-proliferation regime can be effectively strengthened through proper and timely implementation and faithful promotion of an international legal framework, such as the Treaty on the

Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which serves as a main legally binding document in the sphere of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Despite being affected by the Russian military aggression and occupation of our territories, in violation of the key principles of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as well as of the 1994 Memorandum on Security Assurances in Connection with Ukraine's Accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Budapest Memorandum), Ukraine continues to regard the Non-Proliferation Treaty as a cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime and an essential tool for achieving the objectives of nuclear disarmament. However, Russia's military aggression against Ukraine, in violation of the key principles of the Treaty, has challenged the efficiency of the Treaty's mechanisms. Under such circumstances, Ukraine's unwavering belief in the need to support the effective implementation, further strengthening and universalization of the Treaty has only increased.

The immediate and necessary elaboration of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons or any additional similar instrument without the participation of nuclear States or many other powerful States could not only harm international efforts aimed at enhancing existing international legal norms but also weaken the Treaty regime.

After the attempted annexation by the Russian Federation of an integral part of Ukraine – the Autonomous Republic of Crimea – and the occupation of certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, Ukraine lost control over nuclear objects and materials located in these territories.

Moreover, the implementation of the ideas proclaimed in the statements of officials of the Russian Federation on their right to deploy nuclear weapons on the territory of Ukraine, namely, the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, infringes on the non-nuclear status of Ukraine and endangers the regime of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Taking into account the aforementioned, Ukraine calls on the international community and the United Nations specifically to make all possible efforts to maintain and strengthen the non-proliferation and disarmament regime. Ukraine supports all legal mechanisms in force to fulfil this purpose, inter alia, the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission.
