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Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Sanna **Orava** (Finland)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2021, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-sixth session the item entitled “Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty” and to allocate it to the First Committee.
2. At its 1st meeting, on 30 September 2021, the First Committee, taking into consideration the physical distancing guidelines and constraints related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which prevented the Committee from organizing a full-fledged session, decided, on an exceptional basis and without setting a precedent, to convene in-person and virtual meetings and to conduct its work in three phases. The first phase would be a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely items 92 to 107, the second phase would be dedicated to thematic discussions and the third phase would be action on all draft proposals. The Committee also decided to convene three virtual informal meetings of two hours each for interactive dialogues on specific subjects. Also at its 1st meeting, the Committee decided, on the basis of the conference room paper before it,¹ on the final composition for the exchange with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and other high-level officials on the current state of affairs in the field of arms control and disarmament.
3. At its 2nd to 7th meetings, from 4 to 7 and on 11 and 12 October, the Committee held a general debate. On 8, 15 and 21 October, the Committee held virtual meetings for exchanges with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, civil society, independent experts, and other high-level officials nominated by the regional groups. The Committee also held five meetings (8th to 12th), on 13, 14 and 18 October, for thematic discussions. At those meetings, as well as during the action phase, draft resolutions were introduced and considered. The Committee took action on all draft

¹ A/C.1/76/CRP.2, available at www.un.org/en/ga/first/76/documentation76.shtml.



resolutions and decisions at its 13th to 18th meetings, on 27 October, from 1 to 3 and on 5 November.²

4. For the consideration of the item, the Committee had before it a note by the Secretary-General on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (A/76/114).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/76/L.49

5. On 13 October, the delegations of Australia, Mexico and New Zealand, on behalf of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Paraguay, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, submitted a draft resolution entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty" (A/C.1/76/L.49). Subsequently, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Ecuador, Eswatini, Fiji, France, Georgia, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Maldives, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Romania, Samoa, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Ukraine, the United States of America and Zambia, joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At its 13th meeting, on 27 October, the Committee voted on draft resolution A/C.1/76/L.49 as follows:

(a) The seventh preambular paragraph was retained by a recorded vote of 170 to 0, with 6 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua

² For an account of the Committee's discussion of the item, see A/C.1/76/PV.2, A/C.1/76/PV.3, A/C.1/76/PV.4, A/C.1/76/PV.5, A/C.1/76/PV.6, A/C.1/76/PV.7, A/C.1/76/PV.8, A/C.1/76/PV.9, A/C.1/76/PV.10, A/C.1/76/PV.11, A/C.1/76/PV.12, A/C.1/76/PV.13, A/C.1/76/PV.14, A/C.1/76/PV.15, A/C.1/76/PV.16, A/C.1/76/PV.17 and A/C.1/76/PV.18, as well as A/C.1/76/INF/5.

New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

India, Israel, Pakistan, Somalia, South Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic.

(b) Draft resolution [A/C.1/76/L.49](#), as a whole, was adopted without a vote (see para. 7).

III. Recommendation of the First Committee

7. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

The General Assembly,

Reiterating that the cessation of nuclear-weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions constitutes an effective nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation measure, and convinced that this is a meaningful step in the realization of a systematic process for achieving nuclear disarmament,

Recalling that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, adopted by the General Assembly by its resolution [50/245](#) of 10 September 1996, was opened for signature on 24 September 1996,

Stressing that a universal and effectively verifiable Treaty constitutes a fundamental instrument in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and will be a major contribution to international peace and security,

Stressing also the vital importance and urgency of achieving the entry into force of the Treaty, and affirming its resolute determination, 25 years after the Treaty was opened for signature, to achieve its entry into force,

Encouraged by the signing of the Treaty by 185 States, including 41 of the 44 whose ratification is needed for its entry into force, and welcoming the ratification of the Treaty by 170 States, including 36 of the 44 whose ratification is needed for its entry into force, among which there are 3 nuclear-weapon States,

Recalling its resolution [75/87](#) of 7 December 2020,

Recalling also the adoption by consensus of the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,¹ in which the Conference, inter alia, reaffirmed the vital importance of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty as a core element of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and included specific actions to be taken in support of the entry into force of the Treaty,

Recalling further the Final Declaration adopted by the twelfth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in New York on 23 and 24 September 2021, convened pursuant to article XIV of the Treaty, and recalling the message issued by the Friends of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty on 1 October 2020,

Noting the contribution of diverse and inclusive participation in building and sustaining momentum for the universalization and entry into force of the Treaty, including through the Youth Group of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization,

Welcoming continuing progress in the development of the Treaty's verification regime, which advances the Treaty's primary non-proliferation and disarmament

¹ 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, vol. I ([NPT/CONF.2010/50 \(Vol. I\)](#)), part I, *Conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions*.

objective, and the establishment of 302 certified facilities of the International Monitoring System network,

Recognizing the civil and scientific benefits provided by the Treaty's global monitoring system,

Commending the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization for maintaining its vital operations, including that of the International Monitoring System and the International Data Centre, during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

1. *Stresses* the vital importance and urgency of signature and ratification, without delay and without conditions, in order to achieve the earliest entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty;²

2. *Welcomes* the contributions by the signatory States to the work of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, in particular its efforts to ensure that the verification regime of the Treaty will be capable of meeting the verification requirements of the Treaty upon its entry into force, in accordance with article IV of the Treaty, and encourages their continuation;

3. *Underlines* the need to maintain momentum towards the completion of all elements of the verification regime;

4. *Urges* all States not to carry out nuclear-weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions, to maintain their moratoriums in this regard and to refrain from acts that would defeat the object and purpose of the Treaty, while stressing that these measures do not have the same permanent and legally binding effect as the entry into force of the Treaty;

5. *Reiterates its condemnation* of the six nuclear tests conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in violation of relevant Security Council resolutions,³ urges full compliance with the obligations under those resolutions, including that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea abandon its nuclear weapons programme and not conduct any further nuclear tests, reaffirms its support for the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner, including through the Six-Party Talks, welcomes all efforts and dialogue to this end, including the inter-Korean summits and summits between the United States of America and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and encourages all parties to continue such efforts and dialogue;

6. *Urges* all States that have not yet signed or ratified, or that have signed but not yet ratified, the Treaty, in particular those whose ratification is needed for its entry into force, to sign and ratify it as soon as possible and to accelerate their ratification processes with a view to ensuring their earliest successful conclusion;

7. *Welcomes*, since the adoption of its previous resolution on the subject, the signature and ratification of the Treaty by Cuba and the ratification of the Treaty by the Comoros, since each signature or ratification is a significant step towards the entry into force and universalization of the Treaty;

8. *Encourages* further expressions from among the remaining States whose ratification is needed for the Treaty to enter into force of their intention to pursue and complete the ratification process;

² See resolution [50/245](#) and [A/50/1027](#).

³ Including Security Council resolutions [1718 \(2006\)](#), [1874 \(2009\)](#), [2094 \(2013\)](#), [2270 \(2016\)](#), [2321 \(2016\)](#) and [2375 \(2017\)](#).

9. *Welcomes* the election by States signatories to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty of Robert Floyd as the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization;

10. *Urges* all States to remain seized of the issue at the highest political level and, where in a position to do so, to promote adherence to the Treaty through bilateral and joint outreach, seminars and other means;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-seventh session the item entitled “Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty”.
