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Universal Declaration on the Achievement of a Nuclear Weapon-Free World

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [76/48](#), entitled “Universal Declaration on the Achievement of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World”. The report reflects the efforts made and measures taken by Member States to implement the Declaration since the publication of the previous report on the topic.

* [A/79/50](#).



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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 76/48 on the Universal Declaration on the Achievement of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World, the General Assembly:

(a) Recalled the adoption of the Universal Declaration, annexed to resolution 70/57;

(b) Invited States, agencies and organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to disseminate the Declaration and promote its implementation;

(c) Requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the efforts that they had made and the measures that they had taken with respect to the implementation of the Declaration, and also requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a report on the implementation of the Declaration.

2. Pursuant to that request, a note verbale was sent to Member States on 12 February 2024 inviting them to provide information on the subject. Replies received as at 31 May 2024 are contained in section III of the present report. Replies received after 31 May 2024 will be posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs in the language of submission only.

II. Efforts to facilitate the implementation of the Universal Declaration on the Achievement of a Nuclear Weapon-Free World

3. During the reporting period, States have made various efforts aimed at achieving a world free of nuclear weapons, including in the context of the following:

(a) During the 2022, 2023 and 2024 sessions of the Conference on Disarmament, States continued their efforts to adopt a programme of work and were able to do so in 2022 and 2024. The presidency of the 2022 session of the Conference was held jointly by China, Colombia, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ecuador. The Conference established five subsidiary bodies for its 2022 session.¹ However, its work was significantly disrupted by the geopolitical tensions surrounding the conflict in Ukraine. Consensus was reached on the reports of two of the five subsidiary bodies, namely those not related to nuclear weapons. The Conference was unable to adopt a substantive final report, instead issuing a technical report. For the first time in its history, the annual resolution on the Conference was put to a vote. The 2023 session was marked by the absence of consensus on a programme of work and divisions regarding non-member States' participation in the Conference. The presidency of the 2023 session of the Conference was held jointly by Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany and Hungary. The Presidents collaborated and addressed all agenda items, as well as the revitalization of the Conference. States were able to agree to a consensus report and a consensual General Assembly resolution. The presidency of the 2024 session of the Conference was held jointly by India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic

¹ Subsidiary body 1: Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament; Subsidiary body 2: Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters; Subsidiary body 3: Prevention of an arms race in outer space; Subsidiary body 4: Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons; and Subsidiary Body 5: New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons – Comprehensive programme of disarmament – Transparency in armament.

of), Iraq, Ireland and Israel. On 13 June 2024, the Conference adopted a decision on its work for 2024, in which it, inter alia, decided to establish five subsidiary bodies.² The subsidiary bodies were set to begin their work on 25 June. The Conference also decided that, should the subsidiary bodies not be able to complete their work during the 2024 session, they could resume their work in 2025, should the Conference so decide at its 2025 session. Prior to the adoption of the decision, the Presidents of the Conference pursued a two-track approach of continuing consultations on the draft decision while convening thematic plenary discussions under the agenda for the 2024 session. The Conference held its high-level segment from 26 to 28 February 2024, during which it held informal thematic discussions on the topics entitled “Overcoming stagnation: ensuring the improved and effective functioning of the Conference on Disarmament” and “Addressing contemporary challenges: the promotion of measures to reduce distrust and build confidence”;

(b) In 2022, the Disarmament Commission resumed its substantive deliberations, having not been able to hold substantive sessions in 2019, 2020 and 2021 owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and organizational issues. In 2023, Working Group I, chaired by Kurt Davis (Jamaica), took up the 2018 Chair’s paper as a basis for deliberation at the session. At the end of the 2023 session, the Working Group adopted a procedural report in which it stated that it had held extensive discussions on agenda item 4 (“Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons”) but had been unable to reach consensus. In 2024, Working Group I, chaired by Akaki Dvali (Georgia), took up the same agenda item and commenced deliberations on the item;

(c) The tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was held in New York from 1 to 26 August 2022. Gustavo Zlauvinen (Argentina) served as President of the tenth Review Conference. Many States expressed frustration with the lack of tangible progress in the implementation of disarmament commitments and expressed concerns regarding the increasing use of nuclear rhetoric and threats. Many also stressed the need for concrete steps to reduce the risk of the use of nuclear weapons, while noting that this could not be a substitute for tangible progress in the fulfilment of nuclear disarmament obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Discussions were also focused on the importance to all States parties of regular reporting on the implementation of obligations and commitments, and for nuclear-weapon States to pursue efforts to agree on a standard reporting form and appropriate reporting intervals. Despite extensive consultations, the tenth Review Conference was unable to reach agreement on a substantive outcome document that contained actions to achieve progress on the implementation of the Treaty. A working group on further strengthening the review process of the Treaty, established by the tenth Review Conference, met from 24 to 28 July 2023. Proposals that were discussed included those aimed at improving transparency and accountability for the implementation of obligations under the Treaty. Such proposals included encouraging the nuclear-weapon States to fully implement actions 20 and 21 of the 2010 action plan on nuclear disarmament),³ with regard to a standard reporting form and items to include in such a form. It was also suggested that dedicated discussions could be held on national reports, in particular on those from the nuclear-weapon States, during

² Subsidiary body 1: Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament; Subsidiary body 2: Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters; Subsidiary body 3: Prevention of an arms race in outer space; Subsidiary body 4: Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons; and Subsidiary Body 5: New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons – Comprehensive programme of disarmament – Transparency in armaments.

³ [NPT/CONF.2010/50 \(Vol. I\)](#).

formal meetings. The Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons held its first session in Vienna from 31 July to 11 August 2023, chaired by Jarmo Viinanen (Finland). Although States parties reaffirmed the centrality of the Treaty to the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, many States continued to express frustration with the lack of tangible progress in the implementation of past commitments, in particular on nuclear disarmament and the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the Conference in 1995. States parties continued to exchange views on measures to increase accountability for commitments through transparency and reporting, building on discussions that were held by the working group on the further strengthening of the review process;

(d) The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons entered into force on 22 January 2021, following the deposit with the Secretary-General of the fiftieth instrument of ratification or accession on 24 October 2020. The first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which was held in Vienna from 21 to 23 June 2022, adopted a declaration and an action plan to guide the implementation of the Treaty. Following the first Meeting, States parties conducted intersessional work through meetings of the Coordinating Committee and the informal working groups established at the first Meeting. In accordance with decision 2 of the first Meeting, the Scientific Advisory Group was established. The second Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which was held in New York from 27 November to 1 December 2023, adopted a declaration entitled “Our commitment to upholding the prohibition of nuclear weapons and averting their catastrophic consequences”.

4. Other initiatives pursued as a means of contributing to the achievement of a world without nuclear weapons included the following:

(a) Meetings of the General Assembly to commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons were held on 28 September 2021, 26 September 2022 and 26 September 2023. At the meeting held in 2021, the Secretary-General warned of the dangers of mutual distrust and high levels of nuclear risk but highlighted emerging signs of hope, such as the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. In addressing the meeting in 2022, the Secretary-General expressed disappointment that the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons had not achieved consensus on a substantive outcome. He urged all States to use every avenue of dialogue, diplomacy and negotiation to ease tensions, reduce risk and eliminate the nuclear threat. At the meeting held in 2023, the Secretary-General called upon nuclear-weapon States to commit to never using nuclear weapons under any circumstances and echoed the call he made in the policy brief entitled “A New Agenda for Peace” for Member States to urgently recommit to the cause of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons;

(b) Meetings of the General Assembly to mark the observance of the International Day against Nuclear Tests were held in New York on 8 September 2021, 7 September 2022 and 29 August 2023. During the meeting held in 2021, opening statements were delivered by the President of the seventy-fifth session of the Assembly, Volkan Bozkır (Türkiye); the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs on behalf of the Secretary-General; the Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, Robert Floyd; the Director of the International Atomic Energy Agency Liaison Office in New York, Vivian Okeke; a Kokatha nuclear test survivor, Sue Coleman-Haseldine, on behalf of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Australia (pre-recorded statement); and a former member of the Marshall Islands Student Association, Danity Laukon (pre-recorded statement). During the meeting held in 2022, opening remarks

were made by the President of the seventy-sixth session of the Assembly, Abdulla Shahid (Maldives); the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs on behalf of the Secretary-General; the Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization; the Director of the International Atomic Energy Agency Liaison Office in New York; and the Director of the Marshallese Educational Initiative, Benetick Kabua Maddison. At the 2023 meeting, opening statements were made by the President of the seventy-seventh session of the Assembly, Csaba Kőrösi (Hungary) and the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs on behalf of the Secretary-General. Keynote addresses were delivered by the Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization; the Director of the International Atomic Energy Agency Liaison Office in New York; and a youth activist for Reverse the Trend: Save our People, Save our Planet, Elias Merad Taouli. Following the keynote addresses, a plenary debate was held in which States highlighted the importance of achieving the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in order to put a legal and verifiable end to the testing of nuclear weapons and other nuclear devices. Many States also called upon the remaining annex 2 States to sign and ratify the Treaty without delay;

(c) At the twelfth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held virtually on 23 and 24 September 2021, ministers for foreign affairs and other high-level representatives of States adopted a Final Declaration and Measures to Promote the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. The tenth ministerial meeting of the Friends of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which takes place biennially, was held in New York on 21 September 2022. The meeting, which marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Treaty, was co-chaired by Australia and Japan, and saw high-level participation, including four Heads of Government or State. At the meeting, the Friends of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty adopted a joint statement, in which they welcomed the ratification of the Treaty by six States since 2021, as well as the continued development of the Treaty's verification regime. At the thirteenth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in New York on 22 September 2023, ministers for foreign affairs and of defence and other high-level representatives of States adopted a Final Declaration and Measures to Promote the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. In the Declaration, the ratifying States reaffirmed the vital importance and urgency of the entry into force of the Treaty and urged the remaining annex 2 States, whose ratification is necessary for the entry into force of the Treaty, to sign and ratify it without further delay;

(d) In accordance with General Assembly decision 73/546, the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction has held four annual sessions to date.⁴ Under the presidencies of Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon and Libya, the Conference has been able to maintain momentum and make progress towards the long-sought goal of establishing a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. During intersessional periods, the Office for Disarmament Affairs continued to support the participating States in their discussions on key elements of the future treaty through the working committee established by the Conference at its second session.⁵ The fifth session of the Conference will be held in New York from 18 to 22 November 2024;

⁴ The sessions were held in New York from 18 to 22 November 2019, from 29 November to 3 December 2021, from 14 to 18 November 2022 and from 13 to 17 November 2023.

⁵ [A/CONF.236/2021/DEC.3](#).

(e) The Group of Governmental Experts to further consider nuclear disarmament verification issues, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution [74/50](#), met in Geneva for four sessions of one week each in 2022 and 2023. As mandated by the Assembly, the Group further considered nuclear disarmament verification issues, including the concept of a group of scientific and technical experts. The Group based its work on the report of the Group of Governmental Experts to consider the role of verification in advancing nuclear disarmament ([A/74/90](#)) and on the views of Member States contained in the report of the Secretary-General on nuclear disarmament verification ([A/75/126](#)). The Group concluded its work with the adoption of a consensual report presenting its discussions on conceptual issues, capacity-building and the concept of a group of scientific and technical experts on nuclear disarmament verification ([A/78/120](#));

(f) Beginning in January 2020, the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters undertook a two-year programme of work based on the request of the Secretary-General to consider a new vision and new approaches for nuclear disarmament and arms control.⁶ In 2020, the Board produced a preliminary report ([A/75/283](#)) based on two sessions of substantive discussion. In 2021, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 38/183 (O), the Board submitted its final report ([A/76/183](#)), which included recommendations. The report reflected the Board's view that a credible and achievable way forward would be to build on the existing, decades-long system of disarmament and arms control measures in order to: (i) preserve and reinforce existing treaties and agreements; (ii) sustain and strengthen the norm against the testing, proliferation and use of nuclear weapons; (iii) reduce the role of nuclear weapons as instruments of statecraft; (iv) address the risks and spillover effects of various technological innovations in heightening nuclear dangers; (v) consider new and emerging technologies and potential new domains of conflict, including their potential interactions with nuclear weapons; (vi) increase opportunities for effective bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral dialogue; and (vii) promote verifiable and irreversible action towards nuclear, chemical and biological weapons disarmament. Advancing these goals, the Board believed, would require a diverse and modern diplomatic toolkit, comprised of various formal and informal actions, pursued simultaneously across official and unofficial channels, including with numerous civil society stakeholders. Renewed political dedication and robust leadership would be needed, alongside a convincing narrative to both heighten global public awareness around the continued dangers posed by weapons of mass destruction and to mobilize support on their elimination.

5. In support of efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, in partnership with all interested entities, including Governments, civil society and youth organizations and private-sector entities, continued to realize the commitments set out by the Secretary-General in his disarmament agenda, *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament*, as well as the recommendations contained in the policy brief entitled "A New Agenda for Peace". In particular, and following the successful implementation of the joint project between the Office and Kazakhstan on fostering cooperation and enhancing consultation mechanisms among existing nuclear-weapon-free zones, the Office continues to maintain the dedicated website created to serve as a portal and means of communication among the existing nuclear-weapon-free zones and Mongolia.

⁶ The Secretary-General asked its members to consider: (a) how to reduce siloed approaches and create a shared understanding about the destabilizing nexus of new technologies with nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction; (b) how to mobilize Member States to reinvigorate nuclear disarmament and arms control; and (c) how to ensure that the actions of the United Nations system enable the development of new approaches to nuclear disarmament.

III. Replies received from Member States

Burkina Faso

[Original: French]

[14 May 2024]

Burkina Faso, as a State member of the United Nations, can support the implementation of General Assembly resolution 76/48 entitled “Universal Declaration on the Achievement of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World”, as it reflects a commitment to achieving peace and disarmament around the world, takes humanitarian concerns into account and promotes collective security.

As a country committed to peace, Burkina Faso considers the possession and proliferation of nuclear weapons to be contrary to the ultimate goal of maintaining international peace and security.

On the humanitarian front, Burkina Faso shares concerns about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons, in terms of both loss of life and the long-term effects for the environment and public health.

Burkina Faso, which is committed to disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, views this resolution as a means of strengthening global efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons.

Lastly, with regard to diplomacy and collective security, Burkina Faso believes that a nuclear-weapon-free world would promote diplomacy, the peaceful resolution of conflicts, and collective security, by encouraging States to use peaceful means to settle international disputes.

Guatemala

[Original: Spanish]

[30 May 2024]

Guatemala maintains a principled position in favour of complete, irreversible and transparent nuclear disarmament in accordance with clearly established time frames. Various multilateral forums have condemned all nuclear testing and threats of use of force involving nuclear weapons, which put the future of life on earth at risk. Moreover, the nuclear-weapon States have been called upon to comply with their obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons by eliminating nuclear weapons from their security and defence policies, and to cease pursuing qualitative improvements to their nuclear arsenals and the development of new types of nuclear weapons.

Kazakhstan

[Original: English]

[22 February 2024]

Kazakhstan, since acquiring its independence in 1991, has been at the vanguard of ceaselessly advocating a world free of nuclear weapons – the deadliest tools of warfare in human history.

On 29 August 1991, Kazakhstan closed the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site and voluntarily abandoned the fourth-largest nuclear arsenal in the world. However, the Semipalatinsk region and its population continue to suffer from the horrors of four decades of nuclear tests conducted from 1949 to 1989. Kazakhstan recalls the devastating consequences of 456 nuclear tests, which harmed millions of people and

irreparably damaged the natural environment in the test site's direct vicinity. This testing also affected the global ecosystem on a scale that has yet to be fully studied.

The Government of Kazakhstan declares that, in accordance with the Lisbon Protocol to the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms of 1992, the Republic of Kazakhstan acceded, on 14 February 1994, to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of 1968 as a non-nuclear-weapon State party. The conclusion of the Memorandum on Security Assurances in Connection with Ukraine's Accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of 1994, connected thereto, provides security assurances by the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council in exchange for Kazakhstan's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Kazakhstan has therefore voluntarily renounced its inherited part of the Soviet Union's nuclear arsenal and dismantled all related military and technical infrastructure, and all nuclear-weapon-related facilities have been irretrievably eliminated. Since then, Kazakhstan has not owned, possessed or controlled any nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. As of today, there are no nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices in its territory or in any place under its jurisdiction or control that are owned, possessed or controlled by another State.

Kazakhstan has consistently fulfilled all obligations under the Treaty, the cornerstone agreement for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and remains a strong supporter of the balanced and equal implementation of its three main pillars: disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. On 14 February 2024, Kazakhstan marked the thirtieth anniversary of its accession to the Treaty and its membership in the International Atomic Energy Agency. From 22 July to 2 August 2024, Kazakhstan will chair the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Kazakhstan notes that the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, which was signed in 2006 and entered into force in 2009, prohibits its States parties from owning or controlling nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or deploying them on their territory or anywhere under their jurisdiction. It also bans them from controlling any nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices that are owned or controlled by another State. The Treaty, which ensures that Central Asia is free from nuclear weapons, is also the only nuclear-weapon-free zone treaty that enforces, as a core obligation for its States parties, the conclusion of a comprehensive safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency and the signing of the additional protocol to the agreement. An important component of the Treaty is the protocol on negative security assurances signed on 6 May 2014 in New York by representatives of the nuclear-weapon States – China, France, the United Kingdom, Russia and the United States of America. To date, four of the five nuclear-weapon States (the exception being the United States of America) have ratified the Protocol.

Kazakhstan believes that the establishment of new nuclear-weapon-free zones could expand the geography of the nuclear-free world so that our entire planet Earth in the future becomes one large nuclear-weapon-free zone. In this context, Kazakhstan put forward an initiative to strengthen cooperation among all existing nuclear-weapon-free zones and, to that end, held a meeting of representatives of the States members of such zones in Astana, Kazakhstan, in August 2019. Kazakhstan, jointly with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, is working to organize a second meeting of representatives of the States members of such zones in Astana in August 2024.

Kazakhstan has been an unwavering supporter of prohibiting nuclear weapon tests pursuant to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. In this regard, as Co-Chair, from 2015 to 2017, of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, Kazakhstan joins an overwhelming majority of Member States and key actors of the international community in urging the remaining annex 2 States, whose ratification is required for the Treaty's entry into force, to do so without delay and to commit to the universalization of the Treaty as a matter of the utmost priority.

Kazakhstan reaffirms its continuing commitment to achieving a world free of nuclear weapons, including through a number of other multilateral initiatives under the auspices of the United Nations, such as the following:

- The championing of the Secretary-General's agenda for disarmament, the strengthening of cooperation between nuclear-weapon-free zones, as well as the participation in conferences of States parties and signatories to the treaties that establish nuclear-weapon-free zones and Mongolia;
- The establishment by the General Assembly of the International Day against Nuclear Tests, commemorated globally since 2010;
- The adoption by the General Assembly of the Universal Declaration on the Achievement of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World (resolutions [70/57](#) of 7 December 2015, [73/57](#) of 5 December 2018 and [76/48](#) of 6 December 2021).

Kazakhstan welcomes the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in January 2021. As a consistent and genuine supporter of collective action for nuclear disarmament, Kazakhstan actively participated in the elaboration process of the Treaty and was among the first 50 States to ratify it, thereby enabling its early entry into force. A representative of Kazakhstan will preside over the third Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty, to be held in March 2025 in New York. Kazakhstan calls on other States to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on the basis of the notion that the purpose of the Treaty complements article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and serves as a tribute to all those affected by the use and testing of nuclear weapons around the globe.

Kazakhstan remains committed to advancing disarmament efforts on the global stage. The country continues to actively participate in multilateral forums and engage in dialogue with other nations to promote nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Kazakhstan works with all like-minded partners towards achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world by 2045, the centennial of the founding of the United Nations.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[31 May 2024]

Mexico is submitting this report in accordance with General Assembly resolution [76/48](#), entitled "Universal Declaration on the Achievement of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World".

It is crucial to remember that the very first resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, on 24 January 1946, was aimed at "the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and of all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction". This key principle not only governs the noble principles of the Charter of the United Nations but should also govern the commitment and actions of all members of the international community.

Mexico wishes to highlight that the Charter of the United Nations enjoins all its Members, individually and collectively, to spare no effort in promoting larger freedom, so that all peoples may enjoy freedom from want, freedom from fear and the freedom to live in dignity, which of course means living free from nuclear weapons.

In keeping with the above-mentioned principle, Mexico wishes to report on the actions that it has taken to promote and implement the Universal Declaration.

- Mexico has promoted commitments 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 19 of the Universal Declaration in its statements, both at the national level and through the coalitions and interest groups in which it participates. In particular, the commitment to achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world, the unreserved condemnation of the use of nuclear weapons, as well as the fulfilment of article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, are central issues that Mexico has promoted in the related resolutions it has submitted to the First Committee of the General Assembly, as follows:
 - Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments, on behalf of the New Agenda Coalition
 - Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, with Australia and New Zealand
 - United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education
 - United Nations Disarmament Information Programme
 - Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)
 - Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, as co-author alongside Austria, Brazil, Ireland, Nigeria and South Africa
 - Humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, as co-author alongside Austria, Brazil, Ireland, Nigeria and South Africa
 - Ethical imperatives for a nuclear-weapon-free world, as co-author alongside Austria, Brazil, Ireland, Nigeria and South Africa
 - Lethal autonomous weapons systems, as co-author alongside Austria, Belgium, Costa Rica, Germany, Ireland, New Zealand, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka and Switzerland
- With regard to commitments 3 and 17 of the Declaration, it should be noted that Mexico was the promoter of the first nuclear-weapon-free zone in a densely populated region of the world, established under the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco). For decades, Mexico has repeatedly stated that the only guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is their total elimination. Mexico promotes the strengthening and full implementation of nuclear-weapon-free zones and coordination among such zones. In 2005, Mexico proposed and organized the first conference of States members of nuclear-weapon-free zones. Mexico maintains that nuclear-weapon-free zones are not an end in themselves, but an intermediate step towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons. As history has shown, nuclear-weapon-free zones have made a contribution to international peace and security and have increased peace and stability in the regions where they exist.
- Mexico participates actively in the meetings of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL). It was recently elected as a member of the Agency's Council for the period 2024–2027.

- With regard to commitment 6, Mexico has been one of the major promoters of the so-called “humanitarian initiative”, which seeks to place the concern about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons at the centre of the debate on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In February 2014, Mexico hosted the second international Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, in Nayarit, Mexico. The final document of the Conference is considered to be the point of no return with regard to the prohibition of nuclear weapons on the grounds of their humanitarian impact. Mexico was part of the core group that drove the negotiation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and was the fourth State to ratify it. Mexico has promoted the universalization of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, chaired the second Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, held in 2023, and is currently part of the coordinating committee for the implementation of the Treaty.
- With regard to commitments 8 and 9, Mexico has consistently reiterated that the United Nations has a central role in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control processes and that multilateralism is the core principle in negotiations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. Mexican experts have participated in the high-level expert preparatory group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution [71/259](#), entitled “Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices”, and in the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to General Assembly resolution [71/67](#), entitled “Nuclear disarmament verification”. A Mexican expert also participated in the most recent round of meetings of the Group of Governmental Experts established under General Assembly resolution [75/40](#).
- Mexico participates in the Conference on Disarmament, in accordance with commitment 9 and its belief in the value of multilateralism and of reaching agreements with a view to achieving a peaceful world where the security of all people is central. However, it is critical of the paralysis afflicting the United Nations disarmament machinery and regrets that neither the Conference on Disarmament nor the Disarmament Commission are carrying out activities conducive to fulfilling the mandate conferred upon them in the final document of the tenth special session of the General Assembly, adopted on 30 June 1978. Mexico reiterates its well-known position that it is necessary to reflect on certain anachronisms of the Conference on Disarmament and on the need to restart a serious debate on its conceptual framework, its membership, its working methods, the participation of civil society and its place in the disarmament machinery. The appropriate forum for such a discussion might be a fourth special session of the General Assembly on disarmament.
- With regard to commitment 18, the Government of Mexico makes annual voluntary contributions to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, an independent and impartial academic body that contributes to further study and research on disarmament issues.
- With regard to commitment 19, since 2014 the Government of Mexico has held an annual summer school on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation for diplomats from Latin America and the Caribbean, in coordination with the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies of the Middlebury Institute of International Studies and OPANAL. The implementation of this programme for building national capacities, the only one of its kind in the region, is one of the most notable actions taken by Mexico to promote disarmament education and contribute to a culture of peace in the region. The tenth summer school will be held in 2024. More than 300 diplomats from Latin America and the Caribbean

have benefited from the programme, which is aimed at contributing to the development of national capacities by training up new regional experts in nuclear disarmament. This is one of the actions taken by the Government of Mexico to promote education for disarmament and peace.

- Mexico reiterates its support for the activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency as the multilateral body in charge of implementing the safeguards system provided for in the Non-Proliferation Treaty.
- Mexico actively promotes the entry into force and universalization of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. In that regard, it has participated in the meetings of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and, together with New Zealand and Australia, submitted General Assembly resolution 78/66, entitled “Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty”. Mexico reiterates the need for all States to refrain from carrying out nuclear tests, other nuclear explosions or any relevant non-explosive tests, including subcritical experiments and experiments conducted by supercomputers for the purpose of enhancing nuclear weapons, as such testing violates the spirit of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and takes us further from the common objective of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons.
- Mexico participated at the highest possible level in the meetings of the General Assembly held to mark the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, on 26 September 2021, 2022 and 2023. It also attended the meetings of the General Assembly held on the occasion of the International Day against Nuclear Tests, on 29 August 2021, 2022 and 2023. Furthermore, at the invitation of the Government of Japan, Mexico participated in events to commemorate the atomic bombing of the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. On those occasions, it shared its position as well as its commitment to nuclear disarmament and to promoting awareness regarding the use of nuclear weapons, owing to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of such weapons.
- Mexico considers that the Nuclear Suppliers Group fulfils an operational function in ensuring non-proliferation of nuclear weapons through the implementation of its guidelines for exports of nuclear materials and materials related to nuclear technologies. These guidelines are consistent with and complementary to the various legally binding international instruments concerning nuclear non-proliferation, including the Non-Proliferation Treaty and regional treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones.
- Mexico promotes the universalization of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, considers its three pillars to be of equal relevance, and urges States that have not yet done so to accede to the Treaty without conditions. Mexico also promotes the idea that the only real guarantee against the use or accidental detonation of nuclear weapons – and, therefore, against the unacceptable damage that would result – is the total elimination of such weapons. Mexico participated actively in the work of the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the eleventh Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, which was held from 31 July to 11 August 2023, in Vienna. Mexico promoted progress on nuclear disarmament and stressed that the only way to make the Treaty strong and credible was through its full implementation.
- Mexico considers that the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in 2021 was a turning point that reaffirmed the illegality of nuclear arsenals, as it established a norm of international law explicitly prohibiting the development, manufacture and use of nuclear weapons. This is an unprecedented multilateral achievement. Mexico chaired the second Meeting

of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 27 November to 1 December 2023. At that meeting, a political declaration entitled “Our commitment to upholding the prohibition of nuclear weapons and averting their catastrophic consequences”, containing a strong message regarding the prohibition of nuclear weapons, was adopted.

Mexico joins the call for the urgent convening of a United Nations high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament to review the progress made in this regard. Given that the nuclear threat puts the very existence of humanity at risk, progress regarding our commitments to achieve a world free of that threat is urgently needed.

Ukraine

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Since Ukraine acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a non-nuclear-weapon State, it has implemented all of its international obligations to destroy nuclear weapons, their means of delivery and other elements of nuclear infrastructure.

On the other hand, the Russian Federation’s actions are in disregard to its international obligations and a betrayal of the security assurances provided to Ukraine under the Memorandum on Security Assurances in Connection with Ukraine’s Accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

In 2022, the Russian Federation – a nuclear-weapon State, a permanent Security Council member and a depositary of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons – launched a full-scale war against Ukraine and threatened to use its nuclear weapons. Russia occupied the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, deploying its military personnel and equipment there and putting pressure on Ukrainian workers.

Civil nuclear facilities in Ukraine were turned into military targets, in breach of the Treaty provisions on the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Thus, the Russian Federation is solely responsible for significantly raising the risk of a nuclear accident or incident and endangering the population of Ukraine, neighbouring States and the international community.

By waging its illegal war of aggression against Ukraine, the Russian Federation is undermining international peace, security and non-proliferation architecture. Achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world is not possible without holding the Russian Federation accountable for its aggression against Ukraine, for creating nuclear risks and for discrediting decades-long efforts aimed at the total elimination of all nuclear weapons.