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Sixty-sixth session

First Committee

3rd meeting

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Official Records

Chair: Mr. Viinanen (Finland)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Introductory statements

The Chair: In accordance with its programme of work and timetable, the First Committee will this morning begin its general debate on all disarmament and related international security agenda items allocated to it.

First, I should like to make a brief statement in my capacity as presiding officer.

I start by thanking my predecessor, Ambassador Miloš Koterec of Slovakia, for his excellent work in successfully steering the work of the Committee during the sixty-fifth session. I also commend Mr. Sergio Duarte, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, and his team, as well as the secretariat of the First Committee. I also convey my appreciation to the members of the Bureau, who so ably assist me in my work. And I again thank all representatives for the trust that they have placed on me.

Last July, at the request of several Member States, the General Assembly met to discuss how to revitalize the disarmament machinery and end the standstill that has lasted for over a decade. Several Member States then voiced their concern that that paralysis threatened to unravel the system of multilateral disarmament negotiations. There was widespread agreement that business as usual was not an option, and that we needed renewed political will to restart multilateral disarmament negotiations.

It is clear that there is increased frustration among Member States, and a growing demand for more action and progress. There have been many positive developments, such as the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and preparations for an arms trade treaty conference next year. Nevertheless, much remains to be done, if we want to end the present standstill and respond to the growing expectations of Member States and their peoples.

The First Committee is a highly important part of the disarmament machinery. It should heed the growing calls for revitalizing disarmament negotiations. It should at this session demonstrate the political will to contribute towards a more secure world. I urge all Member States to work together in a spirit of cooperation, since we have a large number of draft resolutions ahead of us on a broad range of issues. I realize that the First Committee deals with issues that often pertain to important national security concerns. Nevertheless, I hope that we shall be able to find common ground and reach agreement on as many draft resolutions as possible.

For my part, I shall make every effort to ensure that the proceedings of the Committee are conducted in an open, transparent and efficient manner. For that, I count on representatives' valuable cooperation and support.

It is now my pleasure to welcome Mr. Sergio Duarte, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, and invite him to make a statement.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.



Mr. Duarte, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs: I welcome this opportunity to address the Committee, and I am especially pleased to welcome those members of delegations who are joining us for the first time.

It is also my honour to congratulate you, Mr. Chair, on your appointment to guide our work. I wish to recognize as well the members of the Bureau and to assure them of the fullest cooperation of the Office for Disarmament Affairs throughout the work of the Committee.

By any measure, this Committee has on its agenda some of the most difficult challenges to international peace and security. Its deliberations will cover the world's deadliest weapons of mass destruction, including the most indiscriminate of all, nuclear weapons. It will address issues relating to the regulation and limitation of conventional arms. And it will take up other subjects that have profound implications for our common future, including space weapons, the relationship between disarmament and development, disarmament education, regional cooperation, and issues relating to institutions in the United Nations disarmament machinery.

We are all familiar with the extent to which progress in disarmament depends on the broader political climate. Some have argued that this political climate alone determines both the rate of progress and its future prospects. There is some truth in this, but opinions differ over which trends are producing which results, and many are not convinced that the environment determines disarmament outcomes, and not the other way around.

Some claim, for example, that if there is no peace and stability, if armed conflicts continue, if regional disputes remain unresolved, and if risks of weapons proliferation or terrorism persist, then, under such circumstances, there can be no disarmament. If that argument were true, one might conclude that the Committee would be well advised to adjourn today, because all our work would be held hostage to developments occurring outside these walls. Our role would amount to little more than to echo those trends.

Yet there is another view of the role of the Committee that I believe has been more widely accepted over the last 65 years. This view holds that the Committee has the capability to make its own independent contribution to advancing multilateral

norms in disarmament, and thereby to strengthening international peace and security.

The Committee did not halt its work even during the darkest years of the Cold War, when nuclear arsenals were growing and threats of nuclear war were not uncommon, and were widely recognized as such, so much so that they became the subject of popular novels and films.

Let us recall that most of the multilateral treaties that currently exist were negotiated during a geopolitical era marked by arms races, regional wars, and an intense multidimensional rivalry between the world's two great super-Powers. How could that have been possible if progress in disarmament had first to satisfy the preconditions of world peace and stability?

Today, we are fortunate to be conducting our deliberations in a substantially improved political climate. The cold war has now been over for an entire generation. While over 20,000 nuclear weapons remain, and their operational status is unclear, the size of those arsenals has fallen considerably since their estimated peak of over 70,000 around 1986.

More impressively, popular attitudes towards such weapons have also been changing in recent decades. In particular, the humanitarian consequences of the use of these weapons have been receiving greater recognition, as reflected in the 1996 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, in statements and work of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and most recently in language adopted by consensus in the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

Equally impressive has been the increasing variety of actors who are working around the world for global nuclear disarmament, including, with an active role, the Secretary-General, who last year became the first Secretary-General to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In March, I was proud to join him in opening a new display at the United Nations disarmament exhibition showing twin stacks of a petition for a nuclear-weapons convention. That petition had over a million signatures collected by Mayors for Peace, an organization representing over 5,000 cities in 151 countries.

Another international petition, also in support of such a convention, was presented by the Japanese

group Gensuikyo at the NPT Review Conference. It had over 7 million signatures.

In addition to city mayors and grass-roots organizations, national parliamentarians have also been taking an increased interest in promoting progress in nuclear disarmament. In April 2009, the Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, representing 600 parliamentarians from over 100 countries, adopted a resolution that also supported negotiation of a nuclear-weapons convention, as originally proposed by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on 24 October 2008.

And in September 2009, the Security Council, after decades of not addressing this issue, held a summit meeting that produced resolution 1887 (2009), which called upon all States, not just the parties to the NPT, to enter into good faith negotiations on nuclear disarmament.

As we consider these facts, while recognizing the uncertainties of the future, it is possible to observe two reinforcing trends that could positively influence the Committee's work both this year and in the years ahead.

The first is the trend associated with the democratic revolution now sweeping the world, not just the Middle East. Evidence that democracy is coming to disarmament is indisputable in the actions I have just cited by the mayors, parliamentarians and civil society groups throughout the world. It is apparent in the persisting and growing expectations voiced in the General Assembly for new progress in disarmament; as the world's largest democratic body, the General Assembly offers a forum for each State, large or small, to participate in the process of developing multilateral disarmament norms.

And as democracy is coming to disarmament, so too is the rule of law. This is apparent in the persisting efforts to gain universal adherence to the key multilateral treaties dealing with weapons of mass destruction: the Biological Weapons Convention, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

It is apparent in strong, and I believe growing, interest in support of negotiating a nuclear-weapons convention, or at least serious consideration of what types of legal obligations would be necessary to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons.

It is apparent in recent meetings by the nuclear-weapon States to consult among themselves on ways to improve transparency of their nuclear arsenals and stocks of fissile materials, a long-standing goal of the world community.

It is apparent in the importance the entire world attaches to full compliance with disarmament and non-proliferation commitments.

It is apparent in preparations to convene a conference next year to conclude an arms trade treaty, and in other efforts to prevent an arms race in outer space, to agree on norms governing missiles and missile defences, and to strengthen international legal obligations in the field of non-proliferation and against terrorism involving weapons of mass destruction.

And it is apparent in efforts that have been under way since the 2010 NPT Review Conference to pursue the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. Such efforts will, hopefully, produce progress quite soon.

The twin forces of democracy and the rule of law also have the potential to help in achieving another long-standing goal — a reduction in military spending or, in the words of Article 26 of the Charter, “the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources”. At present, the world is reportedly spending over \$1.6 trillion a year for military purposes, while progress in achieving many of the great Millennium Development Goals has fallen short of expectations, given the lack of resources.

In terms of the work of this Committee, it is therefore quite clear that we should not close up shop and wait for the dawning of world peace as a precondition for disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control to succeed. To the contrary, our efforts in each of these fields make their own vital and independent contributions in strengthening international peace and security. And as disarmament advances, so the world advances.

Our efforts offer prospects for reducing mistrust in the world. Arms reductions can help not only in reducing regional tensions, but in eliminating the likelihood of large-scale armed conflicts. Far from affirming the legality or utility of nuclear weapons for national or collective self-defence, nuclear disarmament efforts satisfy both the law and the will of

the people, while also enhancing security far more reliably than a precarious balance of nuclear terror.

For all those reasons, disarmament remains a goal shared by all Member States. What is most needed now is the political will to translate those goals into action. For this work to be undertaken on a global scale there is no substitute for the United Nations disarmament machinery as a venue for multilateral cooperation. It remains the world's great "assembly line" for the construction and maintenance of global disarmament norms.

As the forces of democracy continue to grow so too will the legitimacy of international rules in this field, and as the rule of law continues to come to disarmament so too will the world welcome the additional stability, predictability and basic fairness that will arise as a result. In short, democracy and the rule of law are two powerful forces in the global environment that together can help strengthen the political will needed to move the disarmament agenda forward.

For all those reasons, I extend to all delegations my best wishes for a very successful session. The United Nations disarmament machinery needs a new success story, and the First Committee would be a good place to start.

Agenda items 87 to 106

General debate on all disarmament and related international security agenda items

The Chair: I remind delegations of the need to adhere to the Committee's practice of limiting statements to a maximum of 10 minutes when representatives are speaking in a national capacity and 15 minutes for those speaking on behalf of several delegations.

To assist speakers in that regard, I intend to introduce the use of a timing mechanism, by having the red ring around speakers' microphones blink when they reach the time limit. From time to time I shall remind speakers myself if they exceed the allotted time.

As mentioned at last week's organizational meeting, I shall invite representatives who have longer statements to deliver an abbreviated version and to provide the full statement to be posted on the First Committee QuickFirst web portal. I also encourage

speakers to speak at a reasonable speed to allow for adequate interpretation.

I remind delegations that the rolling list of speakers for the general debate will be closed tomorrow, Tuesday, 4 October, at 6 p.m. Consequently, I urge all delegations that intend to take the floor, but have not yet put their names on the list, to kindly do so as soon as possible.

Delegations interested in monitoring media reports of our activities may wish to note that press officers from the Secretariat's Department of Public Information will provide daily coverage of our proceedings, based on which they will issue press releases in English and French that will be posted on the United Nations website a few hours after each day's meeting.

Mr. Kleib (Indonesia): I feel it a great privilege to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

At the outset, let me felicitate you, Sir, and the other Bureau members, on your election, and assure you of the full support and cooperation of NAM.

NAM views the First Committee as an essential component of the United Nations disarmament machinery, and remains committed to working to strengthen it.

As consistently reaffirmed by NAM Summits and ministerial conferences, including the sixteenth NAM Ministerial Meeting, held in Bali in May, NAM underscores the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, and reiterates its determination to promote multilateralism as the core principle of negotiations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

NAM expresses concern at the threat to mankind and the survival of human civilizations, and in particular international peace and security, posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and by their possible use or threat of use. The Movement stresses that much more needs to be done to realize a world free from nuclear weapons. NAM urges States, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, to accelerate efforts to fulfil their obligations on nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects.

NAM reaffirms the statement on the total elimination of nuclear weapons adopted at its sixteenth Ministerial Meeting in Bali in May, in which the Movement reiterated its call for an international conference to identify ways and means of eliminating nuclear weapons, at the earliest possible date, with the objective of an agreement on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, with a specified framework of time, to prohibit their development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use, and to provide for their destruction.

NAM underscores its principled positions on nuclear disarmament, which remains its highest priority, and on the related issue of nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects. NAM stresses that the efforts aimed at nuclear non-proliferation should be in parallel to the simultaneous efforts on nuclear disarmament.

The Movement believes that the ultimate goal of all efforts in the field of disarmament should be general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control. All States should fulfil their respective undertakings concerning disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons.

In this regard, all States need to pursue in good faith intensified multilateral negotiations, as agreed by consensus in the Final Document (resolution S-10/2) of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (SSOD-I), to achieve general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

NAM reaffirms the inalienable right of developing countries to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy, including the right to the nuclear fuel cycle, for peaceful purposes, without discrimination. The Movement continues to note with concern the persistence of undue restrictions on exports to developing countries of material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes.

NAM emphasizes that proliferation concerns are best addressed through multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory agreements. Non-proliferation control arrangements should be transparent and open to participation by all States, and should ensure that they do not impose restrictions on access to material, equipment and

technology for peaceful purposes required by developing countries for their continued development.

NAM States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) are concerned over the lack of concrete progress by the nuclear-weapon States (NWS) in implementing their obligations under the Treaty and their unequivocal undertakings to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to complete nuclear disarmament. NAM States parties to the NPT call on the NWS to implement their obligations under the Treaty and undertakings reaffirmed by successive NPT Review Conferences, including the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT.

NAM States parties to the Treaty are convinced that it is vital to implement the action plan (see NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)), adopted by the 2010 NPT Review Conference, on nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and on the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East.

NAM reaffirms its long-standing position that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against their use or threat of their use. The Movement underlines the necessity to start negotiations, as soon as possible, in the Conference on Disarmament on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, with a specified time framework; the negotiations should include a nuclear-weapons convention. Pending the total elimination of such weapons, efforts to conclude a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on security assurances to all non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons should be pursued as a matter of urgent priority.

NAM stresses that reductions in deployments and in operational status, as provided for in the New START, cannot substitute for irreversible cuts in, and the total elimination of, nuclear weapons. In this context, NAM calls on the United States and the Russian Federation to apply the principles of transparency, irreversibility and verifiability to such cuts, and to reduce their nuclear arsenals, both warheads and delivery systems, thus contributing to the fulfilment of their nuclear disarmament obligations and facilitating the realization of a world free of nuclear weapons at an early date.

NAM remains deeply concerned about the strategic defence doctrines of the nuclear-weapon States, including the NATO Alliance Strategic Concept, which not only set out rationales for the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, but also maintain unjustifiable international security concepts based on promoting and developing military alliances and nuclear deterrence policies.

In this regard, NAM calls upon the nuclear-weapon States to eliminate the role and significance of nuclear weapons in all military and security concepts, doctrines and policies. NAM emphasizes the significance of applying the principles of transparency, irreversibility and international verifiability to such measures. NAM States parties to the NPT call on nuclear-weapon States to report the measures they undertake in this regard to the NPT review conferences and the meetings of the conferences' preparatory committees.

Welcoming the adoption by consensus of the detailed plan of action on the Middle East, particularly implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East (*ibid.*, *p.* 29), contained in part IV of the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, NAM States parties to the NPT strongly urge the Secretary-General and the sponsors of the 1995 resolution, in close consultation and coordination with the States of the region, to take immediately the necessary measures required to convene a conference in 2012, to be attended by all States of the Middle East, on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

NAM States parties to the NPT express deep concern over the delay in the implementation of the measures contained in the action plan adopted by the 2010 NPT Review Conference on the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, in close consultation and coordination with the States of the Middle East. They strongly urge the Secretary-General and the three co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East to start immediately, in close consultation and coordination with the States of the Middle East, the full implementation of the action plan on the Middle East.

In this context, NAM States parties to the NPT stress the importance of the immediate appointment of a facilitator, the designation of a host country, and the

confirmation of the exact date of the conference in 2012, in close consultation and coordination with the States of the Middle East.

NAM reaffirms its support for the establishment in the Middle East of a nuclear-weapon-free zone, in accordance with Security Council resolution 487 (1981), paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991), and the relevant General Assembly resolutions adopted by consensus. Pending the establishment of such a zone, NAM demands that Israel accede to the NPT without delay, and promptly place all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards.

The Movement also calls for a total prohibition of the transfer to Israel of all nuclear-related equipment, information, material and facilities, resources or devices and on the extension of assistance in the nuclear-related scientific or technological fields.

NAM continues to consider the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones created by the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba, and the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, as well as Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status, as positive and important measures towards attaining the goal of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation.

NAM recognizes the need to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations disarmament machinery. In this context, NAM notes that the main difficulty of the disarmament machinery lies in the lack of true political will by some States to achieve actual progress, including in particular on nuclear disarmament.

While there is a need to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations disarmament machinery, it is important to recall the achievements the international community has made through that machinery, in particular key legal instruments, resolutions, guidelines and other crucial documents. It therefore remains important to preserve the nature, role and purpose of each part of this important machinery.

NAM remains steadfast in fully supporting the multilateral disarmament agenda and strengthening the United Nations disarmament machinery. It is high time that all countries worked together, cooperated more, and brought to bear their respective political capital to revitalize this crucial machinery. Promoting the work

of the United Nations disarmament machinery hinges on creating a suitable political environment, taking into account the security interests of all States, rather than changing rules of procedure.

NAM reaffirms the importance of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral negotiating body on disarmament, and reiterates its call on the Conference to agree by consensus on a balanced and comprehensive programme of work by, inter alia, establishing an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament as soon as possible and as the highest priority.

NAM emphasizes the necessity to start negotiations without further delay on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, with a specific time framework, to include a nuclear-weapons convention.

NAM reaffirms the importance of the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and to bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

NAM notes the adoption by the Conference on Disarmament on 29 May 2009 of the programme of work (CD/1864) for the 2009 session, which was not implemented. NAM calls on the Conference to agree by consensus on a balanced and comprehensive programme of work without further delay.

NAM encourages the Conference to consider appointing a special coordinator on the expansion of its membership, as early as possible, with a view to examining possible expansion, in accordance with its rules of procedure.

NAM also reaffirms the importance and relevance of the Disarmament Commission as the sole specialized deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery. We continue to fully support the work of the Commission, and express regret that it was unable to reach agreement on recommendations on its agenda items during substantive sessions of its two previous cycles ending in April 2008 and April 2011, due to lack of political will and inflexible positions, in particular of certain nuclear-weapon States, despite the Movement's constructive role and concrete proposals throughout the deliberations, especially in the Working Group on

recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

In the view of the Movement, the Disarmament Commission can be highly effective, especially in the field of nuclear disarmament. The Movement expects that, with reinvigorated political will, the Disarmament Commission can agree at its upcoming cycle on concrete recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

NAM reaffirms the paramount importance and continued validity of the consensus Final Document of SSOD-I and its contribution to the international disarmament agenda and machinery within the United Nations. In this context, NAM reiterates its support for the convening of a fourth special session, with a view to consolidating the multilateral disarmament agenda and machinery within the United Nations.

NAM stresses the significance of achieving universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), including by all nuclear-weapon States, which, inter alia, should contribute to the process of nuclear disarmament. The continued commitment of all States signatories, especially the nuclear-weapon States, to nuclear disarmament is necessary, if the objectives of the CTBT are to be fully realized.

The Movement reiterates that improvement and modernization of existing nuclear weapons and the development of new types of nuclear weapons by nuclear-weapon States is in violation of their legal obligations and their respective unequivocal nuclear disarmament undertakings, and calls on them to end all such measures in full transparency, in fulfilment of their obligations and as a contribution towards a nuclear-weapon-free world.

The Movement reiterates its continued concern over the current difficult and complex situation in the field of disarmament and international security. In this regard, NAM calls for renewed efforts to resolve the current impasse in achieving nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects. In this context, NAM stresses that nuclear disarmament, as the highest priority established by SSOD-I and as a multilateral legal obligation, should not be made conditional on confidence-building measures or other disarmament efforts.

The Chair: I would like to remind the speaker that he has now been speaking for more than 17 minutes.

Mr. Kleib (Indonesia): I will continue, Mr. Chair.

NAM is deeply concerned at the increasing global military expenditure, a substantial part of which could otherwise be spent on promoting international development efforts and eradicating poverty and disease.

The Movement further stresses the importance of the reduction of military expenditures, in accordance with the principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments. The implementation of the principle of undiminished security for all is crucial.

NAM States parties to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) call for its comprehensive and effective implementation, and stress the significance of the establishment of its verification mechanism. In this regard, NAM States parties to the BWC recognize the particular importance of strengthening the Convention through multilateral negotiations for a non-discriminatory, legally binding protocol, and universal adherence to the Convention. In this context, we urge the party rejecting the resumption of the negotiations for such a protocol to reconsider its policy towards the Convention in the light of the persistent request of other parties.

NAM States parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) reiterate the importance of meeting the Convention's 2012 final extended deadline for the total destruction of chemical weapons, and note with serious concern that two of the major possessor States parties have indicated that they will not meet the deadline. They strongly urge the possessor States parties to take all necessary measures to accelerate their destruction operations in order to meet the final extended deadline.

Any eventualities whereby the final deadline is not met should be addressed in a manner that does not undermine the integrity and credibility of the Convention or lead to the rewriting or reinterpreting of its provisions.

The NAM States parties reaffirm the significance of international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the CWC, and stress the need for full, balanced, effective and

non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the Convention.

NAM stresses the need for a multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive, transparent and non-discriminatory approach towards the issue of missiles in all its aspects, as a contribution to international peace and security. In this connection, NAM emphasizes the need to keep the issue of missiles in all its aspects on the agenda of the General Assembly, and supports the efforts to be continued within the United Nations to explore the issue further.

NAM further stresses the importance of the contribution of peaceful uses of space technologies, including space launch vehicle technologies, to human advancement. NAM also reaffirms that any initiatives to address the issues related to delivery systems for weapons of mass destruction should be conducted through inclusive negotiations in a forum where all States can participate as equals. NAM stresses the importance of the security concerns of all States at regional and global levels in any approach to the issue of missiles in all its aspects.

NAM remains concerned about the explosive remnants of the Second World War, particularly in the form of landmines, which continue to cause human and material damage and hinder development in some NAM countries. We call on the States primarily responsible for laying those mines and leaving explosives outside their territories during the Second World War to cooperate with the affected countries and provide them with mine action support, including with information exchange, maps indicating the location of mines and explosives, technical assistance for mine clearance, defrayal of the costs of clearance and compensation for any losses caused by mines laid.

It must be stressed that the social and economic rehabilitation of victims, as well as full access of affected countries to the needed material, equipment, technology and financial resources for mine clearance, are crucial for their well-being and progress. We call upon all States in a position to do so to provide the necessary financial, technical and humanitarian assistance to landmine clearance operations upon request.

We are concerned about the adverse humanitarian impact of the use of cluster munitions. In this regard, we reiterate the Movement's principled position on the central role of the United Nations in the area of

disarmament and arms control. We note that the Convention on Cluster Munitions entered into force on 1 August 2010.

NAM States parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and its protocols encourage States to consider becoming parties to the Convention. They further note that negotiations on proposals regarding the draft protocol on cluster munitions are under way in the CCW.

NAM reaffirms the sovereign right of States to acquire, manufacture, export, import and retain conventional arms for their self-defence and security needs. NAM expresses its concern at unilateral coercive measures, and emphasizes that no undue restrictions should be placed on the transfer of such arms.

NAM also remains deeply concerned about the illicit transfer, manufacture and circulation of small arms and light weapons in various regions of the world. In this regard, the Movement stresses the need to implement the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, which it considers to be the main framework for addressing the issue of the illicit trade in those weapons.

We stress that international assistance and cooperation is an essential aspect of the full implementation of the Programme of Action, and encourage all States to assist countries in need of resources and expertise to implement the Programme.

In conclusion, the Movement stresses the importance of political will in addressing international disarmament issues. On its part, NAM remains committed to working actively and constructively with all Member States to tangibly advance the work of the First Committee.

In this regard, NAM will submit draft resolutions and decisions on the following: Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace (A/C.1/66/L.5); Relationship between disarmament and development (A/C.1/66/L.6); Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control (A/C.1/66/L.7); Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation (A/C.1/66/L.8); United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament

(A/C.1/66/L.9); Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security (A/C.1/66/L.12); and on the convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. The support of all delegations would be much welcomed and appreciated.

The Chair: I kindly remind the representative of Indonesia that he spoke for 25 minutes.

Mr. Onemola (Nigeria): I am honoured to speak on behalf of the African Group and to formally congratulate you, Mr. Chair, on your election. I am also glad to congratulate the other members of the Bureau. The African Group believes, Sir, that your diplomatic experience, skill and tact will stand you in good stead, as you guide our various meetings and deliberations to successful conclusions. The African Group assures you of our active engagement and full cooperation as we address the many tasks ahead of us during the current session.

The Group associates itself with the Non-Aligned Movement statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of Indonesia, and reiterates its commitment to the promotion of international peace and security.

Africa believes that multilateralism and solutions derived therefrom, especially within the ambit of the Charter, will expedite the achievement of most of our goals. While noting the contributions of efforts being made at other levels, we believe that multilateral negotiations remain the appropriate and effective means to address matters of disarmament and international peace and security.

The African Group reaffirms that the United Nations is the appropriate forum to address all issues of disarmament and arms control. The Group therefore views the First Committee as an essential component of the United Nations.

The African Group again emphasizes its principled positions on nuclear disarmament, which remains its highest priority, and on the related issue of nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects. The ultimate aim in the disarmament process is general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, based on the principle of undiminished and enhanced security for all States.

The Group reaffirms that there is absolutely no doubt that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of

Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is the cornerstone of general and complete disarmament and non-proliferation efforts, under strict and effective international control, as affirmed and itemized by, among others, article VI of the NPT. In our view, article VI has no ambiguity on the obligations of nuclear-weapon States to disarm. In fact, it puts a formal and specific disarmament responsibility on them, in good faith.

The Group wishes to express its strong belief in the achievement of the principles and objectives of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, in line with the provisions of the Treaty and the commitments agreed to at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference — in particular, the resolution on the Middle East (see NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I), annex) — and the agreed 13 practical steps adopted at the 2000 Review Conference (see NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I and II), as well as resolution 65/42, adopted without a vote on 26 October 2010.

To that end, the African Group welcomes the adoption, by consensus, of the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions of the 2010 NPT Review Conference (see NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)), mandating the Secretary-General and the sponsors of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, in consultation with the States of the region, to convene a conference in 2012, to be attended by all States of the Middle East, on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

We further reaffirm that the International Atomic Energy Agency remains the sole competent authority responsible for verifying and assuring compliance by States parties with their safeguards agreements undertaken in fulfilment of their Treaty obligations.

The Group notes the high-level meeting on nuclear safety and security, convened at the instance of the Secretary-General on 22 September this year with a view to promoting the highest levels of international standards of nuclear safety and security.

The African Group is convinced that the early ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) by the remaining nuclear-weapon States that have not yet ratified the Treaty will contribute to its entry into force to bring into effect a comprehensive ban on nuclear test explosions. We call on all States to refrain from any action that would defeat the objective of the CTBT, and believe that the Treaty's entry into

force will greatly contribute to strengthening international security. We therefore welcome the recent ratification of the CTBT by Ghana and Guinea as a positive development and a step in the right direction.

Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, the African Group repeats its call for the establishment of a legally binding international instrument, under which nuclear-weapon States undertake not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States. The African Group stresses the importance of ensuring that any nuclear disarmament process be transparent, verifiable and irreversible in order to be meaningful and effective.

The Group reaffirms its strong belief in strengthening the existing disarmament machinery, and stresses the need to convene the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, in order to effectively promote the nuclear disarmament process.

The African Group emphasizes the importance of strengthening existing multilateral arms control and disarmament agreements by ensuring full compliance with, and effective implementation of, those agreements.

As the Disarmament Commission enters a new decade and cycle, the African Group calls upon all member States to demonstrate flexibility and adequate political will to create an atmosphere sufficiently favourable to a consensus outcome of concrete recommendations. We restate the need for a more practical and effective approach to deliberations on specific disarmament issues at the Commission.

The Group notes the highlights of the follow-up to the High-level Meeting on Revitalizing the Work of the Conference on Disarmament and Taking Forward Multilateral Disarmament Negotiations, convened by the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session and held on 27 July this year.

The African Group reaffirms that the Conference on Disarmament is the sole multilateral negotiating body on disarmament. The Group noted the Conference's adoption on 29 May 2009 of the programme of work for the 2009 session (CD/1864), which was not implemented. The African Group calls on the Conference on Disarmament to agree, by consensus, on a balanced and comprehensive

programme of work. The Group also calls for the cooperation of nuclear-weapon States in that regard.

The African Group notes the entry into force of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty on 15 July 2009, and particularly calls upon the nuclear-weapon States that have not yet ratified the relevant annexes to the Treaty to ratify its protocols without further delay, in order to ensure its effectiveness.

The African Group calls on all States to take strict and effective measures to prevent any dumping of nuclear, chemical and or radioactive wastes. As a means of enhancing the protection of all States against the dumping of radioactive wastes on their territories, the Group also calls for the effective implementation of the International Atomic Energy Agency Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste.

Africa also underscores the inalienable right of the non-nuclear-weapon States to engage in the research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

The African Group takes note of the outcome of the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (see A/CONF.192/BMS/2010/3). The Group believes that the Programme's full implementation should be vigorously pursued.

The African Group expresses its concern at the illicit transfer, manufacture and circulation of small arms and light weapons. Similarly, the Group commends the Meeting of Governmental Experts as a robust exercise to articulate some of the Programme's key elements. We draw attention to the call to focus on the needs of the developing countries for technical and financial empowerment to enable them to address adequately the menace of illicit small arms and light weapons.

The year 2012 holds enormous promises as well as challenges, in view of the many issues dear to the hearts of all Member States. As we move closer to the Preparatory Committee and the Review Conference of the Programme of Action next year, the African Group calls on Member States to be open in their dialogue with a view to providing necessary support and assistance for the Chair-designate.

While not being among the world's major producers and exporters of conventional weapons, many African States have suffered disproportionately from the pernicious effects of the illicit transfer of arms, which has destabilizing effects on their socio-economic stability. In this connection, the African Group takes note of the ongoing arms trade treaty process. The Group is of the firm view that this process should aim at a treaty that is universal, balanced, fair and resistant to any political abuse. Member States have demonstrated commitment to the process, and as we prepare for the last Preparatory Committee and Conference on an arms trade treaty we hope that remaining issues will be discussed in a mutually agreeable atmosphere.

We express appreciation for the renewed impetus so far given to the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, located in Lomé, and restate that the Centre still needs the continuing support of the United Nations. The African Group intends to submit during this session a draft resolution on the need to further galvanize the Centre.

The African Group appeals to all delegations to demonstrate adequate flexibility and the requisite political goodwill during this session of First Committee negotiations. On its part, the African Group assures the Committee once again of its readiness to participate fully and constructively in all negotiations.

Ms. Higgie (New Zealand): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the seven members of the New Agenda Coalition: Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, South Africa, Sweden and my own country, New Zealand.

We welcome your appointment, Sir, as Chair of the First Committee this year. The New Agenda Coalition (NAC) looks forward to supporting you and cooperating with you as you lead us in our work over the coming weeks.

The origins of the New Agenda Coalition and its focus on nuclear disarmament are well known. They are firmly based on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which remains the cornerstone of our collective efforts. We recall the foundation agreement of the NPT, whereby the nuclear-weapon States committed to nuclear disarmament, non-nuclear-weapon States undertook not to develop nuclear weapons, and the inalienable right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy was reaffirmed.

The Coalition has long held that nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are intrinsically linked and are mutually reinforcing processes. Progress on both fronts is required.

It was dissatisfaction with the lack of progress on nuclear disarmament in the aftermath of the NPT 1995 Review and Extension Conference that led to the establishment of the New Agenda Coalition in 1998. We hardly need to recall that the 2000 Review Conference agreed on 13 practical steps towards nuclear disarmament. That was a significant milestone but not, dishearteningly, one that realized our expectations for substantive progress on nuclear disarmament. We therefore welcome the renewed and growing interest in nuclear disarmament seen in the past few years and the growing support more broadly for a world free of nuclear weapons.

The adoption of the Final Document of the Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)) in May last year and its inclusion of an action plan to build on the practical steps on nuclear disarmament agreed in 2000 is a significant reflection of this impulsion and support. The extent to which the action plan ultimately proves to be positive for the future of the NPT will depend, however, on the collective efforts of all States parties to implement it faithfully and concretely.

Let me describe here what implementation of the nuclear disarmament chapter of the action plan means in the eyes of the New Agenda Coalition.

First, the actions under that chapter are predicated clearly — in the opening line of the conclusions of the Review Conference — on the “pursuit of the full, effective and urgent implementation of article VI” of the NPT. This, then, sets the scene for “concrete steps for the total elimination of nuclear weapons” and for various “Principles and objectives” (*ibid.*, p. 19) intrinsic to the Treaty’s vision of the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons.

Secondly, and just as clearly, the action plan sets out, among measures applicable to all States parties, certain concrete steps expected of the nuclear-weapon States. These are steps on which they are to report to the Preparatory Committee in 2014 in order to allow for a stocktaking by all NPT States parties at the 2015 Review Conference and the consideration of next steps for the full implementation of article VI.

With the NPT being almost 50 years old at that point, it will be no ordinary stocktaking; it will be a watershed moment for the Treaty and for the goal of achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world. For these reasons, the NAC will be examining closely the information provided, action by action, so as to determine how much progress has indeed been made in relation to the commitment made by the nuclear-weapon States to accelerate progress on the steps leading to nuclear disarmament.

Permit me to make some observations on several of the actions in the action plan. Importantly, the action plan includes specific reaffirmation of the continued validity of the 13 practical steps of 2000 and the unequivocal undertaking of the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals.

It is also noteworthy that the Review Conference expressed its deep concern over the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons. This restatement of the very first preambular paragraph of the NPT is a stark reminder of the rationale for the complete and irreversible elimination of all nuclear weapons.

The Coalition reaffirms that the total elimination of nuclear weapons, and the commitment to never produce them again, is the only absolute guarantee against their use or the threat of their use. Pending their elimination, the Coalition emphasizes the legitimate interest of non-nuclear-weapon States in receiving unequivocal and legally binding security assurances from nuclear-weapon States which could strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

As we have stated before, we do not subscribe to the view that nuclear weapons, or the quest to develop them, contribute to international peace and security. As long as some States continue to possess nuclear weapons, citing security reasons for doing so, other States may seek them. We repeat our call to the nuclear-weapon States to diminish further the role and significance of nuclear weapons in all military and security concepts, doctrines and policies.

We reiterate the need for all nuclear-weapon States to take concrete, transparent, verifiable and irreversible steps to eliminate all types of nuclear weapons, regardless of their location, including non-deployed and non-strategic nuclear weapons, in order to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons. We

also repeat our concern, recognized by the Review Conference, regarding the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons, and the need to end the development of advanced new types of nuclear weapons.

The Coalition welcomes the transparency efforts made by some of the nuclear-weapon States, and the emphasis placed on this subject in the Final Document of the Review Conference. In this regard, we recall that the nuclear-weapon States at an NPT follow-up meeting of the five permanent members of the Security Council, held in Paris on 30 June 2011, expressed their determination to work together in pursuit of their shared goal of nuclear disarmament under article VI of the NPT, including engagement on the steps outlined in action 5 of the action plan, notably reporting and other efforts called for in the plan.

We hope that the nuclear-weapon States will soon agree on a standard reporting form, as encouraged by the Review Conference. We also look forward to hearing about the steps taken by the Secretary-General, who was invited to establish a publicly available repository for the information provided by the nuclear-weapon States.

We welcome the positive bilateral and regional developments that have occurred recently, such as the entry into force of the New START by the Russian Federation and the United States, while recalling the encouragement of the 2010 Review Conference to both States to continue discussions on follow-on measures in order to achieve deeper reductions in their nuclear arsenals, and the broadening of this process to involve other nuclear-weapon States as well.

Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones enhances global and regional peace and security, strengthens nuclear non-proliferation and contributes towards the goal of nuclear disarmament. The 2010 Review Conference, in its Final Document, encouraged the establishment of further nuclear-weapon-free zones, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among States of the regions concerned. This encouragement should be followed by concerted international efforts to create nuclear-weapon-free zones in areas where they do not currently exist, especially in the Middle East.

The New Agenda Coalition welcomes the agreement reached at the NPT Review Conference on a

process leading to full implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, and on practical steps to be taken in that regard. We call upon the Secretary-General and the sponsors of the 1995 resolution, in close consultation and cooperation with the States of the region, to urgently advance and finalize all necessary preparations for the convening of a conference in 2012, to be attended by all States of the Middle East, on the establishment of a Middle East Zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, as agreed to in the 2010 Review Conference Final Document, including the appointment of a facilitator and designation of a host Government, as a priority.

The Coalition underlines the continued importance of achieving universal adherence to the NPT, and urges the international community to strengthen its efforts in this regard.

We continue to call upon India, Israel and Pakistan to accede to the Treaty as non-nuclear-weapon States and to place their facilities under comprehensive safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

We urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to fulfil the commitments under the Six-Party Talks, including those in the September 2005 joint statement, to abandon completely and verifiably all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes, and to return, at an early date, to the Treaty and to adherence to its IAEA safeguards agreement.

The NAC reaffirms its opposition to any nuclear weapons test. We welcome Ghana and Guinea's recent ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and view positively the expressions of a number of States, including some annex 2 States, of their intention to pursue and complete the ratification process.

The Coalition encourages all States to work together to overcome obstacles within the international disarmament machinery, including in the Conference on Disarmament, that are inhibiting efforts to advance the cause of nuclear disarmament in a multilateral context.

This year the Coalition will again present a draft resolution. The draft resolution will look ahead to the next NPT review cycle and underscore the work that lies ahead to implement the 2010 NPT action plan. We

shall be happy to discuss the text of the draft resolution with any Member State wishing to do so. We hope that, in line with the broader international trends in the area of nuclear disarmament, the growth in support for our draft resolution which has been seen in recent years will be continued this year.

In conclusion, the New Agenda Coalition believes that the outcome of the NPT Review Conference in its action plan provides the basis for real momentum towards the realization of the Treaty's promise of the elimination of nuclear weapons. The NAC is committed to playing its part to ensure that this momentum is converted into real progress as we begin to prepare in earnest for the assessment exercises of 2014 and 2015 as outlined in the Review Conference action plan.

We remain convinced that determined and rapid preparation for a nuclear-weapon-free world must start now. It is imperative that all stakeholders take urgent steps to implement commitments made by them for the achievement of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Talbot (Guyana): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the 14 States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

Allow me to express to you, Sir, on behalf of my group, sincere congratulations on your election to the chairmanship of this Committee. I am confident that under your leadership, and with the support of the Bureau, to whose membership these words of congratulation also extend, the Committee's work will be successfully discharged.

CARICOM aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

We express our appreciation to Under-Secretary-General Sergio Duarte for his presentation this morning.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Bank report that our region has the highest crime rate in the world, and that small arms are used in the perpetration of more than 70 per cent of the murders committed. That dubious distinction is — in the words of the Honourable Baldwin Spencer, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, in his address to the General Assembly — most unwelcome. We have not asked for it, nor do we desire it.

CARICOM attaches the highest importance to efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate small arms and light weapons. In July this year CARICOM Heads of Government adopted a Declaration on Small Arms and Light Weapons, in which they committed themselves to, *inter alia*, implement all necessary actions at the national and regional levels to fully combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and their ammunition, and ensure full compliance with the Programme of Action.

An important element in curbing that trend is cross-border controls. Enhanced cooperation between States to strengthen our land, sea and air border controls is critical to preventing diversion of small arms and light weapons. The illicit use of those weapons does grievous harm to the human and economic development of our region.

The linkages between disarmament and development and between armed violence and development are well established and clearly visible in our region. Armed violence destroys the human, social and economic development of our societies, and necessitates increased government investment in security services, diverting funding away from the social sector.

It is for those reasons that CARICOM continues to actively participate in the preparatory meeting leading to the 2012 diplomatic conference on the arms trade treaty. We thank Ambassador García Moritán for his continued leadership of the process.

The three preparatory sessions that have been held to date have provided a sound basis for achieving an objective, strong and balanced treaty. The treaty should be legally binding, and should establish the strictest possible common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons and ammunition.

For CARICOM, and for the region in general, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and the armed violence that they engender, constitute a grave problem. The use of those weapons continues to be a major cause of conflict and of transnational organized crime. It constitutes a threat to the peace, security and development of the region.

In 2012 Member States will also convene on the occasion of the second five-year review of the

Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons. Despite its non-legally binding nature, the Programme of Action remains an important tool for combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. We look forward to the review of the implementation of the Programme of Action and the definition of ways and means to achieve its full implementation in the future.

We would be remiss if we did not take this opportunity to once again express our appreciation to Ambassador McLay of New Zealand and his team for the successful convening of the meeting of governmental experts on the Programme of Action held earlier this year. For CARICOM, the value of a true expert-led discussion was undeniable. We believe that that initial meeting provided a firm foundation for the convening of future Meetings of Governmental Experts.

The continued existence of nuclear weapons is a threat to all peoples everywhere. The total and complete elimination of all nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction should continue to be pursued as a matter of the utmost urgency and priority.

CARICOM acknowledges the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the only forum for the negotiation of legally binding instruments in the field of disarmament. During our previous session we adopted resolution 65/93, on the revitalization of the Conference on Disarmament, which was followed by an informal plenary debate.

Despite the positive statements and numerous requests for the Conference on Disarmament to begin substantive discussions on the programme of work adopted in 2004 as a matter of priority, no progress has been made. Our often-reiterated commitment to realizing a safe and peaceful international environment will never be realized as long as the current state of paralysis that defines the Conference on Disarmament persists. Solutions on the way forward must be found.

CARICOM reaffirms the importance of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty to the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation agenda. We also commend the convening of the seventh Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which was held in the margins of the high-level segment of the current session of the

General Assembly. In the past we have observed that such conferences have played a key role in facilitating the goal of universalization of the Treaty.

The CARICOM member States join others in urging those States that have not yet signed the Treaty to sign it and ratify it at the earliest possible date. Until its entry into force, we also urge States to adhere to the voluntary moratorium, and refrain from conducting nuclear test explosions.

CARICOM States view the entry into force of the New START Treaty in February this year as an important step forward in the reduction of the largest strategic nuclear weapons, and an important confidence-building measure between the countries possessing the world's largest nuclear-weapon stockpiles. We urge both parties to implement the Treaty in good faith.

CARICOM welcomed the organization of the high-level meeting on nuclear safety and security, involving Heads of State or Government, under the leadership of the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, in the margins of the General Assembly general debate. This, we believe, was an important follow-up to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety, held in June.

The accident that affected the Japanese nuclear power plant at Fukushima Daiichi remains fresh in the minds of us all. We continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Government and people of Japan as they work to recover from that immense tragedy. The events earlier this year in Japan and elsewhere reinforce the view that nuclear safety and security are issues of global concern, and emphasize the need for improved international safety standards and strengthened global emergency response. CARICOM expresses its support for the critical role of the IAEA in this respect.

As in previous years, CARICOM will not fail to draw attention to the transit of nuclear waste through our waters. Any accident taking place during such trans-shipment will have deadly consequences for the people, the environment and the economy of our region. Our group vehemently condemns the abuse of the waters of the Caribbean Sea for the transit of nuclear waste, and demands that the countries from which such products originate take immediate action to bring an end to this practice.

Once again, CARICOM welcomes the successful conclusion of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), in the course of which a five-year plan of action was adopted for nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy — the three pillars of the NPT. This represents an important step on the road towards the ultimate objective of the elimination of nuclear weapons. We appeal to all nuclear-weapon States to work for its full implementation. As we look ahead towards the 2015 NPT Review Conference, we must remain resolute in ensuring the implementation of the agreements reached in 2010.

CARICOM fully shares the concerns of the international community with regard to the threats posed by weapons of mass destruction finding themselves in the hands of non-State actors. That is why it is essential to intensify our efforts for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) by Member States.

CARICOM States are part of a nuclear-weapon-free zone, by virtue of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, signed in 1967. We consider the creation of such zones to be an important step for building mutual confidence and contributing to disarmament and non-proliferation throughout the world. CARICOM once again encourages similar initiatives for the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones. In that regard, we look forward to a successful outcome of the 2012 Conference to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

CARICOM firmly believes that, with the necessary political will, disarmament and international security are possible. We share the common vision of a world of peace and security, free from nuclear weapons. We appeal to all States to be courageous and to take steps that will represent positive contributions to effective disarmament.

Mrs. Morgan (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): First, Mr. Chair, allow me to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau on your election. You can count on the full support and cooperation of the delegation of Mexico for the successful outcome of our work.

We are currently experiencing a period of great contradictions in the area of international peace and security. The growing understanding worldwide of nuclear disarmament, exemplified by the successful

conclusion and entry into effect of the New START agreement, as well as the consensus reached at the most recent Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the progress made at the Nuclear Security Summit, which is to meet for a second occasion next year in Korea, has been reflected — and not in a minor way — in multilateral disarmament negotiations.

The total paralysis for the past three five-year periods in the Conference on Disarmament has been intolerable, as has been the inertia seen in the debates, often sterile, in the Disarmament Commission. Mexico therefore supports the Secretary-General's initiative to review the functioning of the disarmament machinery, with a view to revitalizing it.

In this debate, we should examine with real political will and awareness what serves the purposes of strengthening peace and security and what is contrary to those noble objectives. Mexico will actively support any initiative aimed at ensuring the immediate resumption of multilateral disarmament negotiations, including in alternative forums to the Conference on Disarmament, and will seek to correct whatever has made the Conference dysfunctional, such as the abuse of consensus, which has meant the exercise of the veto in the Conference. It is clear that the Conference on Disarmament is no longer meeting the needs for which it was created. This Main Committee of the General Assembly has a special responsibility in that regard, which it should not shirk for any reason.

Given the alarming increase of casualties caused by conventional weapons, both in internal conflicts and by organized crime, the international community must prevent the irresponsible trade in such arms and their diversion to the illegal market. In this regard, Mexico calls on all States to work constructively during the current session with the aim of agreeing on a legally binding instrument, the arms trade treaty, containing significant provisions on the transfer of conventional arms and setting limits for the market, with due respect for human rights and international humanitarian law.

In 2012, we shall also have the opportunity to make a comprehensive assessment of our achievements in combating the trafficking and production of small arms and light weapons, during the Review Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit

Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. Ten years after the Programme's adoption, Mexico considers it necessary to determine whether this tool has been effective and able to respond to the new threats that the illicit arms trade poses to the international community, in order to end this phenomenon.

The indiscriminate use of conventional weapons has been widely recognized as a threat to the rule of law and social peace. Therefore, Mexico will continue to promote in the framework of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, the standards enshrined in the Oslo Convention and will fight to ensure that the decisions of the high contracting parties honour the disarmament and humanitarian principles enshrined in that important instrument.

The reference point for our actions must remain a multidimensional approach that connects respect for human rights, security and development.

With regard to non-proliferation, Mexico shares the need for determined and effective concerted action to prevent access by non-State actors to weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. Mexico also agrees about the importance of establishing mechanisms to control dual-use materials capable of being used as components of weapons of mass destruction.

Therefore, as an elected member of the Security Council, and Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) in 2010, Mexico promoted concrete measures to strengthen coordination between States against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We did so in the conviction that disarmament and non-proliferation are two mutually reinforcing processes in our efforts to achieve a peaceful and secure world.

Mexico also reiterates its firm commitment to the total and complete elimination of nuclear weapons, which has been the international community's goal for decades. We reiterate the call for the nuclear Powers to move decisively in that direction and be accountable for such actions to the international community under the principles of transparency, verifiability and irreversibility, in accordance with article VI of the NPT.

We must continue working towards the universalization of the NPT. To that end, we urge India,

Israel and Pakistan to accede to it. We also call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to return to the Six-Party Talks and to rescind its announced withdrawal from the NPT. We call for transparency by Iran in the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes for the development and growth of the Iranian people.

Moreover, there continues to be an urgent need for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) to enter into force. A few days ago, at the seventh Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT, chaired by the Foreign Ministers of Mexico and Sweden, more than 55 delegations reiterated their call on the nuclear-weapon States that have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty to set an example so that the matter no longer remains on our agenda.

The First Committee faces complex issues and challenges, but we are convinced that it also has the opportunity to take action to resolve them, if we really want to measure up to the current unprecedented, but positive, conditions, in order to make progress with our disarmament obligations and help reduce threats to international peace and security. Let us improve the mechanisms and tools that work and scrap those that hold us back.

Finally, let me express my delegation's gratitude and support for the proposal to allow the participation of non-governmental organizations in the Committee's work. The participation of civil society representatives in the Committee was a fundamental objective of the Mexican chairmanship in 2004. The delegation of Mexico believes that our work would benefit from the contribution of non-governmental organizations, academics and others, and therefore welcome that initiative, which we hope will bear fruit.

Mrs. Aitimova (Kazakhstan): We congratulate you, Mr. Chair, on your stewardship of the Committee, and also the other members of the Bureau on their election. We assure you of our full engagement as you lead us through our complex agenda.

I take this opportunity, on behalf of my delegation, to congratulate the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament, Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, on his new office and appointment, and wish him all the best. I thank Mr. Sergio Duarte, the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, and his Office for their untiring efforts to support the work of the Committee and of Member States.

Kazakhstan, through the unilateral closure of the second-largest nuclear test site in the world, on 29 August 1991, has become the epicentre of peace, as described by President of the Republic Nursultan Nazarbayev. The visit of the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, to the former ground zero in Semipalatinsk last year, continues to spur him to urge the international community, with even greater conviction, to achieve complete nuclear disarmament.

Since we last met, the international community has witnessed several significant milestones in a committed political will to advance the momentum for disarmament and non-proliferation. There have also been various sobering events. The tragedy of the Fukushima Daiichi plant in February and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster compel us to better protect humankind, sustainable development and the planet from the effects of radiation.

While we near the 2012 Preparatory Committee for the upcoming Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) work must begin on several fronts right away in order to report on the achievement of expectations set for 2012 and 2015.

President Nursultan Nazarbayev, addressing the General Assembly last month, stated the need to universalize and strengthen the NPT and to increase international control by the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of compliance by all States with their non-proliferation obligations. He particularly mentioned that while some States are allowed to possess and upgrade their nuclear weapons others are forbidden to engage even in research and development, thus necessitating a review of the relevant provisions of international law.

In addition, my President believes that a universal declaration of a nuclear-weapon-free world would reaffirm the determination of all States to move step by step towards a convention against nuclear weapons. Kazakhstan offers its full and unequivocal support for such a convention, which was part of the Secretary-General's five-point proposal. Kazakhstan supports the call of the seventh Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held on 23 September.

My country cooperates with the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization to advance the functioning of the international monitoring system

through the contribution of its own five national cutting-edge 24-hour tracking stations as part of the global effort.

With the support of the Government of Norway, an international training centre has been set up for data experts from the Central Asian countries.

Kazakhstan commends the efforts of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General to revitalize the work of the Conference on Disarmament, and will cooperate fully to ensure that the work of the Conference brings concrete results on key issues, its methods and expansion of the membership to reflect growing global multilateral engagement.

It is imperative to get the Conference on Disarmament functioning again in order to start negotiations on the fissile material cut-off treaty as a pressing item on its agenda, together with the issue of observing the principle of peaceful activities in outer space. The latter is of importance, since Kazakhstan hosts the Baikonur Cosmodrome and is energetically engaged in national and multilateral space cooperation.

Kazakhstan, together with other Central Asian States constituting the nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region, plays a crucial role in preventing the uncontrolled proliferation of nuclear materials, thus combating nuclear terrorism.

Addressing the General Assembly on 21 September, my President called for the drafting of an international legally binding instrument on security assurances by nuclear Powers to non-nuclear-weapon States. In this respect, the NPT has not been effective, in his view.

I am pleased to inform the Committee that, as part of our concrete ongoing actions to secure regional stability, Kazakhstan hosted in Astana on 27 to 29 September the workshop on implementing Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) for 30 officials from the Central Asian region, supported by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Governments of the United States and Norway.

Kazakhstan fully endorses the long-standing proposal for a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Recent developments point to a window of opportunity that can act as a catalytic force. My country stands ready to work towards the attainment of the objectives of the 2012 Conference on the Middle East nuclear-weapon-free zone.

An effective measure to strengthen the non-proliferation regime could be the establishment of an international nuclear fuel bank under IAEA auspices. My country is ready to consider the possibility of locating it on our territory.

During its chairmanship of the OSCE last year, Kazakhstan worked towards the future of Euro-Atlantic and Euro-Asian security in keeping with international norms. The 2010 OSCE Summit in Astana further reinforced global and regional disarmament efforts. In 2011, with Kazakhstan as the Chair of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the same efforts will be pursued.

Kazakhstan is committed to ensuring that all critical issues are considered at the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, to be held in 2012, and that there is effective implementation of the Fourth Biennial Meeting at our regional level.

My country will make every effort to see that the 2012 Conference on the arms trade treaty can result in finalizing the bulletproof treaty that will prevent irresponsible arms transfers that fuel conflict, poverty and serious human rights abuses and that is in keeping with international humanitarian law.

President Nazarbayev has called for the establishment of a peacekeeping fund to which each State could contribute 1 per cent of its defence budget. The staggering amounts of money spent on the massive build-up of armaments and militarization around the world can be redirected to reaching the Millennium Development Goals for human well-being and sustainable development.

My President has also proposed establishing an international legal framework for the worldwide information space in order to enforce the global culture for cybersecurity so vital in contemporary society.

This year the Second International Day against Nuclear Tests, 29 August, was observed to help raise awareness globally about the perils of nuclear weapons and tests. This year also marks the twentieth anniversary of this historic step. My Government, to commemorate both events, is hosting the Astana forum for a nuclear-weapon-free world, with the attendance of eminent statesmen, dignitaries and experts.

I am also pleased to inform the Committee about the initiative of Kazakhstan and the EastWest Institute to begin the Nuclear Discussion Forum. It is a unique and active group, bringing together 30 very divergent member States — nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States, as well as those that are in and outside the NPT — and addressing common pressing issues.

To conclude, it is our hope that the work of the First Committee this year, reinforced by a strong multilateral political commitment, will assure a new era of cooperation and action for global peace, security and stability.

Mr. Amano (Japan): As the newly appointed Japanese Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament, I have the honour to deliver this statement to the First Committee.

I begin by expressing my congratulations to you, Ambassador Jarmo Viinanen of Finland, on your assumption of the chairmanship. I assure you of my delegation's full support.

Before I properly start this general statement, I wish on behalf of the Japanese people to express our sincere gratitude for the support that we have received from all over the world in the wake of the massive earthquake and tsunamis and the resulting accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power stations of the Tokyo Electric Power Company.

More than a year has elapsed since the successful conclusion of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which adopted a Final Document (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)) that included a comprehensive action plan covering all the pillars of the NPT. That agreement now serves as a focal point for the pursuit of international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Indeed, at last year's First Committee meetings there was a great deal of discussion on how to carry out the actions contained within the Final Document. To this end, Japan submitted a new draft resolution on nuclear disarmament entitled "United action towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons" (resolution 65/72), which focused on the steady implementation of the 2010 agreement. Our intention was that it would serve as a pace setter for nuclear disarmament activities. This year Japan, along with many co-sponsors, will once more table such a draft

resolution, with some updates, and we strongly hope that it will again receive overwhelming support.

I look now to the events since the last meetings of the First Committee. There have been some notable developments that should be highlighted.

In September, Japan and nine other like-minded countries decided to launch a cross-regional group that we have called the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI), which aims to build on the momentum generated out of the 2010 NPT Review Conference. A ministerial meeting was held in Berlin last April and another was held in New York last month.

At our meeting in Berlin, we formulated four concrete proposals for action on key elements of the NPT Review Conference action plan. In particular, we undertook, in accordance with action 21 of that plan, to develop a draft standard nuclear disarmament reporting form as a contribution to discussions among the nuclear-weapon States, which we shared with the five permanent members of the Security Council (P-5). As we underlined in our statement from our third ministerial meeting, we look forward to contributing further on nuclear disarmament transparency as part of our efforts to encourage progress on this issue.

There are also positive developments among the nuclear-weapon States. In February the Russian Federation and the United States brought into force the New START Treaty. Japan welcomes its ongoing implementation by Russia and the United States, and encourages them to continue discussions on follow-on measures.

We also welcome the first P-5 follow-up meeting to the NPT Review Conference, held in Paris, where the issues of transparency and mutual confidence, among other things, were discussed. Japan hopes that the P-5 will continue to engage, in an open and transparent manner, with the non-nuclear-weapon States in promoting the implementation of the NPT action plan.

Despite these positive developments, we should note with deep concern that the Conference on Disarmament failed to commence negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT) during its 2011 session in the face of the 2010 NPT Review Conference's call and last year's First Committee resolution. We understand the strong wish of many

Member States to start discussing a grand plan to abolish nuclear weapons. Japan, as the only country to have suffered from the atomic bomb, is strongly committed to the goal of a world without nuclear weapons, and we strongly share this wish. At the same time, however, we recognize that nuclear abolition cannot be realized overnight. It is for this reason that we continue to assert that the next logical step for nuclear disarmament is an FMCT.

At last year's High-level Meeting on Revitalizing the Work of the Conference on Disarmament and Taking Forward Multilateral Disarmament Negotiations, held here in New York, Japan said:

"If there is no emerging prospect of launching negotiations on an FMCT within the Conference on Disarmament, Japan, together with like-minded countries, is ready to take the initiative to provide a venue for the negotiations."

Currently, many countries are considering possible concrete steps to be taken in order to start negotiations. But in the search for a way forward we must not deceive ourselves by indulging in endless and futile debates or in false hopes. What we must consider is practical measures that will lead to negotiations and that can be agreed to by responsible stakeholders.

Another disturbing development is the continued development by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of nuclear and missile programmes, including its uranium enrichment programme, which is a violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions. Japan calls upon all States to fully implement the resolutions, while urging the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to comply with its international obligations, including to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner.

As regards the Iranian nuclear issue, it is indispensable for Iran to remove all the suspicions from the international community and to win its confidence. Japan will continue to act in concert with the international community for a peaceful and diplomatic settlement of the issue.

With regard to the Syrian nuclear issue, Japan strongly hopes that Syria will fully cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency and that the relevant facts will be clarified.

Let me also touch upon disarmament and non-proliferation education. Through education, the general public needs to be made well aware of the tragic consequences of the use of nuclear weapons and the significance of their disarmament and non-proliferation. During Disarmament Week, Japan will hold on 26 October a side event entitled “Testimony of *Hibakusha* (Atomic Bomb Survivors)” in cooperation with the Office for Disarmament Affairs. At the event, these special communicators for a world without nuclear weapons will send out messages to the world, which only those who had first-hand experience can convey.

The area of conventional weapons has been witnessing positive movements. Japan strongly welcomes this trend, and we are determined to engage fully and constructively in all related processes.

As one of the original sponsors of the draft resolution on an arms trade treaty (ATT), Japan has been an ardent supporter of the ATT process. Establishing a legally binding instrument on the highest possible common international standards for the transfer of conventional weapons is an urgent task. We are pleased with the progress made so far in the pre-negotiation stage. Japan urges all States to redouble their efforts in order to create a robust treaty at the United Nations Conference in June.

With respect to small arms and light weapons, the Review Conference on the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, to be held next year, will present a great opportunity to examine progress made in its implementation. Japan appreciates the early designation of Nigeria as the Chair of the Review Conference, and will work closely with the Chair and other Member States for a successful outcome.

During this session Japan, together with Colombia and South Africa, will submit a draft resolution on small arms, as we have done for many years. We call on all Member States to support the draft resolution, and hope that it will be adopted by consensus.

I turn now to the matter of biological weapons. In December, the Seventh Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) will be held in Geneva. At the previous BWC Review Conference, various actions to be taken by the States parties were

agreed to, and this year it is time to take stock of those efforts and examine the next steps. Japan will be working together with other States parties, including its partners Australia, Canada, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Norway and New Zealand, to contribute to the success of the Conference.

When we look at disarmament as a whole, we can observe that there has been some progress. However, the progress has been slow. There is still no prospect of the deadlock being broken in the Conference on Disarmament, which is said to be the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community. It is impossible for us to ignore those areas where progress is lacking. Now is the moment for us to seriously consider a way out. And Japan is ready to proactively contribute to the deliberations to that end.

Mrs. Viotti (Brazil): I congratulate you, Mr. Chair, on your election, and pledge Brazil’s full support for your chairmanship.

I also thank Ambassador Sergio Duarte for his opening remarks and for his important work as High Representative of the Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs.

The Fukushima incident last March has reminded us of the importance of reviewing nuclear safety conditions and promoting universal adherence to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) standards. Brazil had the honour to preside over the IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety last June, and strongly supported the Director General’s nuclear safety action plan, which was approved a few weeks ago.

On 22 September, President Dilma Rousseff, speaking at the opening of the high-level meeting on nuclear safety and security, gave an account of Brazil’s initiatives to conduct stress tests and review safety conditions in our nuclear power reactors, and made a call for a global endeavour to promote safety and security, which, in its broadest sense, comprises a renewed commitment to nuclear disarmament. Nuclear disarmament should indeed remain our highest priority. Nuclear weapons are the sole anthropogenic factor that can instantly destroy humanity and irreversibly change the face of the Earth.

Furthermore, nuclear weapons perpetuate an intrinsically unbalanced state of affairs. The

fundamental security interests of States that have renounced the nuclear weapons option remain jeopardized by the very existence of nuclear arsenals. More than 20 years after the end of the Cold War, rationales for possessing nuclear weapons have vanished. Yet many thousands of nuclear weapons remain in a state of readiness. Some timeline or political horizon for their elimination from national arsenals is imperative.

The conclusion and entry into force of the new bilateral treaty between the two major nuclear Powers was a welcome step. However, other developments — in particular the modernization of weapons systems and the reiteration of outdated concepts and doctrines of nuclear deterrence — continue to be a cause of concern. The unwillingness to forsake a “credible nuclear deterrent” is the main driver for further nuclear proliferation or possible access to nuclear weapons by non-State actors.

As long as some States believe that they need nuclear weapons for their own national security, other States or non-State actors may be tempted to resort to such weapons. Protracted action towards a nuclear-weapon-free world continues to be the main threat to a credible and self-sustaining non-proliferation regime and to world peace and security.

It is therefore imperative that nuclear-weapon States truly embrace all the nuclear-disarmament-related measures that they have been called upon to implement, pursuant to the action plans agreed at the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The meeting of the nuclear-weapon States held in Paris last July was a first step, but much more needs to be done, as we approach the next review cycle of the NPT. Concrete, meaningful results will have to be presented to the other States parties.

The New Agenda Coalition is once again submitting a draft resolution, entitled “Towards a nuclear-weapon-free-world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments” (A/C.1/66/L.31). Ensuring significant support this year for this proposal would send a strong political signal of genuine commitment to nuclear disarmament, and pave the way for a successful implementation of NPT article VI obligations in the coming years.

Brazil considers that the nuclear-weapon-free zones provide an invaluable instrument of transparency

and mutual trust and confidence. Today, the majority of Member States belong to nuclear-weapon-free zones, covering the entire southern hemisphere and adjacent areas, as well as Central Asia, the first zone in the northern hemisphere.

Latin America and the Caribbean have an impeccable track record of confidence-building measures and instruments that have helped defuse conflict and tensions. The pioneer Treaty of Tlatelolco testifies to our region’s commitment to peace and security and the development of nuclear energy exclusively for peaceful purposes.

Another singular example of a successful regional approach is the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC), whose twentieth anniversary we celebrate this year. As the Brazilian Minister of External Relations, Antonio Patriota, has stated, the twentieth anniversary of ABACC

“invites a reflection on the example of Brazil and Argentina as a source of inspiration for other regions of the world, such as the Middle East, the Korean peninsula and South Asia”.

Brazil is confident that the Forum to be convened by the IAEA Director General in November, as well as the 2012 conference on the Middle East, will provide unique opportunities for a thorough discussion on the various issues involved in the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Brazil stands ready to share its successful experiences.

The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) has been a success story. As we approach the deadline for the final destruction of chemical-weapon stockpiles, however, States parties will have important decisions to make, in order to ensure the credibility of the CWC regime and to avoid precedents that could have a negative impact on efforts in other areas.

The Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) this coming November will face many uncertainties as to the Convention’s future. Brazil believes that the resumption of negotiations on a protocol to strengthen the BWC deserves serious consideration, while interim alternatives or steps are contemplated with a view to promoting greater confidence among States parties.

Conventional arms may not threaten the survival of humanity, but their widespread and irresponsible use

continues to take a heavy humanitarian toll. Brazil has been an active participant in United Nations efforts related to transparency in armaments, confidence-building and instruments envisaging the reconciliation of humanitarian law and legitimate defence needs, in particular the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and its five protocols.

Progress on banning anti-personnel landmines under the Ottawa Convention has been constant and meaningful. Yet much remains to be done in terms of demining, destruction of stocks and the universalization of this important instrument, since key States possessing landmines still remain outside the framework of the Convention.

A similar ban on cluster munitions, one that does not allow for exceptions in terms of certain sophisticated devices in the hands of a few developed countries, has not been attained. Brazil has always been supportive of dealing with cluster munitions in the context of the CCW. We are encouraged by progress towards the conclusion of a sixth protocol to the Convention at the upcoming Review Conference in November.

We must persevere in our efforts to implement the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons. The illicit trafficking of these weapons, which fuel conflict and instability in some regions, should remain the focus of our efforts.

In the same vein, we support ongoing deliberations on an arms trade treaty (ATT) to address unregulated trade and illicit trafficking in conventional weapons. We look forward to the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee and the 2012 Conference itself, hoping that remaining gaps can be bridged and that consensus can be reached on an ATT that is objective, universal, effective and non-discriminatory.

The world we live in increasingly depends on outer space activities, which are essential in today's world. There is, however, a clear need for preventive disarmament. Negotiations on a legally binding instrument preventing the placement of any weapon systems in outer space should be an integral part of the Conference on Disarmament's programme of work, once it is attainable, in conjunction with nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation endeavours.

The initiative of the Secretary-General in convening the High-level Meeting on Revitalizing the

Work of the Conference on Disarmament and Taking Forward Multilateral Disarmament Negotiations corresponds to a widespread desire to resume substantive work at the Conference, as the single multilateral forum for disarmament negotiations. Pointing fingers and trying to identify individual responsibilities for the long-standing impasse at the Conference are to no avail. In fact, there are different countries opposing different agenda items — not only the fissile material cut-off treaty, but also outer space, nuclear disarmament and negative security assurances.

If we are to reform the Conference on Disarmament, it must be part of an overall undertaking to review the United Nations disarmament machinery, to which end a fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament would be most helpful. At the core of the question is the lack of political will with regard to the elimination of nuclear weapons. A number of instruments are conducive to that goal — for example, the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), whose entry into force still depends on ratification by some key countries.

Getting the Conference on Disarmament back to work means addressing the root causes of inaction. The difficulties that confront the Conference stem neither from its rules of procedure, nor from its consensus rule. In the past, those same rules did not prevent us from agreeing to launch negotiations, even when certain substantive differences remained. We must spare no effort in the quest for a solution to the current stalemate. At the same time, we should be careful not to rush into easy solutions that may have unexpected and undesired negative consequences for the very structure on which multilateral disarmament lies.

Mr. Le Hoai Trung (Viet Nam): Let me begin by congratulating you, Mr. Chair, and the other members of the Bureau on your election to the leadership of this important Committee at the sixty-sixth session. I am confident that under your wise guidance, Sir, and with the collective efforts of all Bureau members, the Committee will arrive at a positive outcome.

My delegation fully associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), as well as the statement to be made by the representative of Myanmar on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Having undergone two devastating world wars, with enormous losses and suffering, humankind has earnestly desired to live in peace and security in order to build a prosperous world. The tireless efforts of peoples all over the world, including particularly those efforts that led to the establishment of the United Nations, constitute the bedrock of the maintenance of international peace and security. In this connection, disarmament is a vital means to effectively protect humankind from the scourge of wars and conflicts, especially from the danger of a nuclear war.

Over the past years, various bilateral and multilateral plans have been designed, calling for actions to reduce nuclear dangers. In fact, there is an encouraging sign for a nuclear-weapon-free world. However, over time, the threats posed by nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction continue to manifest themselves. In addition, serious difficulties remain in reaching consensus on the core issues of the disarmament and non-proliferation negotiating agenda. This is even more worrisome when we take into account the danger of these weapons illegally falling into the hands of terrorists.

For these challenges to be met, all Member States must pursue good-faith intensified multilateral negotiations, as agreed by consensus in the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. Furthermore, the international community must redouble efforts to promote the cause of disarmament towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

Motivated by its foreign policy of peace, security, stability and development, Viet Nam has consistently supported all initiatives and efforts aimed at consolidating the international instruments of disarmament and arms control, thus contributing to international and regional peace and security.

Due to the time constraint, my delegation would like only to touch upon the following points.

First, Viet Nam unswervingly supports and promotes comprehensive and complete disarmament, with top priority given to nuclear weapons and other types of weapons of mass destruction. In that spirit, we have been a party to all major international instruments for the disarmament of weapons of mass destruction, including the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of

Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention.

We have also been fulfilling our obligations under all relevant United Nations mechanisms, especially those set up by the Security Council, while continuing to be fully alert to issues related to nuclear security and safety.

Secondly, Viet Nam values the role of the NPT as the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime. The Treaty's full implementation in a balanced manner would safeguard the world from potential devastation by nuclear weapons. In this regard, we urge the nuclear-weapon States to undertake the implementation of the 64 sets of concrete action contained in the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference. We call for efforts aimed at non-proliferation to be made in tandem with disarmament efforts.

Thirdly, Viet Nam fully recognizes the major role played by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and its safeguards in enhancing the verification system for non-proliferation. We share the view that the Agency's assistance to non-nuclear-weapon States in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy represents an important obligation under the NPT. As a key instrument in this field, the NPT confirms the legitimate right of countries to access, without discrimination, to research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Fourthly, as underlined by our Foreign Minister in his statement at the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT on 23 September 2011, the CTBT, once brought into force, would significantly strengthen our existing mechanisms in striving for a nuclear-weapon-free world. We are happy to note that there is a steady increase in the number of the Treaty's signatory and ratifying States.

To enable the CTBT to enter into force without any further delay, we are convinced, the nuclear-weapon States should take a leading role in global peace and security. Their ratifications would pave the way and further encourage the remaining countries to follow suit. Meanwhile, pending the Treaty's entry into force, all States should maintain a moratorium on nuclear-weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions, and refrain from acts that would undermine the objectives and purposes of the Treaty.

Last but not least, we take this opportunity to reaffirm our strong support for the convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, in order to review the implementation of the first special session, with the full participation of Member States.

We join other delegations in urging the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission to renew efforts to overcome the deadlock and resume their substantive work as soon as possible.

We firmly believe that nuclear-weapon-free zones can make significant contributions not only to achieving regional and international security, but also to strengthening the process of total nuclear disarmament. Therefore, Viet Nam is committed to continuing its strenuous efforts with other ASEAN members to promote the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) and encouraging the nuclear-weapon States to accede to the SEANWFZ protocol as soon as possible.

To conclude, I express my delegation's strong conviction that, with the cooperation of all delegations, the First Committee at this session will manage to formulate concrete and practical measures to promote disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation, thus making a real and long-awaited contribution to the maintenance of world peace and security.

Mr. Kamau (Kenya): I join previous speakers in congratulating you, Mr. Chair, on your election to steer the Committee's work at the current session. I also congratulate the other members of the Bureau. I assure you of my delegation's cooperation.

Kenya associates itself with the statements made by Nigeria on behalf of the African Group and by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

My delegation believes that security, stability and sustainable peace are possible only through deliberate and targeted investment in the human person, rather than reliance on sophisticated armaments. Investment in the development of the human being is the only sure path to meaningful disarmament and security.

No nation can enjoy peace and security unless they are guaranteed to all other nations. We must therefore collectively address the root causes of strife and despair, poverty, hunger, marginalization and denial of basic human rights.

Kenya believes that multilateral negotiations and agreements are the only viable path to meaningful disarmament and security. We acknowledge the crucial role that the First Committee plays in addressing important disarmament issues. The Committee's relevance can only be underlined by the collective, constructive action of its membership. Let us all therefore rise to the occasion and use this important organ of the disarmament machinery to advance the cause of arms control and disarmament.

Kenya remains committed to the goals of a nuclear-weapon-free world. We continue to advocate the belief that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only sure guarantee that such weapons will pose no threat to humanity.

The adoption of the Final Document (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)) of the 2010 Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was a great success. However, it will not be worth the paper it is written on if Member States do not demonstrate genuine political will to commit to early realization of a world free from nuclear weapons. We urge all States, especially the nuclear-weapon States, to work harder to meet their obligations under the NPT.

Kenya reiterates its unwavering support for the universalization and early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). We call upon those States that have not yet signed or ratified the CTBT to do so as a matter of urgency. We especially call upon the States in annex 2 of the CTBT, whose ratifications are crucial for the Treaty's entry into force, to ratify as soon as possible.

The negative effects of nuclear testing far outweigh military imperatives. It is politically immoral to pursue nuclear strategies that result in health hazards and environmental damage that will last for generations to come. The unilateral moratoriums observed by nuclear-weapon States are not in themselves a panacea; what is required is the early entry into force of the CTBT.

The multilateral disarmament machinery offers us the best avenue to pursue disarmament negotiations. The serious security challenges that face humanity require effective multilateral arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation instruments. Sadly, the persistent lack of movement has weakened the

disarmament machinery, to the detriment of our collective security.

It is disappointing that for more than a decade the Conference on Disarmament has continually frustrated the expectations of the international community. The Conference has failed to fulfil its mandate; it has been unable to unlock its potential. Kenya finds the stalemate in the Conference on Disarmament unacceptable. We see an urgent need to revitalize its work and to take forward multilateral disarmament negotiations. In this regard, we are highly appreciative of the Secretary-General's initiatives in support of such efforts.

The follow-up to the High-level Meeting on Revitalizing the Work of the Conference on Disarmament and Taking Forward Multilateral Disarmament Negotiations, held on 27 July, highlighted the causes of the stalemate in the Conference. But above all, the meeting made it clear that the international community is keen to move beyond mere rhetoric to concrete action.

The situation is no better at the Disarmament Commission. It is evident to all of us that the Commission has been comatose for over a decade, leading to some questioning whether it is fit for purpose and whether it is making any credible contributions to disarmament. The Commission's problems in consensus-building date from the Cold War era. Today the reality is very different.

The proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons continues to be a matter of great concern to Kenya and indeed the rest of the African continent. It is imperative that States implement the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, at both the national and regional levels, as the problem of small arms and light weapons is often a cross-border one.

In this regard, in the East and Central African region the Regional Centre on Small Arms has continued to coordinate and assist Member States to address the effective control of arms transfers within and outside the region. Needless to say, the contribution of subregional instruments on small arms and light weapons is crucial to the implementation of the Programme of Action.

Kenya has consistently supported the establishment of an arms trade treaty (ATT) to regulate the trade in arms. We welcome the progress towards achieving a legally binding treaty governing the transfer of conventional weapons. We note the considerable progress made in the three Preparatory Committees, ably steered by Ambassador García Moritán, and we look forward to constructive engagement in the fourth and last Preparatory Committee in February 2012 as we move towards the Conference in July 2012.

Kenya is a signatory to the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Ottawa Convention, because we are convinced that it is crucial to support both Treaties, which seek to make our world safer and more humane. The Conventions prove that, with determination and political will, it is possible to come up with new international humanitarian law and disarmament instruments that ultimately aim to avoid unnecessary deaths and human suffering.

Finally, Kenya urges all delegations to seize this opportunity to make real and substantive progress in multilateral disarmament. There is a need for concerted and robust follow-up. It is therefore of the utmost importance that the momentum built thus far does not wane. Dialogue and engagement on all disarmament fronts must continue at full speed. My delegation will work closely with other delegations to that end.

The Chair: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to speak in exercise of the right of reply. remind the Committee that there is a maximum of 10 minutes for statements made in exercise of the right of reply.

Mr. Ri Tong Il (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): First, Sir, I wish to say that we appreciate your excellent guidance of all the participants in the Committee.

The representative of Japan referred to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, concerning the development of nuclear weapons, missiles and enrichment. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea categorically and totally rejects that reference as being misleading with regard to the fundamental reality on the Korean peninsula. I recommend the representative of Japan to make an in-depth study of that fundamental reality and Japan's own position.

Japan's present position is as follows. The Japanese Government officially articulates three non-nuclear principles. That is what it says, but it is not what it is doing. First, Japan is under the nuclear umbrella of the world's largest nuclear-weapon State. Secondly, Japan is conducting large-scale nuclear war exercises on a monthly basis. There is no discriminatory involvement. Different kinds of all the most sophisticated weapons are involved — all targeted against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

With regard to missiles, the Japanese Government does not hesitate to involve itself in the joint study of missile defence, which is causing growing concern for the Asia-Pacific region's peace and security.

On this occasion, I would draw the attention of those present to the question of the nuclear deal made secretly in 1960 between the Japanese Government and the Government of the largest nuclear-weapon State. Under that nuclear deal, the Japanese Government allowed the United States, the largest nuclear-weapon State, to bring any means of delivery of nuclear weapons into Japanese territory. That is the reality today.

Concerning plutonium enrichment technology, the Japanese Government has all the expertise, and it has over 40 tons of plutonium; it is the largest plutonium producer in the world. And it has the expertise, so at short notice it is ready to make nuclear bombs.

I turn to the position of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with regard to the Six-Party Talks. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea strongly pressed ahead. It was one of the initiators of the Six-Party Talks. We produced a very effective road map — the 19 September joint statement — stating not only the rights and obligations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea but also the obligations of the other parties, especially the key player, the largest nuclear-weapon State. These are the two key players in the Six-Party Talks.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea came to possess nuclear weapons because of the nuclear threat existing on the Korean peninsula since 1957, with the deployment of the first nuclear weapon of the largest nuclear-weapon State.

Concerning the Six-Party Talks, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is ready — and it continues to speak out as the talks are going on at present — for their resumption on an unconditional basis. It is not the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that is setting the conditions; it is the other party.

Therefore, I kindly recommend the Japanese representative to speak the truth in this meeting.

The Chair: I remind delegations that the rolling list of speakers for the general debate will close tomorrow, Tuesday, 4 October, at 6 p.m. All delegations interested in taking the floor should make every effort to put their names on the list before that deadline.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.