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General and complete disarmament

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

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

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

* [A/75/50](#).



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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution [74/54](#) on the follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, the General Assembly:

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

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

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

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

2. Pursuant to that request, a note verbale was sent to Member States on 29 January 2020 inviting them to provide information on the subject. A revised note verbale was sent to Member States on 4 May 2020 extending the deadline for submission of reports until 31 May 2020. The replies received are contained in section II below. Any views received after the deadline will be posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs in the original language of submission. No addenda will be issued.

II. Replies received from Governments

China

[Original: Chinese]
[30 April 2020]

In accordance with General Assembly resolution [74/54](#) entitled “Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament”, the Chinese government is hereby providing its views on nuclear disarmament issues as follows:

1. It serves the common interest and well-being of all humankind to be free of the threat of nuclear war, to eventually achieve the complete prohibition and total destruction of nuclear weapons, and to realize a world free of nuclear weapons.

2. The international community should, with a sense of historical responsibility to build a community with a shared future for humankind through mutual consultations and joint efforts, develop a new type of international relations featuring fairness and justice and win-win cooperation, uphold a common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security concept, fully respect the legitimate and reasonable security concerns of all countries, peacefully settle international disputes, make efforts to create a peaceful and stable international security environment, and create the necessary conditions for progress in nuclear disarmament.

3. All countries should advocate for multilateralism, oppose and abandon the cold war mentality, maintain and promote the authority, universality and effectiveness of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and balance the three pillars of that Treaty, i.e., nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and the peaceful use of nuclear energy; persistently give full play to the role of existing multilateral mechanisms such as the Geneva Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission; and provide legal support and institutional guarantees for advancing international arms control and disarmament processes, in particular the nuclear disarmament process.
4. Nuclear-weapon states should truly shoulder their own responsibilities, earnestly fulfil their obligations under article 6 of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, abide by the consensus outcomes of previous Treaty review conferences and be openly committed to not seeking to possess nuclear weapons forever.
5. Nuclear disarmament should follow the principles of maintaining global strategic stability and undiminished security for all, and advance step by step. Countries possessing the largest nuclear arsenals bear special and primary responsibility for nuclear disarmament. They should maintain and effectively abide by the existing nuclear weapons reduction treaties. On that basis, measures should be taken to make further drastic and substantive reductions in their nuclear arsenals in a verifiable, irreversible and legally binding manner, thus creating the conditions necessary for the eventual realization of general and complete nuclear disarmament.
6. The international community should pay attention to other strategic issues that affect nuclear disarmament. Relevant countries should abandon the development or deployment of missile defence systems that undermine global and regional strategic stability, prevent the weaponization of outer space and arms races in outer space, take preventive arms control measures, prevent high-tech arms races from aggravating international strategic imbalances, and maintain global strategic security and stability.
7. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is an important step in the nuclear disarmament process, and support for that Treaty should be increased. Before the Treaty enters into force, nuclear-weapon States should continue to abide by their commitment to the moratorium on nuclear testing. The Conference on Disarmament is the only appropriate venue for negotiating a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, and the Conference should be supported in commencing treaty negotiations that involve all parties as soon as possible, on the basis of reaching a comprehensive and balanced workplan in line with the Shannon Report and the mandate contained therein.
8. A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought. There is no final winner in a nuclear war, and it will only bring a colossal disaster to humankind. Nuclear-weapon States should take measures to reduce nuclear risks:
 - (a) They should strengthen strategic mutual trust, treat each other's strategic intentions objectively, respect each other's security concerns, strengthen dialogue on nuclear strategy and nuclear policy, avoid exaggerating great-Power competition, and prevent accidents and crises caused by misjudgement;
 - (b) They should reduce the role of nuclear weapons in national security policies, abandon the nuclear deterrence policy based on the first use of nuclear weapons, promise not to use nuclear weapons first at any time or under any circumstances, and negotiate and conclude international legal instruments in that regard;
 - (c) They should refrain, clearly and unconditionally, from using or threatening to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States and nuclear-weapon-free

zones, and negotiate and conclude international legal instruments in that regard as soon as possible;

(d) They should continue to support the efforts of non-nuclear-weapon States to establish nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of their own consultations and voluntary agreements in the light of the actual situation in their regions;

(e) They should abide by the promise not to aim nuclear weapons at any country, and not to list any country as a target for nuclear strikes;

(f) They should abolish the nuclear umbrella and nuclear sharing policies and practices, and withdraw all nuclear weapons deployed abroad to their own countries;

(g) They should take all necessary measures to avoid an accidental or unauthorized launch of nuclear weapons;

9. In recent years, the United States of America has increased the role of nuclear weapons in its national security strategies, lowered the threshold for the use of nuclear weapons and developed new types of low-yield nuclear weapons. The United States has adopted a negative attitude towards nuclear arms control and withdrawn from the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles. It has been slow to respond to the appeal of the Russian Federation to extend the Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms. At the same time, it has promoted the Creating an Environment for Nuclear Disarmament initiative in order to shirk its responsibility for nuclear disarmament, posing serious challenges to the international nuclear disarmament process.

10. As a nuclear-weapon State, China earnestly fulfils its nuclear disarmament obligations, abides by the consensus outcomes of previous Non-Proliferation Treaty review conferences and has made important contributions to promoting the international nuclear disarmament process with real actions:

(a) China sticks to the path of peaceful development, always adheres to the nuclear strategy of self-defence, and always pursues an open, transparent and responsible nuclear policy;

(b) China has never deployed nuclear weapons abroad; it has not participated and will never participate in any form of nuclear arms race, and will always maintain its nuclear forces at the minimum level necessary for national security;

(c) China promises not to use nuclear weapons first at any time and under any circumstances, and promises unconditionally not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States and nuclear-weapon-free zones, showing the most substantive and effective transparency, which has always been China's consistent commitment;

(d) China supports the efforts of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South-East Asia. China has worked with ASEAN to resolve all remaining issues surrounding the Protocol to the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone, supports its early entry into force and actively assists ASEAN countries and the other four nuclear-weapon States in solving their differences on the issue of reservations. China supports the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, fully understands the legitimate concerns of Arab countries in that regard, and, in 2019, participated in the first meeting of the Middle East zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction;

(e) China supports the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty as soon as possible, abides by the moratorium on testing and is steadily advancing preparations for domestic compliance. Progress has been made with the construction of a nuclear test ban monitoring station within China, reflecting China's firm support for the Treaty;

(f) China supports the Conference on Disarmament in commencing, on the basis of reaching a comprehensive and balanced workplan, the negotiations for the treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices as soon as possible, in line with the Shannon Report and the mandate contained therein, and supports the establishment of a subsidiary body to the Conference on Disarmament to continue relevant discussions;

(g) China supports all parties in conducting a candid, pragmatic and meaningful dialogue on issues such as the international security environment, global strategic stability and the reduction of nuclear risks within the framework of existing mechanisms. In that regard, China believes that the five-nuclear-weapon-States mechanism is irreplaceable. China has actively promoted the process of cooperation among the five nuclear-weapon States. In January 2019, it successfully held the annual meeting of the five nuclear-weapon States in Beijing, at which in-depth exchanges were conducted on issues such as nuclear policy and strategy, nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, and reached consensus on a series of important questions, laying a strong foundation for deepening the cooperation among the five nuclear-weapon States to jointly maintain world peace and stability going forward;

(h) China values the constructive dialogue with non-nuclear-weapon States, fully understands the good aspirations and wishes of non-nuclear-weapon States to accelerate nuclear disarmament, and is willing to maintain communication and engagement with non-nuclear-weapon States on maintaining and strengthening existing disarmament mechanisms and gradually achieving the ultimate goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]

[14 May 2020]

Cuba considers that nuclear disarmament remains the highest priority in the field of disarmament. The total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only way to ensure that humanity will never again suffer their terrible impact and is therefore a legitimate aspiration for all.

Cuba is situated in the first densely populated area of the world to be declared a nuclear-weapon-free zone, under the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco). It is committed to the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace and is honoured to have been the fifth State to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, on 30 January 2018, which shows the importance that we attach to the objective of nuclear disarmament.

We welcome the events that have been held internationally to promote a world free of nuclear weapons. On 26 September each year, we support and/or participate in activities to commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, established at the initiative of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries following the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament. It is traditional for the head of the Cuban delegation to make a statement each year during the general debate of the General Assembly at the high-level meeting

commemorating that Day. On 26 September 2018, President Miguel Díaz Canel Bermúdez reaffirmed our commitment to multilateralism and nuclear disarmament.

We call on the United Nations system, Governments, parliaments and civil society to take additional steps each year to commemorate that Day and to mobilize international action to achieve nuclear disarmament.

The Government of Cuba promotes educational and awareness-raising activities, forums for debate and special conferences involving students and academia; and supports the preparation and development of United Nations table-top exercises in Cuban universities, which include model sessions of the General Assembly, including on nuclear disarmament.

Civil society organizations in Cuba also contribute to the celebration and promotion of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons by carrying out visual exhibitions and discussion panels on the threat that nuclear weapons pose to humanity, as well as through other activities, such as the study and popularization of the ideas of the Commander-in-Chief of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro Ruz, a tireless fighter for nuclear disarmament. Young people are encouraged to take part in all the events. The actions of the Cuban United Nations Association, the Committee of Cuban Doctors Against Nuclear Weapons and the National Union of Jurists of Cuba stand out in this regard.

As part of the common endeavour to eliminate nuclear weapons, the full implementation of General Assembly resolutions [68/32](#), [69/58](#), [70/34](#), [71/71](#), [72/251](#), [73/40](#) and [74/54](#) on the follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting is also of great importance, given an international context featuring the development of new nuclear weapons systems and the modernization of existing forces and arsenals; the increasing role of these weapons in the military defence and security doctrines of the United States of America, which holds the largest nuclear arsenal; the increase in its military expenditure; and threats of military intervention and disregard for international commitments in the field of disarmament and arms control that undermine international peace and security and erode the disarmament machinery of the United Nations.

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

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

Ecuador

[Original: Spanish]
[31 May 2020]

The Constitution of Ecuador, within the framework of international relations, promotes peace and universal disarmament, and condemns the development and use of weapons of mass destruction. It also prohibits the development, production, stockpiling, import, transport, transfer and use of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons, as well as the release of nuclear residues and toxic waste into the national territory.

Ecuador, in addition to being part of the nuclear-weapon-free zone established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), has ratified all of the main international instruments

related to non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, notably the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and the additional protocols on safeguards and cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The approval of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons has made it clear that these weapons are contrary to international law, as its provisions include procedures to enable nuclear-weapon States to eliminate those weapons, not only before their accession to the Treaty, but even after it.

Until the total elimination of such weapons is achieved, nuclear-weapon States must in all circumstances refrain from the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against any non-nuclear-weapon State. Such assurances must be accompanied by the conclusion of a universal, legally binding instrument on effective, unconditional, non-discriminatory and irrevocable security assurances to be provided by nuclear-weapon States to all non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of such weapons.

It is a matter of particular concern that the nuclear Powers have undertaken to modernize their nuclear weapons, delivery systems and platforms and that they have not reduced the role of nuclear weapons in their military doctrines, in violation of the spirit and the letter of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Ecuador considers it regrettable that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has not yet entered into force owing to a reluctance to ratify it on the part of countries listed in annex II of the Treaty.

Ecuador supports the celebration of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September each year and all forums that help to promote the elimination of these weapons.

The current context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic demonstrates the fragility of humankind and serves as an urgent reminder of the need to protect humanity.

India

[Original: English]
[28 May 2020]

India supported General Assembly resolution [74/54](#) submitted by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, in which the Assembly called for the urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on effective nuclear disarmament measures to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons, including, in particular, on a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons.

India is a responsible nuclear-weapon State. India is committed to its credible minimum deterrence policy and a posture of non-first use of nuclear weapons and non-use against non-nuclear weapons States. India remains committed to the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world through nuclear disarmament, which can be achieved through a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework that is global, verifiable and non-discriminatory.

India attaches high importance to the Conference on Disarmament as the world's single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, as set out in the final document of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and reaffirmed by the General Assembly, most recently in its resolution [74/74](#), and has consistently

supported the commencement of negotiations on nuclear disarmament in the Conference.

In its working paper on nuclear disarmament submitted to the Conference on Disarmament in 2007 (CD/1816), India called for reaffirmation of the unequivocal commitment of all nuclear-weapon States to the goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons as the first concrete step towards achieving the goal of nuclear disarmament; reduction of the salience of nuclear weapons in the security doctrines; measures by nuclear-weapon States to reduce nuclear danger; negotiation of a global agreement among nuclear weapon States on non-first use of nuclear-weapons; negotiation of a universal and legally binding agreement on non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon States; negotiation of a convention on the complete prohibition of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons; and negotiation of a nuclear weapons convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and on their destruction, leading to the global, non-discriminatory and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified timeframe.

In the resolution entitled “Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons”, tabled annually by India since 1982, the Assembly calls for the negotiation of a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons, in the Conference on Disarmament. In the resolution on reducing nuclear danger, tabled annually by India since 1998, the Assembly calls for a review of nuclear doctrines, and, in that context, for immediate and urgent steps to reduce the risk of unintentional and accidental use of nuclear weapons. India has also been tabling annually resolutions on measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and on the role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament at the General Assembly.

India supported resolution 74/54, submitted by the Non-Aligned Movement, in which the General Assembly called for the urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on effective nuclear disarmament measures to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons, including, in particular, on a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons. India also joins the statements made in the Conference on Disarmament on behalf of the Group of 21 calling for the urgent commencement of negotiations on nuclear disarmament in the Conference, in particular on a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, and use or threat of use, and to provide for their destruction, and hopes that such negotiations can commence at an early date.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[27 May 2020]

Mexico is firmly committed to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, as it is aware of the devastating short-, medium- and long-term effects that an intentional or accidental nuclear detonation could have at the regional and global levels. For Mexico, striving for nuclear disarmament means defending and strengthening the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Mexico recognizes the importance of the 2013 high-level meeting as an event that demonstrated the legitimate desire of a vast majority of States for the United Nations to address, without further delay, the elimination of nuclear weapons, a topic that has remained relevant since the first resolution of the General Assembly in 1946.

However, Mexico is concerned by the current situation. The existence of nuclear weapons increases tensions throughout the world, sows distrust and hinders cooperation among States. Unfortunately, the modest reductions in nuclear weapons achieved so far have been offset by the continued modernization and upgrading of nuclear arsenals. Technological development is leading us into a new arms race.

Nuclear-weapon States are not complying with the commitment that they made under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and that was renewed at the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences. It is worrying that, at the 2015 Review Conference, agreement could not be reached on a final document based on the final document that had been agreed by consensus in 2010. In this context, Mexico considers that no effort should be spared to ensure that the 2021 Review Conference does not suffer the same fate.

Although at the 2013 high-level meeting and in subsequent General Assembly resolutions, reference has been made to the continuing importance and relevance of the multilateral disarmament mechanism mandated by the General Assembly at its first special session devoted to disarmament, there is no doubt that after more than two decades of paralysis, the Conference on Disarmament is in crisis. Unfortunately, the same trend can be observed in the Disarmament Commission. While the paralysis is understood to stem from the lack of real political will among various countries to achieve the elimination of nuclear weapons, it also brings to mind the need to update the existing disarmament machinery to confront new international realities and the possibility of holding a fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to the topic.

We agree with the message delivered by the Secretary-General to the Conference on Disarmament at the beginning of its 2020 session on the need for a new vision of disarmament and a new consensus on how to collectively improve the international security situation.

Mexico welcomes the increase in the number of States that have signed and/or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The negotiation and adoption of that Treaty is consistent with the obligation set out in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and contributes to its implementation. Mexico believes that once the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons enters into force, it will complement and strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime, with a view to achieving and maintaining a world free of nuclear weapons.

Since the end of the period covered in the previous report, Mexico has strived, through diplomacy, to continue calling on those countries which have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in order to achieve its early entry into force. Mexico will also continue to participate actively and vigorously in the forums in which the nuclear disarmament agenda is considered in order to promote initiatives that contribute to the achievement and maintenance of a world free of nuclear weapons.

In 2019, Mexico participated at the ministerial level in the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to promote and commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, whose aim was to raise international awareness of the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons and the necessity for their total elimination, in order to mobilize international efforts towards achieving the common goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world. On that occasion, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mexico emphasized that nuclear weapons pose a global threat, that a detonation would not respect borders or discriminate on the basis of nations' level of development, and that the continued existence of this weaponry is therefore a serious concern because as long as nuclear weapons continue to exist there is no way

that any Government can guarantee the security of its population. Mexico therefore advocated the total eradication of nuclear weapons as the only way to avoid the risk of detonation and, to that end, affirmed that the international community must protect, strengthen and complement the existing nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime.

In 2019, Mexico also took part in the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, where it reiterated the call for the Treaty to enter into force as soon as possible, to ensure the consolidation of an international inspection regime against nuclear testing.

Mexico regrets that it has not yet been possible to hold the high-level conference on nuclear disarmament to review the progress made, as mandated by General Assembly resolution 74/54. It is important, as a priority, to maintain the issue of nuclear disarmament on the political agenda of the General Assembly, as well as to continue to build multilateral consensus on the need to eliminate existing nuclear weapons, not to use such weapons again and not to produce new ones, as a condition for global security and stability, and for peace.

Mexico also regrets the postponement, due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) global pandemic, of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which was scheduled for April and May 2020. Mexico hopes that this unexpected postponement will provide States parties with an opportunity to reflect on how best to contribute to ensure that the conference takes place, without politicization, enabling us to make specific commitments to advance progress on the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation agendas.

With regard to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, Mexico underlines the central role of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. It also considers that its entry into force would contribute to furthering the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons. It is a matter of concern that more than 20 years after the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty was opened for signature, it has not entered into force because of the lack of will shown by a few countries. Mexico calls upon States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Treaty, especially those listed in annex II, to do so without further delay. Mexico reiterates the need for all States to refrain from carrying out nuclear tests, other nuclear explosions or any other relevant non-explosive test, including subcritical experiments and those conducted by supercomputers for enhancing nuclear weapons, because such testing is in violation of the spirit of the Treaty.

Mexico supports initiatives to gradually incorporate the technical challenges faced during nuclear disarmament verification into discussions at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and is convinced that the Agency is the primary multilateral platform for dealing with nuclear verification, including disarmament, because it has the technical expertise and the relevant mandate and enjoys the broad recognition of the international community.

Mexico recognizes the readiness of IAEA to resume its safeguards activities in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and will continue to support the Agency's preparations for tasks to verify that country's nuclear programme, including those related to verifying the dismantling of nuclear arsenals.

Mexico also considers that an efficient verification regime recognized by the international community is a requirement of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. At the multilateral level, IAEA, with its strong safeguards system and its considerable experience of inspecting nuclear facilities and materials, is the most

appropriate body to contribute in that regard. In the future, the international community should therefore adopt measures and actions within the Agency to address the technical challenges associated with capacity-building and to verify the dismantlement of nuclear weapons.

Mexico has supported and promoted a holistic vision of nuclear security within the IAEA framework, covering not only nuclear materials and facilities for civilian purposes, but also for military purposes. Our country will continue to support initiatives to strengthen the multilateral nuclear security architecture from a broad perspective and will seek to conclude substantive agreements that have a positive impact for the international community as a whole, as reflected in IAEA resolutions and the Agency's other guidance documents and working documents.

Netherlands

[Original: English]
[11 May 2020]

At its seventy-fourth session, the General Assembly adopted its resolution [74/54](#), entitled "Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament". The Kingdom of the Netherlands herewith submits the view of the Government of the Netherlands on the issues covered by the resolution.

The Netherlands wishes to emphasize that it fully shares the ultimate goal of resolution [74/54](#), a world free of nuclear weapons. The Netherlands participated at the ministerial level in the high-level meeting on nuclear disarmament, held on 26 September 2013, during which various perspectives on how to best achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world were discussed.

The Netherlands notes with regret that resolution [74/54](#) reflects only one particular viewpoint, while various other proposals made during the 26 September 2013 meeting were not captured by it.

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

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

The Netherlands notes the postponement of the high-level meeting, which was originally scheduled for 2018. In that context, the Netherlands reiterates that efforts should be focused on making progress in the context of Non-Proliferation Treaty, and work actively and constructively towards making the upcoming 2020 Treaty Review Conference a success.