

10 April 2001

Original: English

Disarmament Commission

2001 substantive session

9-27 April 2001

Agenda item 4

Working paper submitted by Viet Nam on behalf of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)

1. The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) reaffirms its conviction that the continuing existence of nuclear weapons poses a threat to all humanity and that their use would have catastrophic consequences for all life on Earth and that the only defence against a nuclear catastrophe is the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the certainty that they will never be produced again.
2. ASEAN recognizes that, in view of recent political developments, there now exist conditions for the establishment of a world free of nuclear weapons. ASEAN also reaffirms the unanimous conclusion of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996 that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.
3. ASEAN welcomes the progress made in implementing the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ) and notes with satisfaction the establishment of the various organs under the Treaty and the work undertaken by those organs, including consultations with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
4. ASEAN urges the nuclear-weapon States to accede to the Protocol to the SEANWFZ Treaty at an early date. ASEAN calls on the nuclear-weapon States to exercise greater flexibility in the consultations on the Protocol.
5. ASEAN welcomes the positive outcome of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States, in the final document of the Conference, to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, leading to nuclear disarmament, to which all States parties are committed under article VI of the Treaty.
6. ASEAN welcomes the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which Heads of State and Government resolved to strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, and to keep all options open for



achieving that aim, including the possibility of convening an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers.

7. In keeping with the highest priority to nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world, ASEAN proposes the following ways and means to achieve nuclear disarmament:

(a) The role of nuclear weapons in security policies should be diminished so as to minimize the risk that those weapons will ever be used and facilitate the process of their total elimination;

(b) The nuclear-weapon States to stop immediately the qualitative improvement, development, production and stockpiling of nuclear warheads and their delivery systems;

(c) The nuclear-weapon States to de-alert and de-activate immediately their nuclear weapons and to take other concrete measures to further reduce the operational status of their nuclear weapons systems;

(d) The nuclear-weapon States to undertake the step-by-step reduction of the nuclear threat and to carry out effective nuclear disarmament measures with a view to the total elimination of these weapons;

(e) The nuclear-weapon States, pending the achievement of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, to agree on an internationally and legally binding instrument on the joint undertaking not to be the first to use nuclear weapons and to conclude an internationally and legally binding instrument on security assurances of non-use and non-threat of use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States;

(f) The nuclear-weapon States to support, without conditions, the establishments of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned and accede to the protocol or protocols of all the current treaties of regional nuclear-weapon-free zones if they have not done so;

(g) The nuclear-weapon States to commence plurilateral negotiations among themselves at an appropriate stage on further deep reductions of nuclear weapons as an effective measure of nuclear disarmament;

(h) The importance of applying the principle of irreversibility to the process of nuclear disarmament, nuclear and other related arms control and reduction measures;

(i) The immediate commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament, on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator and the mandate contained therein;

(j) The early entry into force and strict observance of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty;

(k) The Conference on Disarmament to establish, on a priority basis, an ad hoc committee to deal with nuclear disarmament and to commence negotiations on a

phased programme of nuclear disarmament leading to the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons;

(1) The commencement of multilateral negotiations leading to an early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention prohibiting the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, transfer, threat or use of nuclear weapons and providing for their elimination.
