



# General Assembly

Sixty-second session

## First Committee

**5**th meeting

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Official Records

*Chairperson:* Mr. Badji . . . . . (Senegal)

*The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.*

### Agenda items 88 through 105 (continued)

#### General debate on all disarmament and international security agenda items

**The Chairperson** (*spoke in French*): Before giving the floor to the first speaker, I would like to draw members' attention once again to the need to maintain a good working climate and to respect the speakers by speaking softly in the room.

**Mr. Christian** (Ghana): At the outset, Mr. Chairman, permit me to join previous speakers in expressing warm sentiments on your assumption of the Chair of this Committee. Given your stellar diplomatic pedigree, I am more than convinced that under your able guidance, we shall rise to the crucial task before us. We assure you of our full support and cooperation. Her Excellency Mrs. Mona Juul, your predecessor, who skilfully navigated the Committee through its deliberations during the sixty-first session, has earned our gratitude and admiration. The excellence and credit she brought to the Office only confirmed our hopes and fulfilled our expectations.

Permit me also to congratulate His Excellency Ambassador Sergio Duarte on his appointment as High Representative and Head of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. It is the conviction of my delegation that his distinguished diplomatic career and profound knowledge of issues would facilitate efforts towards advancing the disarmament and non-proliferation process.

As a member of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the African Union (AU), Ghana naturally subscribes to the statements eloquently delivered by the representatives of Indonesia and Nigeria respectively on behalf of those groups.

It is disturbing that the contours of the collective security we all seek to construct out of the debris of the cold war still remain undefined despite the reality of daunting challenges that continue to confront the international security environment. Meaningful and substantial progress continues to elude the disarmament realm. We all, as Member States, are collectively responsible for the paralysis. While the few recalcitrant States are more culpable, the majority cannot be completely absolved.

We acknowledge that some positive developments were realized during the past year, as exemplified in the outcome of the Biological Weapons Convention Review Conference and advances made in the Conference on Disarmament, which is inching close to negotiating a fissile materials treaty. Regrettably, those have failed to impact significantly on the gloomy disarmament arena. We cannot afford any more squandered opportunities if we are to contain the consternation over the corrosion of the international security architecture.

Despite the unanimous recognition among Member States that nuclear weapons constitute the greatest threat to global security and human survival, it is not only worrisome, but disappointing that, 16 years after welcoming the end of the cold war as the

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precursor for ridding the world of weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons, our general concern over those weapons of terror has not diminished but accentuated.

The ever-growing disquiet over nuclear weapons that has gripped the world should reinforce the urgent need for the institutionalization of concrete measures, with comprehensive and total disarmament as the primary objective. Nuclear-test-ban agreements, non-proliferation measures, the missile technology control regime, the various conventions on prohibitions, the verification measures, as well as all others should be regarded as transitory arrangements for complete disarmament. It is a truism that, by themselves, those measures cannot save the world from a nuclear holocaust. My delegation is of the opinion that if Member States faithfully discharge their commitments, as stipulated in the spectrum of agreements concluded since the inception of our Organization, the underpinning reasons that informed those documents will have been attained.

Naturally, it behooves the nuclear-weapon States to exhibit leadership by translating their declarations into constructive action. In that connection, we wish to stress that the qualitative improvement and replacement of nuclear weapons, as well as the rationalization of those weapons in security doctrines, obliterate the significance of the decrease in nuclear arsenals.

While remaining concerned at the slow pace of progress, we urge the United States and Russia to favourably consider the call by the majority of States to strengthen their bilateral agreements through adherence to the principles of verification, transparency and irreversibility.

At a period of dire and unprecedented challenges to the disarmament and non-proliferation regime, my delegation is concerned that, rather than being strengthened, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) — which, since its inception 39 years ago, has been lauded as the most widely adhered-to arms control and disarmament treaty in history and the cornerstone of the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime — is in a quagmire, with an uncertain future.

We cannot allow the crisis to fester, since that would exacerbate the already fragile international security environment, with its attendant negative

ramifications for our shared vision for a secure world, free of nuclear weapons. In that connection, my delegation calls on Member States to exhibit sincerity in their commitments by adopting objective and realistic measures that, if implemented faithfully, would ensure the credibility to the Treaty's mandate to achieve the universal elimination of nuclear weapons and thereby strengthen non-proliferation constraints.

Undoubtedly, the primary but not exclusive challenge to the NPT remains the recognition that the efficacy of the Treaty rests on non-selectivity in the implementation of its three equally inseparable and mutually reinforcing core elements: disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses. Our consideration of those fundamental principles should not divert attention to other salient issues, notably the pursuit of universalization, negative security assurances, withdrawal from the Treaty and cooperation in nuclear technology between States parties and non-signatories of the Treaty.

Non-nuclear-weapon States continue to make compromises and to take concrete steps aimed at achieving the goal of the NPT. Foremost among such measures is the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones. However, the noble objectives that informed their creation cannot be realized without the support and cooperation of all, especially the nuclear-weapon States. We therefore urge the nuclear-weapon States to exhibit clear commitment by respecting and adhering to the provisions of those agreements, which is a vital component of the non-proliferation regime. It is our hope and prayer that conditions in the Middle East will, in the near future, generate enough confidence among the States of the region to enable them to freely conclude a regional nuclear-weapon-free-zone treaty.

While weapons of mass destruction rightly deserve the focus of our attention, we should not be oblivious to the havoc being wreaked in diverse areas of conflict worldwide through the use of conventional weapons. Although laudable progress has been made in addressing the indiscriminate use of landmines and illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, it is too early for complacency and exultation, as we are not yet out of the woods. It is pertinent that we strengthen international cooperation in 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, as well as the

Ottawa Convention, with the view to attaining the ultimate.

An important element in the fight against illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons is the tightening of legal controls on manufacturing, brokering, trade and possession of small arms. It is for that reason that Ghana supports a strong and effective arms trade treaty as an essential measure in prohibiting arms transfers to destinations where they would be misused to fuel violence.

Ghana shares the disquiet over the growing uncertainties in the disarmament agenda. The General Assembly, through this Committee, must assume and play its role in the field of peace and security. It is for this reason that we consider the Non-Aligned Movement's call for the convening of the fourth special session on disarmament a laudable initiative that merits the support of all countries, given our collective resolve to reverse the abysmal developments in the international disarmament realm. The proposed conference would provide the international community with an opportunity to assess and review the gamut of issues within the global disarmament realm and proffer appropriate recommendations to contain the security challenges of the twenty-first century.

Disarmament and arms control are closely related to other charter principles of our Organization, especially development. The intricate link between disarmament and development is even more critical now than ever before. The colossal amounts expended on the development and manufacture of lethal weapons could be diverted to the noble cause of alleviating the suffering of millions of the deprived living on the edge of life. While almost half of the world's population survives on less than \$1 a day, nearly \$1.2 trillion were spent on arms purchases worldwide in 2006. That is indeed an indictment of the moral conscience of the international community and a betrayal of political trust. Ironically, the huge investment is unjustifiable, since the world is far from being secure, peaceful or safe.

The future of humankind is at stake, and ours is the power to adopt robust and realistic measures to comprehensively address challenges confronting our collective security. We need to stand together to move forward or be confronted with the unsettling reality of failure. No country, be it powerful or weak, can handle

the grim consequences of such failure. Our fate on that matter, indeed, is intertwined.

**Mr. Davide** (Philippines): The Philippines joins other delegations in congratulating you, Sir, on your election as Chairman. We also congratulate other members of your Bureau on their well-deserved election.

The Philippines congratulates Mr. Sergio Duarte on his recent appointment as High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and expresses its appreciation for his statement (see A/C.1/62/PV.2), which outlines the current international security environment.

The Philippines associates itself with the statements delivered by the Permanent Representative of Indonesia, on behalf of the member countries of the Non-Aligned Movement, and by the Permanent Representative of Myanmar, on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

The proliferation and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons pose a serious threat not only to peace and security, but also to economic development and sustained growth. Developing countries are more vulnerable to the illicit trafficking of such weapons, which have fuelled and prolonged conflicts in various parts of the world, maiming and killing millions. Thus, the Philippines emphasizes the importance of early and full implementation of the 2001 United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms.

The Philippines recognizes the role of civil society in addressing the issue of trafficking of such weapons, which is played through various mechanisms designed to establish and promote a culture of peace. Faith communities and interfaith cooperation play an important role in the implementation of the Programme of Action. The Philippines continues to actively encourage faith communities to call on their respective followers to lend their cooperation to help stem the illicit flow of small arms and light weapons.

The world faces an even greater threat with the further development and improvement of certain types of weapons of mass destruction. Nuclear weapons must be eliminated for the survival of mankind. That can best be done through multilaterally agreed solutions in keeping with the United Nations Charter. The removal of nuclear weapons from the arsenals of nuclear-weapon States would deter those countries that wish to

acquire them and would also eliminate the chance that they would fall into the hands of non-State actors with the will to unleash them on civilian populations.

The paralysis that currently plagues the field of disarmament and non-proliferation must be seriously addressed. Member States must make every effort to move the process forward. The Philippines expressed its disappointment over the failure of the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). It is therefore essential that the preparatory process for the 2010 NPT Review Conference, which began recently, lead to a substantive and fruitful outcome.

The Philippines welcomes the Final Declaration of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in Vienna in September 2007, and calls on the few States that have not yet ratified the Treaty to do so as soon as possible.

Biological and chemical weapons are just as lethal as nuclear weapons and pose an equally grave danger to mankind. Thus, the Philippines welcomes the successful outcome of the Sixth Review Conference of the Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention.

Recently, a high-level meeting commemorating the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) was held in this Conference Room. The obligation of States parties to the Convention to destroy their chemical-weapon stockpiles was stressed. The Philippines joins the call for States to meet the deadlines as extended by the Conference of the States Parties. The Philippines also calls on those few remaining States not party to the CWC to sign and ratify the Convention without delay.

The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones and the respect accorded to them by nuclear-weapon States enhance and promote international peace and security. My delegation reiterates the invitation to nuclear-weapon States to adhere to the zones, including the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, by signing the protocol to the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone. In particular, my delegation welcomes the willingness of the People's Republic of China to sign the protocol.

The Philippines is encouraged by the positive developments on the Korean peninsula, particularly the 3 October 2007 Agreement on Second-Phase Actions

for the Implementation of the September 2005 Joint Statement. My country hopes that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the other participants in the Six-Party Talks will continue to build on the positive momentum that they have developed. We look forward to the day when we will see a denuclearized Korean peninsula.

The Philippines supports the convening of a fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, and we would like to see the reconvening of the Open-ended Working Group to consider the objectives and agenda for such a session, including the possible establishment of a preparatory committee in that regard.

In closing, I would like to stress the importance of achieving success in our work. That can be accomplished only if we work together through revived multilateral processes. Finally, my delegation would like to assure you, Mr. Chairperson, of our complete support and cooperation in the discharge of your important responsibilities.

**Mr. Svendblad Umaña** (El Salvador) (*spoke in Spanish*): I should like at the outset to congratulate you, Sir, on your election to lead our work during the present session of the General Assembly. We reiterate our thanks to the outgoing Chairman, Ambassador Mona Juul of Norway, for having skilfully guided our work during the previous session.

We also wish to express our gratitude to Ambassador Sergio Duarte, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, for his tireless efforts to promote and strengthen international peace and security in disarmament-related matters, particularly the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

We share the view of most delegations that our resolute common commitment to the cause of non-proliferation of WMD must prevail over our disagreements. Indeed, the Government of El Salvador believes that the efforts of most members of the international community to promote WMD non-proliferation have caused United Nations Member States to become aware of the danger posed by the deliberate or accidental use of such weapons — an awareness that has been reflected in widespread adherence to the various international instruments in this area.

However, it is highly paradoxical that States that do not possess WMD have been the most enthusiastic actors, helping to build a verification regime based on a binding commitment stemming mainly from the relevant multilateral instruments. Logic dictates that it would be the WMD-possessing States that should be the most committed to the cause of non-proliferation, because the best defence is mutual and collective trust, based on respect for the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

El Salvador believes that the best way to strengthen international security is not to adopt policies of deterrence based on a strategic or tactical arms race, but rather to promote confidence-building measures leading to the establishment of sustainable, transparent and predictable bilateral or multilateral relations. We acknowledge that our main purpose in endorsing the relevant international instruments has been to ensure that such weapons will not be used against us, while, at the same time, promoting non-conventional disarmament in particular.

However, given the threat of the use of such weapons by WMD-possessing States — regardless of the national security justifications given — the regulatory regime that we are trying to build may not be an effective containment barrier against the indiscriminate effects of the use of nuclear, chemical or bacteriological WMD as long as possessing States are not parties to the international instruments in this area.

Nevertheless, we must continue to fight tirelessly to ensure that those instruments are fully universal in terms of membership, observance and verification. To that end, it is essential to have the support of civil society in our efforts — our joint efforts — to promote disarmament and eliminate the threat of weapons of mass destruction.

El Salvador cannot disregard the fact that this is the first General Assembly of the current Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon. We recall that he has said on various occasions that he is firmly committed to giving a renewed impulse to questions of disarmament, and we know that his endeavours to that end will have the decisive support of El Salvador. We strongly believe that all disarmament aspects, as well as potential threats to national, regional and international security, especially with regard to weapons of mass destruction, must be important issues for the community of nations

represented in this forum. Given our globalized and highly technological world, security in its broad sense cannot be based on the pre-eminence of individual interests over collective interests.

El Salvador has maintained a long tradition of commitment to disarmament questions, mainly those pertaining to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We consider those issues to be among the most important on the agenda of this Organization, since they are an essential factor in promoting international peace and security. We are fully convinced that multilateralism is and will continue to be the best way to find viable and joint solutions to those problems.

On the question of disarmament in general, my delegation wishes to express its concern over the slow process of the negotiations in the Small Arms Review Conference. This is a problem that requires special attention, given the number of deaths that such trafficking causes in different parts of the world. We are confident that the existing differences will be overcome, that positions will become more flexible and that new proposals will be made, which will allow us to renew and conclude negotiations, without, of course, forgetting the question of munitions, which is directly related to the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons.

In Central America, the elimination of anti-personnel mines was a task in which all of the affected States were involved. However, there are other countries that suffer from this problem. Therefore, in order to completely eliminate the problem, it is important to strengthen the Programme for Comprehensive Action against Anti-personnel Mines of the Organization of American States. A similar and complementary issue of special interest to my country pertains to the need to support and strengthen international cooperation with a view to rehabilitating and reintegrating victims of anti-personnel mines into productive lives.

In conclusion, El Salvador hopes that the third and final session of the Disarmament Commission of this cycle, to be held next year, will be successful and achieve concrete results. In a like manner, we hope that progress will continue in the preparations for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. We join many countries in appealing for a high degree of

political will and a genuine desire for peace to make progress on that topic. In this context, we reiterate our firm support for all United Nations initiatives and efforts aimed at promoting disarmament measures, and in particular those involving the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, at the level of decision making, as well as in the context of the various international instruments on the subject. We also wish to say that in our view confidence-building measures have a key and substantive role in building and guaranteeing peace, stability and international security.

**Ms. Rodríguez de Ortiz** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): Permit me to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your appointment, as well as the other members of the Bureau on their appointments.

Our delegation associates itself with the statement made by the delegation of Indonesia on behalf of the countries of the Non-Aligned Movement and the statement made by the delegation of the Dominican Republic on behalf of the Rio Group.

Nevertheless, we wish to highlight the interest of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in some aspects of disarmament and international security. As a peace-loving country, which does not possess weapons of mass destruction, our country reaffirms that the elimination of these weapons, in particular nuclear weapons, is an inescapable priority and goal. The existence of weapons of mass destruction constitutes a threat to the survival of mankind, and their prohibition and total elimination is the only guarantee that such weapons will not fall into terrorist hands. Nuclear-weapon States should not only reduce, but also eliminate their arsenals. Vertical nuclear proliferation encourages horizontal proliferation. Therefore, the possession and growing modernization of nuclear weapons by countries that have them have a direct impact on those States, which do not possess them since those arms threaten their security.

The risk of the use of nuclear weapons continues to be ever-present, given the doctrines of deterrence of some nuclear countries, which have not eliminated the possibility of using those weapons. For this reason, Venezuela attaches particular importance to the granting of negative security guarantees to non-nuclear weapon States and supports a legally binding international instrument through which nuclear States would commit themselves to not using nor threatening

to use nuclear weapons against States that do not have them.

Our country also defends the inalienable right of States to the development and peaceful use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. That right should be preserved in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner.

Another crucial factor that contributes to eliminating the dangers of nuclear weapons is the negotiation of a convention to prohibit the production of fissionable material for the manufacture of these weapons. This should include specific verification provisions and cover all fissionable material, including that which is in caches.

Our country cooperates in particular with the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization. We have installed two seismic stations in our territory, which are part of the worldwide detection and monitoring network established under the Treaty. Both have been in full operation since 2003.

Venezuela has an important chemical industry but does not possess chemical weapons and fully implements the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention. At the end of 2005, we created a national authority to deal with the subject, and it is making progress on administrative measures aimed at enacting a special law on the subject. The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) has inspected the petrochemical complexes of El Tablazo, Morón and José in 2004, 2006 and 2007 respectively. On those three occasions, the teams of inspectors of the OPCW concluded that Venezuela is strictly abiding by its obligations under the Convention.

Our country fully believes that outer space should be the common heritage of mankind and notes with great concern the position of some countries that favour the placing of various military systems in outer space, be they offensive or defensive. That would endanger the collective security of mankind. States that have an important technological capability in space should renounce the deployment of any military system in outer space and should guarantee that they will provide information on their activities in this field. We hope that it will be possible to make speedy progress in the negotiations for an international instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space. Genuine commitment in this area necessarily requires the strengthening of international cooperation to establish

an international regime that ensures equal respect by all countries and equitable and well-balanced access to the scientific and technological benefits arising from the peaceful uses of outer space.

Venezuela has joined multilateral efforts to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. We therefore support the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. Our country rejects the approach that attempts to transfer the source of this problem to countries that acquire such weapons through the legal trade. We believe that leaders of States in which the major weapons manufacturers operate should include in their laws regulations on marking those weapons before they are exported, so as to facilitate their tracking and to prevent them from being diverted to the illicit market.

Venezuela also believes that ammunition is an integral part of the problem and that any measures to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons will be incomplete if they do not include the issue of ammunition. The marking of ammunition is a crucial element in combating the illicit trade in those weapons.

Venezuela welcomes initiatives to harness efforts to negotiate a legally binding instrument on cluster munitions. We are concerned about attempts to place the humanitarian problem caused by these weapons in the context of their improper or indiscriminate use. We should not assess the use of cluster munitions by qualifying their use as responsible or irresponsible, or precise or indiscriminate. Such an approach favours military considerations alone, to the detriment of the humanitarian goals enshrined in the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects. Venezuela believes that there is no such thing as the right or wrong use of the weapon. We are convinced of the indiscriminate character of these weapons, given their nature as a weapon with indiscriminate effects. Their use is therefore always indiscriminate.

With regard to efforts towards an agreement on the trade in conventional weapons, there is an effort under way to legitimize the establishing of controls over the authorization of weapons transfers on the

basis of subjective political criteria. Venezuela rejects the thesis according to which a State's possession and legitimate use of such weapons would be monitored. Such an approach would second-guess the role of a State vis-à-vis its role in guaranteeing internal order while ensuring respect for human rights. It could also have an impact on the right of a State to acquire, manufacture, export, import and maintain conventional weapons for its legitimate defence and security needs. Venezuela also rejects unilateral coercive measures and underscores that international efforts aimed at controlling conventional weapons should in no circumstances ignore States' security and defence concerns.

Any international effort aimed at strengthening cooperation in the area of disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons must take into account the real priorities of disarmament. Among those, weapons of mass destruction, and nuclear weapons in particular, continue to pose the greatest threat to humankind.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is fully committed to establishing a more secure and peaceful world. We strongly emphasize that respecting the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations by promoting and strengthening multilateralism based on cooperation that fully guarantees to all States that they will not be threatened with, or be the objects of, weapons of mass destruction would serve to significantly strengthen international peace and security.

**Mr. Ja'afari** (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, allow me, on behalf of my delegation, to express our congratulations to you, Mr. Chairman, for the confidence bestowed upon you through your election to preside over the First Committee. We are indeed confident that your chairmanship will be a successful one, given your experience and diplomatic wisdom, which have always been on the side of justice. I would also like to congratulate the members of the Bureau. I also commend Ambassador Sergio Duarte, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, for his comprehensive statement (see A/C.1/62/PV.2) and his constructive role in the work of the Committee. We also associate ourselves with the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (*ibid.*).

An atmosphere of pessimism permeates the international political scene as a result of the attempts by some to impose wrong-headed and immature policies on the international community, in clear contravention of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The founding fathers set out those principles in the expectation that future generations would abide by and protect them in order that tragedies and wars not be repeated.

International concern has also grown as a result of the selective proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons, the stockpiling of horrific quantities of such weapons and the development of new lethal weapons in more than one country. It also seems that some nuclear-weapon States are not taking nuclear disarmament seriously. Instead, they are deliberately seeking to violate their international commitments in the area of nuclear non-proliferation.

The greatest cause of imbalance stems from the fact that at least some nuclear-weapon States are providing Israel with the necessary nuclear reactors, heavy water, scientists and technology to enable it to produce nuclear weapons with which to threaten the peace and security of the entire region of the Middle East. Similarly, those countries are also providing Israel with the necessary protection to exempt it from international obligations and confer upon it selective preferential treatment — despite its aggression against its neighbours and its practice of occupying others. The policies of those countries therefore serve to undermine the very credibility of their position that they are seeking to make non-proliferation universal. Their proclamations and motives are therefore relative and selective and have no relation to preserving international peace and security; they are linked to settling false bilateral scores with one country or another whose positions are not in line with their own.

The fact that some members of the international community have failed to implement the decisions and results of previous non-proliferation review conferences raises important questions about their credibility. We are referring specifically to the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, and we recall that the indefinite extension of the Treaty would not have been approved without the adoption of that resolution, which calls for the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. Indeed, that region remains a glaring example of the

failure of the Treaty to realize security for its parties, as it is the only region that has not seen any serious international efforts to rid it of nuclear weapons. That encourages Israel to acquire nuclear military capabilities without any international supervision.

Here, we wish to caution against the international community's silence on the subject of Israel, a State that has moved from a policy of nuclear ambiguity to openly declaring that it possesses nuclear weapons, in the context of an odd international silence on the subject, thus affirming the acquiescence of some countries in protecting Israel from having to comply with its international commitments. Preserving this unacceptable situation has caused the people of the region to lose confidence in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and has triggered a revival of an arms race that will have a negative impact on international peace and security.

On 29 December 2003, the Syrian Arab Republic, on behalf of the Arab Group, submitted a draft resolution to the Security Council to rid the region of the Middle East of all weapons of mass destruction, most notably nuclear weapons. However, and regrettably enough, that initiative has not yet been adopted owing to the opposition of one of the big States and the application of double standards when dealing with issues of disarmament. In view of the failure of the Security Council and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to support the adoption of that important resolution, Israel continues to defy the international community by pursuing its military nuclear programmes and refusing to adhere to the Treaty or subject its nuclear facilities to the IAEA safeguards regime. Israel is the source of conventional and nuclear terrorism in our region and is blocking the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East like those established by other treaties, including those concluded in Rarotonga, Pelindaba, Bangkok, Tlatelolco and Semipalatinsk.

In that context, my delegation calls on the international community to call for the following: first, that Israel adhere to the Treaty, submit its nuclear arsenals and facilities to the IAEA Safeguards System and rid itself of its stockpiles of those weapons, in compliance with Security Council resolution 487 (1981) and IAEA resolutions; and secondly, that the United Nations and IAEA be the main forums for serious discussions on the Middle East becoming a nuclear-free zone.



My country supports the active implementation of the 13 steps adopted by the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the commitment to reducing nuclear weapons in a verifiable and irreversible manner, emphasizing the need to draft a binding legal text that will protect non-nuclear States from the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons by nuclear States against them.

My country believes that the right to develop nuclear technology for peaceful purposes is an inalienable right, in accordance with article IV of the Treaty. My country expresses great concern regarding any attempts that seek to reinterpret that right or restrict it. My country supports the efforts to hold the fourth extraordinary session of the General Assembly on disarmament, which will be an effective contribution on the road to nuclear disarmament.

My country supports resolution 55/33 X on the follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons. My country calls for practical steps to draw up a programme to ban nuclear weapons in a comprehensive manner and under active international supervision.

**Mr. Lasloom** (Saudi Arabia) (*spoke in Arabic*): My delegation would like, first of all, to endorse the statement made at the beginning of the general debate by Indonesia, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (see A/C.1/62/PV.2). It is also my pleasure to express, on behalf of my delegation, our support for all of those who congratulated you, Mr. Chairperson, on being elected to chair the deliberations of the First Committee at this session. We are convinced that, thanks to your wisdom and skills, you will be able to guide our deliberations successfully to the hoped-for results. I wish you and all of the members of the Bureau every success. We would also like to thank the Special Representative for Disarmament Affairs for his report at the beginning of the general debate (*ibid.*).

In 1978, the international community defined its disarmament priorities in the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (resolution S-10/2). International efforts were to concentrate on disarmament, nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons and conventional ones that have excessive and indiscriminate effects. Also, military

forces were to be reduced in a way that would achieve the lofty objective of the Charter of the United Nations, which is the achievement of international peace and security.

If we look at the international situation now, we see that there is a certain level of paralysis, multilaterally speaking, which has to do with the fact that the goals of the Final Document just mentioned are not being implemented. There has been limited success in some areas, but the treaties and international standards in the area of disarmament do not have much effect because of the indifference and silence displayed by the international community and the application of double standards, which has hampered the implementation of international instruments on disarmament. That applies to all of the disarmament mechanisms, including the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission, and this does not inspire optimism.

There are several failures in particular that will have ramifications for the disarmament efforts by the international community. In 2005, the Review Conference for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons did not produce the desired outcome. We hope that that trend will be reversed in 2010 and that we will be able to reaffirm what was said in 1995 and 2000, including with regard to an indefinite extension of the Treaty. Also in 2005, the Millennium Summit was also unable to provide us with an agreement on disarmament.

In 2006, we witnessed the failure of the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. In addition, we still do not have an agreement on the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. Despite all of those failures and shortcomings, we should not despair, but rather commit ourselves to deploying greater efforts and working harder to overcome the difficulties that face us. My Government participates positively in international and regional efforts to enforce the principles of disarmament, in particular all forms of weapons of mass destruction.

My Government has always reiterated the letter and spirit of the principles of disarmament as defined by the international community by becoming a party to

various conventions, including the Convention on Chemical Weapons, the Biological Weapons Convention, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Safeguards Agreement and its small quantities protocol. We also cooperate with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) by providing all of the reports requested. The latest report was submitted on 28 November 2005 and dealt with a national programme to implement the Chemical Weapons Convention.

In the area of the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons, my Government undertook the necessary legislative steps and adopted legal provisions on 30 August 2005. All of the details referred to are included in the report submitted to the Department for Disarmament Affairs in 2001.

When we speak of a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East, we should immediately recall that there is one single obstacle to progress in that area — that is Israel's refusal to become a party to the NPT and to place all of its nuclear facilities — which threaten peace and security in the region — under the IAEA safeguards regime. Israel is the only country in the region that has not done so. It should not be exempt from international pressure, so as to make the Middle East, including the Arabian Gulf, a nuclear-free zone. What we are witnessing is a double-standard policy that is sending the wrong signal to Israel, thus allowing it to continue to flout efforts to create a zone in the Middle East free of all weapons of mass destruction.

Saudi Arabia reaffirms the right of all States to the peaceful use of nuclear energy and to obtain peaceful nuclear technology and know-how. Therefore, we invite all States to negotiations and to a peaceful solution to the Iranian nuclear issue, notably because Iran has always stated that its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes and thus there are possibilities for further negotiations.

This is a time when major challenges loom before us and we face major responsibilities; thus we pin our hopes on the First Committee under the guidance and skilful work of its presidency, to objectively, seriously and constructively to find solutions to these challenges.

**Mr. Al-Nasser (Qatar)** (*spoke in Arabic*): First, let me congratulate the Chairman on his election to the Chair of the First Committee, the Committee on

Disarmament and International Security. I also wish to welcome the three Vice-Chairpersons and the other members of the Bureau. We wish you all every success in your work during the sixty-second session of the General Assembly.

My delegation reaffirms its infinite and continued support and praise for Mr. Sergio Duarte, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, and to thank him for his statement at the first meeting of our debate (see A/C.1/62/PV.2). His new post is proof of the praiseworthy efforts of the Secretary-General to promote the disarmament regime at the United Nations. Qatar also endorses the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (*ibid.*).

The United Nations disarmament mechanisms have an important role to play, whether the Conference on Disarmament, a forum for discussing treaties on disarmament and non-proliferation, or the Assembly's First Committee, a forum for the adoption of resolutions on matters relating to non-proliferation and the identification of weapons and disarmament. Disarmament bodies have published or determined the main principles and guidelines that will allow us to achieve nuclear-weapon-free zones. We wish to highlight the importance of implementing the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and of international acceptance and full implementation of the International Atomic Energy Agency Safeguards System and protocols.

The fissile material cut-off treaty is also an important instrument, but unfortunately it has not found consensus nor has consensus been reached on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. That was made clear at the 2005 World Summit, when efforts to achieve a disarmament agreement failed. We wish to add that no negotiations have taken place since the 2005 Review Conference of Parties to the NPT but that modest steps are being taken by the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 NPT Review Conference. Consequently, United Nations disarmament mechanisms have not been commensurate with United Nations capabilities. That is due not only to the failure of those mechanisms, but also to a failure of the political will to achieve disarmament and non-proliferation.

Nuclear weapons remain the most important issue for this multilateral Organization. Those weapons are

in the hands of a small number of States, but they can kill hundreds of thousands of individuals and destroy entire cities in a single attack. Such a situation is extremely complex, given the lack of trust among nuclear States in the NPT. These States are not ready to abandon their nuclear weapons. Some of them continue to modernize their nuclear programmes in violation of the Treaty.

The Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty has not yet entered into force, thus we do not consider it unlikely that nuclear tests could be resumed at any time. The new world order has negative effects, including the concept of military intervention that does not take into account the security interests of individual States and the principle of equal security for all, as reaffirmed at the special sessions of the General Assembly on disarmament. In that context, we reaffirm the importance of holding the fourth special session of the General Assembly on disarmament, and meetings of its Preparatory Committee, as soon as possible.

The selective application of non-proliferation rules leads to proliferation and to an arms race for the purpose of deterrence. In that context, we wish to affirm respect for peaceful nuclear activities. The NPT has embodied the inalienable right of parties to pursue research and the use of nuclear activities for peaceful purposes. We note with concern the obstacles raised by nuclear weapon States to other non-nuclear States, preventing them from exercising their right to the peaceful use of nuclear technology. We also note with regret the hesitation to adopt practical measures for nuclear disarmament on the part of nuclear-weapon States.

We therefore support the document submitted by Cuba on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement during the 2007 session of the Conference on Disarmament, which includes a recommendation on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. We note that the nuclear threat is very serious today, as it was during the cold war, despite the adoption last year of Assembly resolution 61/74, on the total elimination of those weapons.

We also note an increasing number of conflicts and of instances involving the nuclear issue in all its forms. We need to make preventive efforts to find a solution to the problem through dialogue. We will therefore negotiate with our colleagues and partners to submit a draft resolution, on behalf of Qatar, in order

to find a solution to the nuclear issue through peaceful means. We hope that we will benefit from the support of our colleagues and partners in that endeavour.

Nuclear-weapon-free zones play an important role in the maintenance of international peace and security at the regional and international levels alike. We welcome the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, in Asia, and we appeal to nuclear-weapon States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the relevant protocols of treaties on the establishment of other nuclear-weapon-free zones. We must offer security guarantees to the countries of those regions.

We strongly support the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East to prevent proliferation in that sensitive region. In that context, we appeal to Israel to take practical steps to build confidence by implementing proposals establishing such a zone, and to place its nuclear facilities under the safeguards regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency and to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

All States must commit themselves to adopting appropriate measures to prevent non-State actors from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. The ultimate goal is to totally eliminate nuclear weapons and their means of production and development so that they do not fall into terrorist hands.

We are faced with other challenges in the area of disarmament. They are real threats to international peace and security and must be taken into account. I note, inter alia, the problem of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and the outcome of the 2006 review conference, which was particularly disappointing. We are deeply concerned about the proliferation of landmines, including the mines left by Israel in southern Lebanon at the time of the 2006 invasion. Israel has not yet provided maps or charts of those mines as requested by relevant Security Council resolutions.

We also share the international community's concern about the dangers posed by conventional weapons and their development. We must take the necessary measures to build confidence in order to address those problems, taking into account respect for the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter. We must implement those principles on a

mutual and voluntary basis, in order to have equal and undiminished security for all.

We are also deeply concerned about the increase in military expenditures worldwide, which have now exceeded \$1 trillion per year. That has a negative effect on the world's resources, which instead could be devoted to development. This agenda item constitutes a collective challenge to international peace and security.

We must promote the role of this multilateral Organization and enhance its ability to face those challenges. We must work conscientiously and professionally in the service of mankind under international law and the Charter of the United Nations, with justice and impartiality and without discrimination in order to reach consensus. In that way, we will realize our objectives under a specific timetable.

In closing, we emphasize the importance of not confusing issues and items, and the non-politicization of this issue and its works in any form or manner.

**Ms. Ochir** (Mongolia): At the outset, Mr. Chairman, allow me to congratulate you on your assumption of the chairmanship of this Committee. I am confident that under your skilful leadership, our work this year will be crowned with success. I take this opportunity to assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation in the discharge of your important duties.

Mongolia aligns itself fully with the statement made at the second meeting by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. I will therefore be brief and limit myself to a few observations from our national perspective.

Last year, a general sense of disappointment seemed to prevail among Member States over the situation in the multilateral disarmament and international security fields. My delegation is heartened to see that a more optimistic mood is setting the tone for our deliberations this year. Indeed, several previous speakers have pointed out and welcomed the developments, although modest in some cases, that have taken place in multilateral disarmament and arms control forums since this Committee last met. Examples given included the successful Review Conference of the Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention, the first session of the 2010 Preparatory Committee for the Review Conference of the Parties to

the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and promising dynamics within the Conference on Disarmament, which give hope that that sole multilateral disarmament negotiating body will finally be able to overcome its impasse and start substantive work. My delegation shares the sentiment of cautious optimism.

The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) continues to be the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. We must build on the modest success of the first session of the Preparatory Committee, held in Vienna earlier this year, and ensure the successful outcome of the next review conference.

Nuclear disarmament continues to be the NPT pillar that is afforded highest priority by the majority of Member States, and my delegation is no exception. Having said that, in today's international security environment, one would be remiss in neglecting the risks posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, or in neglecting the efforts aimed at countering them.

Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) is a meaningful step towards curbing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Mongolia views that resolution as critical to achieving the objective of eliminating the risk that non-State actors may acquire, develop, traffic in or use weapons of mass destruction. The resolution also provides a solid basis for improving national control facilities with the assistance offered under it.

My country, having examined the status of its implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), has developed a draft project on strengthening technical capabilities for export and import controls over nuclear and other radioactive materials in Mongolia. That three-year project aims at establishing effective export and import controls over nuclear and other radioactive materials at Mongolia's fixed ports of entry by enhancing the technical capability of border control agencies by providing up-to-date, highly sensitive detection equipment. The project will thus serve to implement the relevant provisions of resolution 1540 (2004). I take this opportunity to express the sincere gratitude of my Government to the Government of the United States of America for its pledge of assistance in the implementation of the project.

Mongolia continues to place priority importance on the early entry into force and the universality of the

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, on the start of negotiations on a legally binding instrument on negative security assurances to the non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the NPT, and on the fissile material cut-off treaty.

Mongolia believes that outer space, being the common heritage of humankind, should be explored and used solely for peaceful purposes, to the benefit of all nations. We support initiatives aimed at preventing an arms race in outer space and the threat or use of force against space objects through the adoption of a relevant, legally binding instrument.

Mongolia firmly believes that diplomacy is the only way to resolve the ongoing crisis over the scope and nature of Iran's nuclear programme. Mongolia calls on Iran to offer its fullest possible cooperation to the International Atomic Energy Agency and implement the relevant Security Council resolutions.

As a North-East Asian nation, Mongolia attaches particular significance to strengthening peace and security in the subregion. My Government has consistently supported the multilateral efforts to resolve the issue of the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, and it follows closely the Six-Party Talks, the latest round of which took place in Beijing last month. We welcome the progress made so far. It is now imperative to maintain that positive momentum.

For its part, Mongolia has strived to contribute to the advancement of the Six-Party Talks and, to that end, hosted in Ulaanbaatar a bilateral working group session on the normalization of relations between Japan and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in early September 2007. We stand ready to continue our efforts and to host meetings of that and other working groups in the future.

The Government of Mongolia warmly welcomed the success of the second summit meeting between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea earlier this month in Pyongyang. It is our sincere hope that the measures included in the Declaration on the Advancement of North-South Korean Relations, Peace and Prosperity will make an important contribution to advancing the inter-Korean political dialogue and economic and other cooperation, and to strengthening peace and security on the Korean peninsula and in all of North-East Asia.

Against the backdrop of promising political dynamics in the subregion, Mongolia is optimistic that its early call for a multilateral security cooperation mechanism in North-East Asia will gain grounds for support in the subregion and beyond.

The period of time since this Committee last met has also been marked by high-profile anniversaries of various multilateral disarmament instruments, such as the tenth anniversary of the Ottawa Convention on anti-personnel mines and the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Mongolia supports the goals and objectives of the Ottawa Convention. However, we have not yet acceded to the Convention, opting for a step-by-step approach instead. As a result of that policy, national legislation has recently been amended in order to declassify information regarding anti-personnel mines. Subsequently, the Government of Mongolia submitted its first voluntary report under article 7 of the Convention.

For my delegation, this year marks the fifteenth anniversary of Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status. It was in the fall of 1992 that the first President of Mongolia, His Excellency Mr. Ochirbat, declared the territory of Mongolia a nuclear-weapon-free zone in this very building. In his address, he pointed out that:

"In order to contribute to disarmament and trust in the region and world-wide, Mongolia declares its territory a nuclear-weapon-free zone. We shall work towards having this status internationally guaranteed." (A/47/PV.13, p. 11)

In coming up with this initiative, Mongolia was led by its long-standing and principled position in favour of attaining the goal of complete and general disarmament, affording the highest priority to nuclear disarmament, and support for the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all regions of the world.

However, the proposed nuclear-weapon-free zone was not to be established, due to the geographical situation of Mongolia, as it does not have common borders with any non-nuclear State. Nevertheless, such a unique geopolitical situation allowed us to work out, in cooperation with our partners, a truly pioneering concept of Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status, an internationally recognized status that has taken firm roots in the tapestry of the global non-proliferation regime.

Mongolia has worked strenuously to institutionalize its nuclear-weapon-free status, with a view to achieving a nuclear-weapon-free status that is not only internationally recognized but is also legally binding. My Government is now resuming its consultations with Mongolia's two immediate neighbours — the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation — on the conclusion of a relevant trilateral treaty.

Last but not least, I would like to warmly welcome Mr. Sergio de Queiroz Duarte in his new capacity as High Representative for Disarmament Affairs. Ambassador Duarte's rich experience and expertise in disarmament issues and his personal involvement and the commitment of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to revitalizing the international disarmament agenda bode well for the future of our efforts.

**Mr. Seck** (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I would like to convey to you, Mr. Chairman, the warmest congratulations of the delegation of Senegal and assure you of our full cooperation.

Senegal joins the statements made at the 4th meeting by Nigeria and at the 2nd meeting by Indonesia on behalf, respectively, of the African Group and the Non-Aligned Movement. I will therefore only make a few additional points.

The standstill in disarmament bodies calls for serious diplomatic and multilateral efforts if we wish to find a collective and effective response to the security challenges faced by mankind. Therefore, the response that we must find to problems of disarmament and international security can be achieved only through our common will to identify the problems and confront them together. At a time when security problems go beyond the borders of a single country, unilateralism and the pursuit of purely national interests can only give rise to mistrust, suspicion, misunderstanding, defiance and confrontation.

The nuclear threat and the possibility that those weapons could fall into terrorist hands are a source for serious concern in Senegal. To reduce that threat, action must be maintained at the unilateral, bilateral and multilateral levels. Nuclear-weapons States have taken encouraging measures, but we remain concerned, since the dominant trend is towards the possession of fewer but more destructive weapons.

In that connection, we must strengthen the authority of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the nuclear instrument that we all consider to be the cornerstone of the global disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation regime. As a first step, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty must enter into force and negotiations be started on a treaty banning the production of fissile materials for military purposes.

While waiting for those two specific measures to become effective, it would be useful, in order to build confidence and allay fears, for effective security assurances to be given by nuclear-weapon States to States that do not possess such weapons. Those States trust nuclear powers to apply article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, on the total elimination of their arsenals. The necessary assurances must therefore be given in order to avoid losing that trust.

Last year, the First Committee played a key role in the adoption of resolution 61/89, entitled "Towards an arms trade treaty: establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms". At the beginning of our work this year, the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs told the Committee that the resolution had been the subject of unprecedented enthusiasm by Member States — to wit, the high number of responses received thus far by the Secretary-General with regard to the scope and feasibility of a legally binding instrument to regulate the trade in conventional arms. That illustrates the great interest of the international community in regulating the trade in conventional arms, which, given their destructive effects, have become genuine weapons of mass destruction.

In that connection, I would like to commend the work done by the two groups of experts established by the Secretary-General in 2006 and 2007, which have worked on improving the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons continues to be a source of serious concern, especially following the impasse at the 2006 Small Arms Review Conference. Member States should, as soon as possible, harmonize their views so that the impending deadlines can provide an opportunity to lend new impetus to the effort to control this scourge.

Senegal also welcomes the decisive steps taken in the Geneva process, which serve to promote the effective implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms thanks to the mobilization of several States and the tireless efforts of some elements of civil society.

The effective implementation of the Ottawa Convention on Anti-personnel Mines must continue to be a priority for the United Nations and all States parties to the Convention. Not insignificant progress has been made with regard to mine action. Nevertheless, as stated in the Nairobi Action Plan adopted at the first Review Conference of States parties to the Ottawa Convention, the only guarantee that the progress made in the areas of disarmament and humanitarian action will be lasting and that a world free of anti-personnel mines will at last be achieved will depend upon universal adherence to the Convention and on the implementation of the total ban that it establishes. Senegal therefore appeals to all States that have not yet done so to adhere to the Convention without delay in order to become part of the ongoing international efforts.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate our belief that only multilateral diplomacy based on ongoing and non-exclusionary dialogue will help us to make progress towards a safer world, one that is free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

**Mr. Mac-Donald** (Suriname): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) that are members of the United Nations, namely, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

We congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your assumption of the Chair of the First Committee at its sixty-second session. It is our belief that under your able leadership our discussions will have a successful outcome. We would also wish to congratulate the other members of the Bureau on their elections and assure you of the active and constructive participation of CARICOM in the deliberations of the First Committee as we collectively deal with issues in the area of disarmament and international security.

CARICOM member States would like to thank Ambassador Sergio Duarte, newly appointed High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, for his informative statement at the start of our deliberations, presenting us with an overview of the status of several nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation issues. We congratulate Mr. Duarte on his appointment and pledge our full support and cooperation in the work of the new Office of Disarmament Affairs. We expect that the restructured Office of Disarmament Affairs will contribute to strengthening the capacity of the Organization to advance the disarmament agenda.

As members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), we would like to fully associate ourselves with the statement delivered by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of NAM.

CARICOM concurs with the High Representative in his assertion that humankind as a whole continues to live in insecurity. The preamble of the Charter of the United Nations clearly reflects the idea that we, as the international community, should unite our strengths to maintain peace and security. We continue to believe that only a strong commitment to multilateralism will provide an avenue to remove insecurities worldwide and work towards the achievement of sustainable economic and social development for all countries, and in particular the many small developing countries.

For the countries of the Caribbean Community, multilateralism remains the only viable option for maintaining international peace and security. A critical and urgent challenge is that of ensuring that the efficacy of the multilateral machinery is enhanced while we address the vexed questions of disarmament and non-proliferation. Disarmament and non-proliferation also need to be addressed hand-in-hand in order to ensure balanced progress and the building of mutual confidence.

We live in a world with constant reminders of the dangers of nuclear catastrophe. The threats posed by nuclear weapons are so grave that they risk jeopardizing our collective cultural, political and economic heritage and our natural environment. From a holistic approach, the solution for such a catastrophe would be a complete prohibition of the proliferation of such weapons and the elimination of existing arsenals. Our delegations therefore call on nuclear-weapon States to promote greater respect for legal obligations that result from adherence to the Treaty on the

Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Furthermore, CARICOM would like to underline the necessity of assurances against the threat or use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States.

The commitment of CARICOM to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation is reflected in the participation of all its members in the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which established the world's first nuclear-weapon-free zone in a densely populated area. That effort to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons succeeded in establishing a framework to free the region from the threat of nuclear proliferation and has earned us the distinction of being the first nuclear-weapon-free zone in the world. On this the fortieth anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, CARICOM wishes to reaffirm its commitment to regional peace and security.

That brings us to an issue that is of critical importance to the region, namely, the trans-shipment of nuclear wastes through the waters of our region. The risk of an accident or, worse yet, a terrorist attack on one of those shipments poses a grave threat not only to the environmental and economic sustainability of the region but also to our very existence in the Caribbean. Heads of Government of CARICOM and the Association of Caribbean States have consistently called for a total cessation of those shipments in our waters. We reiterate our strenuous and forceful rejection of the continued use of the Caribbean Sea for the shipment and trans-shipment of nuclear material and toxic waste.

We call upon the countries that produce nuclear and toxic waste to implement urgently relevant measures to establish reprocessing facilities, which would put an end to the need for the trans-shipment of that nuclear and toxic waste. CARICOM also urges those countries currently involved in the production or shipment of nuclear waste to adopt measures to strengthen international cooperation in order to comply with security measures on the transportation of radioactive material, especially those adopted at the forty-seventh General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The international community remains concerned about the threat posed by non-State actors acquiring weapons of mass destruction. With the extension of the mandate of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) for two more years, CARICOM, together with other

Member States, will endeavour to intensify efforts to promote the full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Pursuant to our obligations under the resolution, CARICOM notes that many of its members have submitted reports to the specially established Security Council Committee to monitor implementation. We express the hope that the extension of the mandate will provide Member States ample opportunity to share experiences and lessons learned in the areas covered by resolution 1540 (2004), as well as make available programmes that might facilitate the implementation of the resolution.

In that regard, we are proud to note that a successful subregional seminar was held earlier this year in Jamaica, where regional experts exchanged views and shared experiences on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). We express our gratitude to the United Nations system and our bilateral partners who facilitated that regional debate.

The proliferation of conventional weapons continues to pose a threat to international peace and security and to be a cause of conflict and organized crime, in particular narco-trafficking. Small arms and light weapons, which are now regarded as instruments of mass destruction, remain a high-priority issue for our region. The increasing spread of those weapons has already caused much suffering, as hundreds of thousands of people are killed every year by such weapons. The majority are civilians, often victims of crime or conflict. We have previously stated CARICOM's position vis-à-vis further exploring the scope, feasibility and parameters for an arms trade treaty to ensure that those who buy such weapons comply in their use with relevant international humanitarian law and international human rights law, thereby contributing to political stability, peace and security in countries throughout the world. For its part, CARICOM will continue regional efforts to combat this phenomenon. We welcome all forms of cooperation and assistance at the regional and international levels.

It is high time for the international community to demonstrate the necessary political will in halting the proliferation of nuclear weapons and in putting an end to the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons and, more generally, by strictly adhering to international obligations relating to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. CARICOM member States will proceed to constructively



participate in the deliberations as we collectively strive to work towards achieving the disarmament agenda.

**Mr. Elgannas** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Sir, on your election as Chairman of the First Committee. We are confident that with your wisdom and experience, you will lead the work of the Committee to a successful conclusion. I would also like to congratulate the other members of the Bureau.

My delegation supports the statements delivered by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), and by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the Group of African States.

The existence of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction poses an ongoing threat to humankind as a whole. Moreover, the failures experienced by various multilateral disarmament mechanisms — from the Conference on Disarmament to the Disarmament Commission — as well as the failures at the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the 2006 Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects all reflect the crisis we face in our efforts to achieve international peace and security.

Libya, as party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), is fully convinced that the Treaty is the cornerstone of international efforts aimed at nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We therefore emphasize that all nuclear-weapon States should take positive and concrete steps in the field of nuclear disarmament — not only by giving priority to non-proliferation efforts but also by working to provide binding guarantees against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. We believe that to be a viable way for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. To that end, we must work to quickly conclude an unconditional and legally binding international instrument on security guarantees for States that do not possess nuclear weapons.

My country is convinced that achieving progress with regard to nuclear disarmament will indeed strengthen international security in terms of non-proliferation. It is therefore essential that the provisions of the NPT are implemented on a

non-selective basis and that the development of nuclear-weapon programmes is not confused with the right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes as authorized under international law, in particular in the provisions of article IV of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. In that regard, my country continues to emphasize the need to resort to negotiations and to provide sufficient time for dialogue in order to address relevant disagreements.

My country is continuing to implement its commitments under relevant treaties pertaining to weapons of mass destruction. We believe that the initiative we announced in 2003 to voluntarily abandon all programmes and equipment that may lead to the production of such weapons places a responsibility on nations that possess nuclear weapons to provide the necessary guarantees for our national security and to work to make the Middle East a nuclear-weapon-free zone by limiting and banning nuclear weapons and other radioactive materials. Nuclear-weapon States must also pressure the Israelis to join all treaties on weapons of mass destruction and disarmament and place their nuclear installations under the comprehensive safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and make the Mediterranean basin an area of peace and contacts among its peoples. Nuclear-weapon States must also end their policies of double standards and selectivity and provide security guarantees to non-nuclear-weapon States. That will serve to reassure the countries of the region and convince them to abandon ideas of manufacturing or acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

My delegation stresses the importance of strengthening the work of the Conference on Disarmament so that it can continue its negotiating functions on important disarmament issues. We also call on the Conference to begin negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty within the framework of the mandate agreed upon at the 2000 NPT Review Conference, so as to achieve tangible progress in the area of nuclear disarmament.

The danger inherent in the spread of conventional weapons is a source of great concern — especially in conflict situations — as the spread of such weapons results in the deaths of a staggering number of civilians. My country believes that it is possible that voluntarily implemented confidence-building measures in the area of conventional weapons could contribute to

strengthening peace and security at the international and regional levels. In that regard, the United Nations Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America deserve to be commended for their important work in this area. We wish to stress the need to support those centres, especially the Regional Centre in Africa, which needs support in order to carry out the tasks we hope it will undertake to help achieve peace and general disarmament. In that regard, my country's delegation also supports the final recommendations of the Consultative Mechanism for the Reorganization of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, as set out in the letter (A/62/167) sent to the Secretary-General by the Permanent Representative of Senegal on 5 July 2007.

My country has for decades adopted legislation and regulations that aim to prevent the illicit acquisition, export, manufacture and transfer of small arms and light weapons in order to help strengthen international efforts in that regard. We are keen to coordinate with neighbouring States in all aspects of limiting and putting an end to transnational organized crime. We are also striving to fully implement the 2001 Programme of Action on Small Arms.

My country supports efforts to draw up regional and international rules to combat the illicit trade in conventional weapons. However, we wish to underline the fact that it is necessary to take into consideration the principles implied in the Charter of the United Nations, which must guide our efforts in that regard. They include respect for the sovereignty of nations, non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, the right to self-defence, settling disputes by peaceful means, avoiding a selective approach in dealing with the issue of disarmament and emphasizing the importance of taking into account the specificities of each region and country as regards their security and defence needs.

My country's delegation stresses the importance of confidence-building measures and transparent interaction in the area of disarmament, and of refraining from selectivity if we truly wish to make progress. In that regard, we believe that the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms lack the necessary transparency and balance, as the Register does not include other forms of weapons, such as weapons of mass destruction, and other aspects related

to national capacity to produce, acquire and stockpile weapons.

With regard to landmines and remnants of war, we would like to refer to the fact that my country continues to suffer from the presence of a large number of unexploded mines and remnants of war dating back to the past century. They have resulted in death and injury for thousands of civilians, hindering our development and preventing investment in those contaminated areas. My country reiterates its demand on the countries that laid those mines to assume their responsibilities and provide the necessary material and technical support for the demining process, including appropriate and just compensation to victims. My country hopes that our concerns will be included in relevant international documents. My country has joined the Forum of Mine-Affected Countries in order to generate support for finding a solution to this problem.

My country remains committed to the goals of the First Committee. It is our hope that its work at this session will result in constructive participation and contributions that can lead to consensus on tangible and serious recommendations regarding the agenda items before the Committee. We wish to assure you, Mr. Chairman, of our full cooperation in the realization of that goal.

**Mr. Almaabri (Yemen)** (*spoke in Arabic*): First of all, please allow me to congratulate you most warmly, Sir, on your election as Chairperson of the First Committee at this session. We are convinced that your wisdom, abilities and long negotiating experience will enable us to achieve the results we all hope for. We are fully prepared to cooperate with you, with the members of the Bureau and with other delegations in achieving our goals.

My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Indonesia, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

We would like to reaffirm that the Republic of Yemen is thoroughly committed to the principles and purposes of nuclear non-proliferation and the elimination of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). We have therefore signed and ratified all the relevant multilateral treaties, including the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, the Comprehensive

Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques, and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

The Government of Yemen is working hard to ban illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons. Efforts are under way to control the acquisition and possession of such weapons, including banning carrying them in our main cities and provincial capitals. Our authorities confiscate such weapons as they are discovered and are now cancelling previously issued permits. That has been done to totally eliminate this phenomenon, which is present in Yemeni society.

We welcome the conclusions issued in June 2007 by the Group of Governmental Experts on international cooperation in combating illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons. We call for further efforts to constructively combat this dangerous phenomenon, which has a direct negative impact on social order in many countries. This illegal trade allows non-State actors — including criminals, transnational organized crime groups and terrorists — to gain access to small arms and light weapons. Ultimately, this illegal trade undermines development and increases poverty, underdevelopment, unemployment and deadly epidemics. Moreover, it creates fertile ground on which terrorist organizations can thrive, expands the cycle of violence and instability and generally gives rise to negative effects that transcend national and regional boundaries. In that connection, I would like to say that all States that manufacture these weapons, regardless of size or type, have basically a moral obligation to those States that are overflowing with all kinds of weapons and that have to deal with such overflow against a backdrop of dire economic and social instability.

We do hope that all States will adhere to multilateral treaties and that we can create a serious mechanism to eliminate weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, and to prevent their proliferation. At the same time, the inalienable right of States to obtain nuclear technologies for peaceful purposes has to be guaranteed. We reiterate our call to make the Middle East a nuclear-weapon-free zone and reaffirm the need for Israel to adhere to the Non-proliferation Treaty and to place its nuclear

facilities under the IAEA comprehensive safeguards system.

Finally, I would like to reaffirm that the Government of the Republic of Yemen supports all international efforts aimed at adopting measures to prevent weapons ending up in the hands of non-State actors. In this regard, we cooperate and coordinate our work with neighbouring States, brotherly States and friendly States, in order to combat this scourge through every means and capacity at our disposal.

**Mr. Al-Humaimidi (Iraq)** (*spoke in Arabic*): First of all, it is my pleasure to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on being elected to chair the current session of the First Committee. I would also like to use this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Sergio Duarte on his appointment as High Representative of the Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs. Sir, I assure you of our full cooperation in the efforts to attain our desired goals. My delegation would also like to express its support for the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman, as you are no doubt aware, the Security Council adopted its resolution 1762 (2007), dated 29 June 2007. The resolution terminated the work of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), which showed that the international community has recognized and acknowledged that there are no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. This proves the determination of the Iraqi Government to respect all international treaties and conventions governing the trafficking, use and stockpiling of weapons. Iraq also acceded, on 15 August 2007, to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, as referenced in document C.N.819.2007.TREATIES-3. The Convention will enter into force in Iraq on 1 February 2008.

Iraq intends to adhere to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction. These two treaties have been submitted to the Iraqi Parliament so that it can ratify accession.

After the bitter lessons that we drew from the follow-up of the ventures of the former regime, and

bearing in mind the important considerations of national security, the new Iraq has announced its attachment to and respect for international treaties relating to weapons of mass destruction. In fact, paragraph (e) of Article 9 of our Permanent Constitution provides that

“The Iraqi Government shall respect and implement Iraq’s international commitments regarding the non-proliferation, non-development, non-production, and non-use of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. Associated equipment, material, technologies and communications systems for use in the development, manufacture, production and use of such weapons shall be banned”.

When we talk about weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons — weapons that represent the greatest danger to people throughout the world — we can but recall the destruction and damage caused by the use of such weapons against civilians and cities and the environmental disasters resulting from the manufacture and use of such destructive weapons.

Iraq has been a victim of such destruction in the wake of the policies adopted by the old regime and characterized by the non-respect of international resolutions on disarmament, particularly of weapons of mass destruction.

The objective of general and complete disarmament, particularly in the area of weapons of mass destruction, is to ensure strict, effective and non-discriminatory international monitoring. That is the ultimate objective of the international community’s disarmament efforts. However, a quick review of what we have achieved thus far compels us to note that our accomplishments fall far short of humanity’s expectations, particularly since the world is more threatened today than ever before by the threat of use of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

Since the end of the cold war, a number of new dangers have arisen that threaten international peace and security. The global and regional arms race has continued at an even swifter pace. We have also noted an absence of strict global monitoring, which revealed itself when it was discovered that secret weapons programmes were being carried out by certain States in violation of the relevant international instruments and conventions. Therefore, we must continue our

relentless international efforts to ensure that humanity’s interests are being served by attaining the noble objective of the complete elimination of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

Here, unfortunately, we must recall the failure to arrive at an agreement at the 2006 United Nations Small Arms Review Conference. That failure can only have a negative impact on the security situation in my country. Indeed, small arms and light weapons play a destructive role in Iraq, as they are used in terrorist operations targeting the Iraqi people and the country’s infrastructure. Our failure to arrive at an agreement at the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament illustrates the scope of the obstacles that we have encountered in previous years in our negotiations on issues related to non-proliferation and disarmament.

Iraq believes it is essential to establish a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, in the Middle East. Therefore, we are making efforts to that end at the United Nations, within the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the League of Arab States, and we intend to accede to international conventions and treaties providing guarantees in that regard. We strongly call on all States to accede to all treaties on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, in particular the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), without discrimination. A comprehensive IAEA safeguards regime must be established in the Middle East. Here, we reaffirm the importance of calling upon Israel to accede to the NPT and to subject its nuclear facilities to the international monitoring regime.

My country’s position, which I have just expressed, is based on article VII of the NPT, paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) and the resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT, as well as the relevant General Assembly resolutions, which have been given global and regional support with a view to the establishment of an adequate implementation mechanism.

**Mr. Al-Jarman** (United Arab Emirates) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, it gives me great pleasure, on behalf of the delegation of the United Arab Emirates, to congratulate you, Sir, on your election as Chairperson of this important Committee. We are

confident that your extensive diplomatic experience will contribute to the success of our deliberations and will assist in the forging of a broader consensus on issues related to disarmament and the strengthening of international security. We wish you and the other members of the Bureau every success. I also wish to thank the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs for his valuable statement made at the beginning of our work.

We look forward to working with other delegations in this room with a view to achieving the international goals of disarmament and to promoting international security and stability. Let me also seize this opportunity to express my country's support for the statement made by the representative of Cuba, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, regarding the items on the Committee's agenda.

My delegation shares the disappointment and concerns expressed recently by the Secretariat and some delegations in this room about the ongoing failure of the international community in disarmament deliberations, particularly at the last Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the next review conference, as well as the lack of consensus on the disarmament segment in the 2005 high-level meeting of the General Assembly.

We believe that the failure has complicated the current status of disarmament in all its aspects and weakened relevant international efforts and arrangements established by the United Nations over the past six decades to address the root causes of armed conflicts and tensions in many regions of the world. We therefore stress the need for all countries without exception to show their goodwill and flexibility, in line with the decisions and recommendations issued at the Millennium Summit and the 2000 NPT Review Conference, in order to achieve consensus on the important and vital items on our agenda and to break the current stalemate obstructing the settlement of many issues relating to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in all their aspects, including the ongoing development by nuclear States of their dangerous nuclear arsenals and the declared or undeclared attempts of some States to acquire similar weapons, which threaten security and peace not only in their regions, but throughout the world.

The United Arab Emirates has actively participated in all regional and international conferences and meetings on disarmament and has supported all multilateral diplomatic efforts to build confidence in the areas of disarmament and non-proliferation, including efforts to strengthen the universality of the non-proliferation treaties to which the United Arab Emirates is a party, including the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the Chemical Weapons Convention, as well as other international disarmament arrangements.

The United Arab Emirates expresses its concern about unjustifiable concepts and theories calling for the promotion and development of nuclear deterrence and weapons of mass destruction, and the growing resort to unilateralism in addressing and containing the consequences of such policies. We therefore call on all parties of the international community without exception to abide by the principle of multilateralism and other principles agreed upon in relevant international treaties and arrangements in order to achieve the objectives of horizontal and vertical non-proliferation and disarmament of all kinds of strategic weapons, including nuclear weapons.

In that context, we express our satisfaction at the positive manner in which the nuclear case of North Korea is being handled, and we look forward to a peaceful and permanent settlement concerning Iran's nuclear programme, which will avert further tension and confrontation in the Gulf region and insure the States of the region against any security or environmental threat that may arise from that programme.

In the meantime, we look forward to intensifying international efforts aimed at pressuring Israel immediately to dismantle and subject its nuclear facilities to the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and for all concerned parties to stop providing technical, scientific and financial assistance to the development of Israeli nuclear facilities, in line with the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, including the decision issued at the sixth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons held in 2000, which called for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

The United Arab Emirates reiterates its support for preventive diplomacy to address and contain existing security tensions and conflicts among States through constructive dialogue and peaceful means based on the principles of good-neighbourliness; respect for the international rule of law, territorial sovereignty, the political independence of States and non-interference in their internal affairs; and the non-use of force, on the basis of the provisions of the United Nations Charter and international law. We also reaffirm that international and regional collective security requires the international community, now more than ever, to pursue a comprehensive and balanced policy for building confidence, which requires above all the following.

First, nuclear States must initiate serious and effective negotiations to ensure their commitment to immediately stop developing and improving their nuclear arsenals and their delivery systems, and to reduce and eliminate those weapons in a phased manner or by changing their uses to peaceful uses within a specific time frame and, in accordance with article 6 of the NPT and the instructions of the International Court of Justice, under firm and effective international supervision.

Secondly, we must ensure the responsiveness of the international community to proposals to develop an unconditional and legally binding international instrument that provides all the necessary safeguards against the use of existing nuclear arsenals to threaten any non-nuclear State until those weapons are completely eliminated.

Thirdly, we must call on States that have not yet acceded to disarmament treaties to do so as soon as possible in order to enhance the universality and inclusiveness of those treaties, particularly the NPT and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Fourthly, international efforts aimed at preventing the illicit traffic in such weapons must be stepped up. At the same time, we welcome the international consensus reached recently on drafting a politically binding international instrument.

The United Arab Emirates calls on all countries to show the necessary political will and flexibility that will lead to the adoption of a practical and implementable agenda for the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. We also emphasize the inalienable acquired right of developing nations to

participate, without discrimination, in nuclear research and the development of nuclear power for peaceful purposes within the limits specified by the IAEA safeguards regime. We also urge the nuclear States to support unconditionally the scientific and technological needs of developing countries with regard to materials and equipment so that they can accelerate their development without prejudice to international cooperation arrangements regarding the peaceful uses of nuclear energy or the policies relative to clean fuel cycles.

In conclusion, we hope that our deliberations in this Committee will lead to a consensus on how to strengthen and develop our work so that we may realize the aspiration of our peoples towards security, peace, development, and international and regional stability.

**The Chairperson** (*spoke in French*): We have just heard the last speaker inscribed on my list for this morning. I now call on the Secretary of the Committee for some announcements.

**Mr. Sareva** (Secretary of the Committee): I have been asked by the delegation of the United States to announce that that delegation will give a briefing entitled "The United States and article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons: a record of accomplishment" next Monday, 15 October from 1.15 to 2.45 p.m. in Conference Room 6. The briefing will be presented by Thomas D'Agostino, Administrator of the United States National Nuclear Security Administration, which is responsible for maintaining the United States nuclear weapon stockpile, and his Deputy for Nuclear non-proliferation, William Tobey. All delegates and representatives of non-governmental organizations are welcome.

**The Chairperson** (*spoke in French*): Before adjourning the meeting, I would like to remind all delegations that the deadline for submission of draft resolutions and decisions under all disarmament and international security agenda items is next Wednesday, 17 October at 6 p.m. Delegations are strongly urged to submit their draft resolutions by that deadline in order to enable the Secretariat to make them available in translation and to issue them as official documents of the Committee as soon as possible.

I would also like to refer to a few housekeeping matters. Next week, we will take up the second phase

of our work, namely the thematic debate that follows the current general debate. If we conclude the general debate on Tuesday morning or very early on Tuesday afternoon, I suggest we immediately start the next phase, which provides for an exchange of views with the High Representative of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to resolutions and decisions adopted by the Committee in years past.

Therefore, immediately following the conclusion of the general debate on Tuesday afternoon, we will start that exchange of views with the High Representative. I think that will allow us not only to make good use of the remaining time but also to devote as much time as possible to that exchange with the High Representative, for it is an important part of our agenda. That has been emphasized with regard to the revitalization of our work.

That is my proposal for the reorganization of our work. Of course, it will have implications, so I invite all delegations to be ready to make their statements as soon as possible.

**Mr. Semin** (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): I would like to put a question to you, Mr. Chairman, having to do with your announcement about the deadline for the draft resolutions. As you will recall, at the Committee's first organizational meeting a number of delegations, including that of the Russian Federation, expressed a wish to postpone the deadline by two days, from the 17 to 19 October, in order to make sure that the drafts submitted were of better quality.

Could you, Mr. Chairman, clarify this apparent contradiction? You did promise that the Bureau would make a decision on this request and inform us thereof.

**The Chairperson** (*spoke in French*): This matter was indeed discussed at length in the Bureau. I invite all delegations not to be too focused on these deadlines. I think we spoke last time about the need to be flexible. We need to be flexible, but we also need to be disciplined in the planning of our work, because if we request a change by two days that will have implications for the issuance of the documents. I am sure that the Russian Federation will not be the first to demand translations of the various draft resolutions that will be before our Committee.

Let us remain not only flexible, but also disciplined in the planning of our work. I urge delegations not to insist unduly on the deadline. It is set down on paper, but we will, of course, take into account the need to be flexible if delegations so desire. The change of date to 19 October should not be used systematically by delegations to delay our work.

As tomorrow is a holiday, I wish a very happy Eid al-Fitr to all our Muslim colleagues and brothers, and hope that the fasting that they have practised through the holy month of Ramadan will bestow blessings on all of us throughout the world so that we may enjoy and promote the cause of international peace and security.

*The meeting rose 12.45 p.m.*