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First Committee

8th meeting

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Official Records

Chairperson: Mr. José Luis Cancela (Uruguay)

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

Agenda items 86 to 103 (continued)

General debate on all disarmament and international security agenda items

The Chairperson (*spoke in Spanish*): I should like to inform members that the Bureau has received a request to speak from the delegation of Togo. I seek the Committee's approval for the name of the delegation of Togo to be added to the list of speakers.

As delegations know, the list of speakers is now closed and the delegation of Togo can take the floor only with the consent of the Committee. In accordance with provisions 72 [114], 35 [106], and 73 [115] of the rules of procedure, therefore, I now ask delegations if they are prepared to give their consent to allow the delegation of Togo to take the floor at the end of this afternoon's session once the last speaker on the list has spoken. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that delegations agree to allow the delegation of Togo to speak.

It was so decided.

Mr. Matambo (*Zimbabwe*): At the outset, let me extend my delegation's sincere congratulations to you, Sir, on your unanimous election to the chairmanship of the First Committee. We also congratulate the other members of the Bureau on their election to their respective posts. My delegation has the utmost confidence that, under your able leadership and guidance, the Committee will be able successfully to

conclude the agenda before it. We also commend the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ambassador Sergio Duarte, for his leadership and vision in guiding the Office for Disarmament Affairs and pushing for the resolution of challenges in the field of disarmament and international security.

Zimbabwe associates itself with the statements made by the representatives of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and of Nigeria on behalf of the African Group.

Zimbabwe is a signatory to several regional and international disarmament and international security instruments and is committed to complying fully with their requirements. One such instrument is the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), and we continue to regard it as the cornerstone of the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. In this regard, we stress the urgent need to achieve the universality of the NPT and call upon States that have not yet joined the Treaty to do so without delay. Zimbabwe equally shares the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

My delegation is encouraged by the positive atmosphere prevailing in the field of disarmament and international security. Among the key positive developments are the success of the third Preparatory Committee meeting for the 2010 NPT Review Conference; the renewed commitments of leaders of nuclear-weapon States to work towards a nuclear-weapon-free world; the adoption of a programme of work by the Conference on Disarmament; and the

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holding of the Security Council summit on 24 September 2009 on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament and its unanimous adoption of resolution 1887 (2009). We encourage Member States to fully exploit the prevailing positive atmosphere in order to resolve the security challenges that have dogged the international community for decades past.

The Security Council summit on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, held on 24 September 2009, was a laudable step in efforts to create a nuclear-weapon-free world. However, we are of the view that efforts to create a nuclear-weapon-free world should not focus exclusively on strengthening non-proliferation measures while ignoring actions on nuclear disarmament. My delegation shares the view that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute means of creating a world free of nuclear weapons. In order to achieve nuclear disarmament, we call upon all States fully to comply with their obligations under the NPT. It is imperative that nuclear-weapon States commit themselves to the implementation of the 13 practical steps on nuclear disarmament that were agreed at the 2000 NPT Review Conference. Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, we support the call for the negotiation and conclusion of a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States.

Zimbabwe supports the goals of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), and we are encouraged by invigorated efforts to bring about its entry into force. We welcome President Obama's commitment to seeking American ratification of the CTBT and hope that its ratification will inspire the other Annex 2 States to sign and ratify the Treaty. The entry into force of the CTBT will be an important contribution towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

My delegation welcomes the entry into force this year of the Treaty of Pelindaba and the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia. It is our firm belief that nuclear-weapon-free zones are an effective contribution to efforts to strengthen regional peace and security. The entry into force of the Treaty of Pelindaba constitutes an important achievement by Africa in its contribution towards the promotion and strengthening of regional and international peace and security. In this regard, we call upon the nuclear-weapon States that have not yet ratified the relevant

annexes to the Pelindaba Treaty to do so, and also urge them to respect its provisions. My delegation joins others in calling for the early establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, in compliance with the 1995 resolution 50/66 on the Middle East.

While we welcome the adoption of a programme of work by the Conference on Disarmament, it is regrettable that it has not been able to reach consensus on the procedural steps to commence its substantive work. We join others who have appealed to all member States to show flexibility and political will so as to achieve tangible results during the Conference's forthcoming cycle of deliberations. My delegation hopes that the Conference on Disarmament will also build on the current positive atmosphere in the field of disarmament and international security, and commence its substantive work at the beginning of its 2010 session.

Furthermore, Zimbabwe reaffirms the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum and the United Nations Disarmament Commission as the sole, specialized deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery, and fully supports the work of these disarmament bodies. However, we are of the view that if the renewed momentum in the field of disarmament and international security is to best achieve commendable results for the international community, efforts must be made to reform and strengthen the disarmament machinery.

The Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention are key international instruments to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Zimbabwe supports their universality and full implementation by member States. We therefore call upon States that are not party to these Conventions to sign and ratify them without delay.

My delegation reiterates that the illicit transfer, manufacture and circulation of small arms and light weapons in many parts of the world, especially in Africa, pose a serious threat to peace, security and economic development.

It is important that the international community mobilize financial and technical assistance to support African countries in implementing the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light

Weapons in All Its Aspects. Zimbabwe looks forward to participating in the fourth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons.

Zimbabwe signed and ratified the Ottawa Convention and is fully committed to complying with its various articles. The Second Review Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, to be held from 30 November to 4 December 2009 in Cartagena, Colombia, presents the international community with an opportunity to revitalize and reinvigorate its commitment to the treaty and also to come up with concrete measures to create a world free of anti-personnel mines.

My country's mine clearance programmes are severely hindered by serious financial constraints. It is therefore our hope that the Conference will prioritize action on the provision of financial, technical and material resources to landmine clearance programmes in affected countries in order to create a world free of landmines. Zimbabwe will actively participate in the Conference.

My delegation reaffirms the basic and inalienable right of all States parties to the NPT to develop, research, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination, as enshrined in article IV of the NPT. It is important that the choices and decisions of States in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear technology must be respected. In view of the critical energy challenges facing developing countries, especially those in Africa, the development of nuclear energy makes an important contribution to their sustainable economic development. It is my delegation's view that Africa should be allowed to benefit from nuclear energy without any constraints or obstacles being put in its way. In this regard, we urge the International Atomic Energy Agency to continue promoting technical cooperation with Africa and other developing countries in the field of nuclear energy.

Zimbabwe is of the view that if the renewed commitment towards disarmament is pursued by all nations in good faith and to its logical conclusion, that would go a long way towards promoting social and economic development in many countries in the world. That is because many of the funds currently going towards military spending will be channelled towards

addressing such challenges as food insecurity, poverty, climate change, disease outbreaks, energy and financial crises. The current global military spending, if channelled towards economic development programmes in developing countries, would go a long way to assist them in their developmental efforts.

In conclusion, as we prepare for the 2010 NPT Review Conference, let us all demonstrate the utmost political will and collective effort to achieve its success. In our view, a successful Review Conference should, among other things, agree on a set of means and measures to strengthen the Treaty's three pillars of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We pledge our utmost support to help the Conference reach meaningful conclusions.

Mr. Ikongo Isekotoko Boyoo (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (*spoke in French*): Allow me first, on behalf of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to associate myself with previous speakers in congratulating you, Sir, on your election to chair the First Committee dealing with disarmament and security issues. I wish to assure you of the full cooperation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and of its ongoing readiness throughout this session to assist in efforts, in collaboration with all participants, to seek mutually acceptable solutions to the items on our agenda, and we wish you every success in guiding the work of the Committee. I also wish to congratulate the other members of the Bureau.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo would also like to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for the special attention he has been giving to the development of the security situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In addition, we wish sincerely here to thank the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and express our sincere congratulations on his introductory statement.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo associates itself with the statements made by the representatives of Nigeria on behalf of the African Group and of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The existence of nuclear weapons is a source of great concern for everyone. We believe that the situation and tension prevailing in the nuclear sphere cannot reassure anyone. New, sophisticated and modernized types of atomic weapons run counter to the spirit of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear

Weapons. We note that people do not share the same vision in this area and are not speaking the same language.

As everyone is aware, in 2000 the nuclear-weapon States undertook the commitment to eliminate their nuclear arsenals. But what does the situation look like today? The doctrines of strategic defence advocated by the nuclear Powers merely reflect the will of those States to make use of nuclear weapons. How can we speak of nuclear security guarantees in a world in which we are witnessing the refinement and further sophistication of new types of nuclear weapons?

Another no less significant observation relates to the conduct of work within the United Nations Disarmament Commission, a deliberative body for multilateral disarmament mechanisms now blocked from making recommendations for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation as a result of a lack of political will and the intransigent positions of certain nuclear-weapon States, despite the positive development reflected in the adoption of a work programme for the year 2010.

Everyone is aware that nuclear weapons have been the subject of a number of global monitoring instruments, the most important of which are the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. Sadly, however, these legal instruments are being called into question and may give way to a new arms race. That is why we call on the international community to pool its efforts to persuade those who, for various reasons, pursue the modernization of nuclear weapons to return to the righteous path in the interest of the survival of humankind and all human beings.

We believe that the international system based on the use of force as the ultimate security guarantee is not the only valid one. It would be better to create a system of collective security that would guarantee both peace and development. To that end, it would be desirable for the process of nuclear weapons reduction to expand in both time and space. In a word, we need to return to a denuclearized world. That is why we need to redouble our efforts to limit the expansion and prevent the use of nuclear weapons by strengthening the existing export control regime. We ask the Security Council to undertake collective and binding action, if necessary, to achieve that objective. The world in transition that is emerging before our very eyes

belongs not to those leaders who are investing the future of their countries in the culture of war, but rather to those who have understood the close relationship among peace, democracy, human rights and development.

Following its participation in the workshop held at Gaborone, Republic of Botswana, from 25 to 29 September 2007, on Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and in the discussion of non-State actors wishing to possess such weapons, the Democratic Republic of the Congo acquired a focal and contact point. It established a counter-terrorism coordinating committee under the supervision of the President of the Republic. The President also oversees the limitation of nuclear activity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo exclusively to peaceful means and agricultural research.

Due to the lack of time, I will not go into detail regarding the long list of legal instruments adopted by the Democratic Republic of the Congo to this end. Nevertheless, we can state that within the next few days a national committee for international disarmament and security will be established in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with the objective of overseeing peace and security for in our country.

Regarding conventional weapons, in particular small arms and light weapons, and the reduction of armed violence, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has made significant progress in the implementation of the 2001 United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. It has created a national control commission for small arms and light weapons and for the reduction of armed violence, headed by the Ministry of the Interior and Public Security and backed by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and National Defence.

Regarding the destruction of weapons and munitions and the cleansing of our territory — where foreign armies once clashed, resulting in more than 4 million deaths, the rape of 2,300,000 women and the abuse of 8,310 elderly persons — during the period of 2007-2008 alone the Democratic Republic of the Congo destroyed 97,661 small arms and light weapons and 472 tons of munitions. The destruction of the one hundred thousandth weapon will take place in the second half of this month in Kinshasa, the capital of

the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Of the 11 military regions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, seven are covered by these operations, which in fact represent but the tip of the iceberg, given the country's total area of 2,345,000 square kilometres, 10,300 kilometres of border and nine neighbouring countries. Thus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo needs the international community if it is to achieve its disarmament objectives.

Regarding the Ottawa Convention on anti-personnel mines, efforts are now being made, and the following results have been observed to date: 3,004 zones of suspected or proved contamination; 3,079 landmines destroyed; 620,525 non-exploded devices destroyed; 4,351,097 square metres of demined territory; 387,197 explosive munitions of various calibres destroyed; 260 kilometres of roads decontaminated; 1,349,249 individuals who have undergone awareness education out of a population of more than 60 million; 7,022 education sessions regarding the risks of mines and unexploded war remnants; and 3,420 victims who have benefited from assistance.

Anti-personnel mines, small arms and light weapons still remain sectors for further work in our country, for no province has been spared the effects of minefields and small arms and light weapons, given the porous nature of our borders. With determination and the assistance of all nations of the world, the Democratic Republic of the Congo is determined to succeed in achieving the objective of disarmament and peace.

In conclusion, the Democratic Republic of the Congo welcomes the declaration of the President of the United States advocating global denuclearization, and shares the concerns of the Group of 21. The Democratic Republic of the Congo underscores the need for nuclear disarmament and negative security guarantees, and is following developments in the arms race in outer space. Our country in particular emphasizes the need for an arms trade treaty, which must be binding on all Member States, because small arms and light weapons are destructive, destabilize democratically elected regimes in Africa, and undermine peace and development.

Finally, it is the hope of the Democratic Republic of the Congo that this session will produce specific

resolutions that will serve to ensure the security of the nations of the world.

Mr. Ngoh Ngoh (Cameroon) (*spoke in French*): I should like to begin by conveying to you, Sir, on behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Cameroon, my sincere congratulations on your election to the chairmanship of the First Committee. Your great professional skill and experience undoubtedly guarantee a successful outcome for our work. I assure you and the other members of the Bureau of my delegation's full cooperation and support. I also pay tribute to your predecessor, Ambassador Marco Suazo Fernández of Honduras, for his outstanding leadership of our work during the previous session.

My delegation supports the opening statements made by the representatives of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and of Nigeria on behalf of the African Group.

It has been a very long time since the First Committee has been able to start its work in as auspicious an international context as this. Several positive and encouraging developments have arisen in recent months in the field of non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament in particular. Cameroon welcomes the commitments made by the United States of America and the Russian Federation to reduce their nuclear arsenals. We also welcome the commitment undertaken by a number of countries to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

On 24 September, the Security Council held a historic summit on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. On that occasion, the Council adopted resolution 1887 (2009), which seeks to prevent nuclear proliferation, promote nuclear disarmament and reduce the risk of nuclear terrorism. After 12 years of deadlock, the Conference on Disarmament has adopted a programme of work, opening the way for negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty in order to combat nuclear proliferation and to achieve disarmament. We also note and welcome the entry into force of the treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones in Central Asia and Africa.

These signs of progress after years of stasis undoubtedly provide an opportunity that the international community must seize if it is to achieve the objective of a world free from the threat of nuclear weapons. Nevertheless, the progress that has been made should not allow us to forget the outstanding

challenges, which are substantial. According to a recent study, worldwide there are currently 23,000 nuclear weapons and thousands of delivery systems to launch them. Global arms production rose to \$347 billion last year, while military expenditure rose to \$1.4 trillion, an increase of 45 per cent since 1999. These figures underscore the need to go beyond the affirmation of good intentions and to implement specific actions in order to achieve a safer world. Indeed, it is galling to note that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has still not entered into force 13 years after it opened for signature.

It is a fact that nuclear weapons still pose the greatest threat to the survival of humankind. Every day, we face the terrifying risk that these weapons might fall into the hands of terrorists or other non-State actors. In this regard, Cameroon welcomes President Obama's decision to convene a summit on nuclear security in April 2010 in Washington, D.C., in order to address the threat of nuclear terrorism and to encourage countries to secure their nuclear material. Nevertheless, my country remains of the view that the only guarantee against the proliferation or use of atomic weapons is their complete destruction. That is why we continue to promote the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free world. In this regard, we believe that non-proliferation efforts must be sustained in parallel and simultaneously with efforts concerning disarmament. We encourage all nuclear-weapon countries to take concrete measures for the reduction and ultimate elimination of their arsenals.

Cameroon also supports the appeal for the immediate launching of multilateral negotiations on a convention to prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons. Cameroon holds high hopes for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and hopes that significant progress will be made there in strengthening the international nuclear non-proliferation regime. It is crucial that all Members of the United Nations work towards that end. We also call on the Conference on Disarmament to set aside its differences and to start its substantive work in 2010.

Chemical, bacteriological and toxin weapons are a source of grave concern for my country. We call on all States that have not yet done so to adhere to the legal instruments prohibiting such weapons in order to ensure their universalization. In particular with regard to chemical weapons, while my country welcomes the

progress that has been made since the entry into force of the relevant Convention, we underscore the ongoing threat to the environment and to our peoples that is posed by the stockpiling of chemical weapons. Thus, we call on the countries that possess such weapons to destroy their stocks as soon as possible.

As Cameroon has recalled on numerous occasions, small arms and light weapons can be considered to be true weapons of mass destruction. Every year, these weapons cause the death or mutilation of hundreds of thousands of men, women and children. They are responsible for the exacerbation and continuation of armed conflict. They are a factor promoting crime and terrorism. They undermine efforts aimed at reconstruction and development. Specific measures must be taken to ensure 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. It is urgent that we launch rigorous international action to combat illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, which kill 300,000 people each year.

My Government attaches the greatest importance to this matter and is determined to contribute to international efforts to combat the proliferation of and illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons. Cameroon will stand resolutely by other countries in the context of an initiative supporting an arms trade treaty. My country is a co-sponsor of the draft resolution thereon and plans to participate actively in efforts to make that initiative a reality.

It is essential that we put an end to the suffering caused by cluster munitions. In this regard, my country welcomes the opening for signature on 3 December 2008 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and recalls its support for the principles and objectives of that Convention. Cameroon cherishes great hopes for the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, to be held from 30 November to 4 December 2009 in Cartagena, Colombia. We hope that this meeting will contribute to the universalization of the Convention and encourage international assistance for those countries affected by mines.

My country reiterates its full support for the activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa.

Since its establishment, the Committee has played a lead role in building trust and promoting disarmament in Central Africa, as well as in finding concrete solutions to address numerous problems concerning peace and security that countries of the region face. The annual adoption by consensus within the First Committee of the resolution pertaining to the activities of that Committee reflects the level of support that the Committee enjoys among all member States.

My delegation thanks the Secretary-General and the Office for Disarmament Affairs, which staffs the Committee's secretariat, for the support that they have provided to date and encourages them to continue. We appeal to all members to contribute to the Trust Fund to finance the extrabudgetary activities of the Committee so that the Committee can rely on ongoing support, in particular in the form of voluntary contributions, in order to fully meet its important responsibilities.

Mr. Jomaa (Tunisia) (*spoke in Spanish*): On behalf of the delegation of Tunisia, I should like to congratulate you most sincerely, Sir, on your election to the chairmanship of the Committee and to assure you of the full support and cooperation of my delegation as you carry out your mission so that our work may be crowned with success and positive achievement.

(*spoke in French*)

I should also like to congratulate Mr. Sergio Duarte, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs. My delegation associates itself with the statements made on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Group.

Once again this year, we meet at a critical moment to consider progress made in the area of disarmament and international security. Tunisia has continually underlined the link between disarmament and development as one of the major challenges to be met by the international community as it seeks to eradicate poverty and to focus efforts on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. In that context, my country has always believed it prudent to reallocate resources earmarked for military purposes to activities for development and economic growth, as we are convinced that the arms race prejudices the satisfaction of the most elementary needs of civilian populations.

Relaunching the disarmament process at the multilateral level is a major challenge that faces all of us collectively.

Following the 2009 substantive session and the adoption of its agenda, the Conference on Disarmament must now focus its attention on specific recommendations on the format and content of its forthcoming sessions. On another level, we believe that it would be wise to convene the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament in order to identify the means for achieving the objective of general and complete disarmament. In that framework, it is our hope that the Open-ended Working Group on this item, which in 2007 began a cycle of consultations in three sessions, will be reconstituted and succeed in formulating recommendations to that end.

The year 2009 saw the consolidation of the preparatory process for the next Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) planned for 2010. In that regard, we welcome the progress made during the third session of the Preparatory Committee held in New York from 4 to 15 May 2009. In that context and in proceeding to an evaluation of the situation of nuclear disarmament over several decades, we are obliged to note the lack of significant progress in this area. We are still very far from attaining the objective set out in article VI of the NPT on nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control. In that context, we recall the appeals for the full implementation of commitments made unequivocally by the nuclear-weapon States at the 2000 Review Conference and call on them to proceed to the total elimination of their arsenals. It is also our hope that this pledge will be honoured through the engagement of an accelerated negotiation process to implement practical measures for nuclear disarmament.

For their part, the non-nuclear-weapon States have the right to insist that they be offered effective guarantees against the use or threat of use of these weapons. In the same spirit, one major measure to implement the provisions of the NPT was the conclusion of negotiations on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). I note the importance of the entry into force of that Treaty and its achievement of universality. Here, we welcome the organization of the special meeting of the Security

Council on 24 September 2009, at which resolution 1887 (2009) was adopted unanimously, and of the meeting on the CTBT held on 24 and 25 September in New York, which was distinguished by the adoption of a declaration to which my country fully subscribes.

The creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely concluded among States of a given region and the establishment of zones free from all weapons of mass destruction are significant means of advancing non-proliferation and disarmament at the regional and international levels. Here, we warmly welcome the entry into force of the Treaty of Pelindaba creating a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa.

On the other hand, the Middle East remains a source of great concern, above all due to the refusal of certain parties to adhere to the NPT and to place their nuclear installations under the comprehensive safeguards regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency, despite the numerous appeals made by other States of the region and by the General Assembly in its numerous relevant resolutions. In that respect, we call on the international community, in particular the influential Powers, to take urgent and practical measures to create such a zone.

Aware of the full importance of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, and of its obvious implications for peace and international security, my country, having ratified the Convention and completed the destruction of its stocks of anti-personnel mines, hopes that all States parties will participate in this process to implement the objectives of this Convention.

Likewise, we are encouraged by the positive results achieved at the Second Review Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, held in The Hague in April 2008, and we call for the implementation of the objectives and provisions of the Convention, in particular in the areas of international cooperation and chemical activities for peaceful use. Reiterating the unswerving dedication of Tunisia to the Chemical Weapons Convention, I recall the organization in Tunisia from 1 to 15 October 2010 of the third exercise of the Organization for the

Prohibition of Chemical Weapons regarding the provision of assistance.

On another level, we welcome the important progress made in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Weapons, and hope that the impetus gained from the Second Review Conference will lead to a strengthening of the Convention and the achievement of its objectives.

We also welcome the positive results of last summer's Third Biennial Meeting of States to Consider 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. Here, I should like to underscore that, seven years after the adoption of the Programme of Action and despite considerable progress made in its implementation, there are more light weapons circulating throughout the world today than there were in 2001, in particular as a result of the persistence of armed conflicts, organized crime and violations of the arms embargoes imposed by the Security Council.

Regarding the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Tunisia has already signed that important new instrument, whose entry into force will doubtless send a strong signal to the international community regarding the danger posed by these munitions and prompt all member States to renounce their use.

My country has actively contributed to the efforts of the countries of the Mediterranean to confront their common challenges in a global, coordinated and concerted manner, with the goal of making the Mediterranean basin a zone of dialogue, exchange and cooperation, thus guaranteeing the peace, stability and prosperity of the region. Faithful to its African vocation, Tunisia, which supports the progress of the African Union and the creation of its institutions and has contributed to peacekeeping operations throughout the world since the 1960s, is a notable presence in Africa through its participation in several peacekeeping operations on the continent.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity to emphasize that Tunisia will continue to act on behalf of the cause of peace and disarmament. We reiterate our readiness to cooperate fully with you, Sir, and the members of the Bureau, and wish the work of the Committee every possible success.

Mr. Charles (Trinidad and Tobago): My delegation congratulates you, Sir, on your election to the chairmanship of the Committee. You and other members of the Bureau may rest assured of our fullest cooperation as the Committee seeks to finalize the work allocated to it for this session.

Trinidad and Tobago also wishes to align itself with the statements delivered by the representatives of Haiti on behalf of the Caribbean Community and Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The maintenance of international peace and security is inextricably linked to the question of disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear and other weapons that pose a grave threat to the well-being of members of the international community. Consequently, we are heartened by the recent commitment of the world's two leading nuclear Powers to work towards the conclusion of a new bilateral nuclear arms reduction agreement by the end of this year. We sincerely hope that this development will serve as a catalyst to all nuclear-weapon-owning States to work towards the reduction and eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons.

All States have a responsibility to ensure that we live in a world that is free from nuclear weapons. It was this conviction that led Trinidad and Tobago to become a State party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and other international treaties aimed at the institution of effective safeguards against proliferation, as well as the destruction of certain types of weapons.

Only recently, on 8 November, Trinidad and Tobago joined the 182 States that have signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), and we expect to ratify the Treaty in the near future. We view the signing of the CTBT as not only another step in promoting disarmament but also as providing an opportunity for us to profit from the civilian benefits provided under the instrument in areas such as seismography.

As a producer of petrochemicals, Trinidad and Tobago is cognizant of the potential for abuse of these products and is committed to the peaceful uses of chemistry. This led us several years ago to become a State party to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). In this regard, we continue to implement our obligations under that Convention and have had our petrochemical production facilities inspected on

several occasions by teams from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. Additionally, we also meet our other obligations by making annual declarations pursuant to article X, paragraph 4, of the verification regime of the CWC and are also in the process of finalizing implementing legislation to give effect to that Convention. Similarly, work is being done on legislation to give domestic legal effect to the provisions of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction.

Trinidad and Tobago is convinced that all actions aimed at disarmament must be implemented primarily through multilateral initiatives, with the United Nations at the forefront. We are, however, deeply concerned about the reticence of some Member States to address other priority issues on the disarmament agenda. We refer here specifically to the challenges posed by small arms and light weapons. For Trinidad and Tobago and other States of the Caribbean Community, this category of conventional weapons represents a clear and present danger to the well-being of the citizenry of our region. In the case of the Caribbean, the illegal trade in small arms and light weapons has contributed significantly to an increase in criminal activity, with the illegal trade in narcotics being a core aspect of this activity. For some States Members of the United Nations, the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is linked to terrorism and armed conflict.

It is widely acknowledged that the illegal arms trade is cross-border in character and therefore requires multilateral action to stem its proliferation. In this regard we echo the words of the Honourable Patrick Manning, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, who in his recent address to the General Assembly (see A/64/PV.9), called for all those States that have not been supportive of the conclusion of a legally binding arms trade treaty to join our fold. These include large States, which are major manufacturers and exporters of small arms and light weapons, and which we believe have a moral responsibility to assist us in this struggle.

An arms trade treaty that provides for globally acceptable standards for areas governing the import, export and transfer of conventional weapons is the only viable option to address an issue that threatens the peace and security of many States, especially small island developing States such as Trinidad and Tobago.

Small and vulnerable States like us have joined other States in the negotiation and adoption of treaties on disarmament that have no immediate impact on us, and now we request those States to assist us in preventing the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. Action on an arms trade treaty must not be relegated to a mere footnote in our continued deliberations on disarmament.

Trinidad and Tobago also looks forward to next year's Biennial Meeting of States to Consider 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. That Meeting will provide us with an enabling environment to discuss issues relating to the transfer of technology and the sharing of best practices in order to address this scourge.

Finally, we also look forward to the work of the Conference on Disarmament to be convened early in 2010, which we expect will provide an opportunity, in a spirit of compromise and transparency, to agree on the implementation of all elements on its agenda. Should that be achieved, the Conference would contribute in no small measure to alleviating some of the most troubling issues that impact on international peace and security.

Mr. Mohamed (Maldives): Let me begin by congratulating you, Sir, and the other members of the Bureau on your election to lead the proceedings of the Committee. Allow me also to recognize and appreciate the work carried out by Ambassador Sergio Duarte in his capacity as the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs. My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The Maldives reaffirms its belief that international efforts on disarmament and non-proliferation should always remain the most important priority on the international agenda. We strongly believe that the ultimate objective of such efforts should focus on the collective realization of a world free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. In this regard, we warmly welcome the ongoing negotiations between the United States and the Russian Federation in working to replace the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty with a new binding agreement to reduce and limit strategic offensive arms. We consider this to be a very positive development given

the impasse faced by the international community on disarmament efforts today.

The Maldives was encouraged by the outcome of the special meeting of the Security Council on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation that was held last month, and we call on nuclear-weapon States to maintain the ongoing momentum to reduce existing stockpiles and strengthen safeguard mechanisms to stop the spread of radioactive and other fissile material.

Ever since the Maldives became a Member of the United Nations, it has tried to impress upon the international community the various vulnerabilities facing small States like ours. Small States often do not have the resources or the means to defend themselves from emerging threats, including the many and varied forms of international terrorism and the activities of organized crime. The continued scourge of terrorism is particularly alarming when seen in the context of the spread of nuclear arms and other weapons of mass destruction.

With our collective efforts, the international community must ensure that such a frightening and very real possibility does not materialize. Some of today's organized crime and terrorist organizations indeed have at their disposal far greater resources and means than some of the small States Members of this Organization. Small arms and light weapons today provide these non-State entities with the lethality they require to cause chaos in countries and to destabilize whole regions.

The international community must step up its efforts in strengthening effective arms control mechanisms to ensure that the spread of small arms and light weapons is stopped completely. In this regard, my delegation supports the efforts of the Open-ended Working Group on the arms trade treaty established pursuant to resolution 63/240. We believe that the responsible regulation and control of arms would provide a comprehensive legal framework to ensure that the diversion of conventional arms and small arms and light weapons does not take place.

We fully support the current efforts being undertaken to establish nuclear-weapon-free zones and zones of peace to strengthen stability and strive towards greater prosperity in a world free from the threat of nuclear annihilation. We underline the importance of confidence-building measures at the

regional and subregional levels as fundamental in establishing such zones.

Since the adoption of the new Constitution in the Maldives last year, policies have been formulated and statutes governing the control and movement of arms put in place to ensure that our international obligations, including measures relating to the establishment of national safeguards towards disarmament and non-proliferation, are addressed and fully complied with. In this regard, we are happy to report that new legislation to further strengthen the domestic counter-terrorism machinery is being introduced, with a greater emphasis on law enforcement and legal capacity-building to reflect our political will to effectively and responsibly exercise these new laws as and when necessary.

The Maldives remains committed to the vision of a world without nuclear weapons. We are now a party to the major disarmament treaties and conventions, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention. Our participation in these conventions clearly signifies our unequivocal support for the twin pillars of international disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Ziadeh (Lebanon) (*spoke in Arabic*): On behalf of the Lebanese delegation, I have the pleasure of congratulating you, Sir, on your election to chair the First Committee on disarmament and international security questions. I should also like to commend the efforts of your predecessor and Bureau members in the course of the Committee's work at the sixty-third session.

My delegation wishes to align itself with the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

In his report on the work of the Organization (A/64/1), the Secretary-General lists five priorities that highlight the need for us to pool our efforts if humankind is to meet the common challenges of this pivotal time in our history. Such common efforts were exemplified by the high-level meetings held at the United Nations alongside the work of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly. These meetings reflected the international community's recognition of the important need to promote multilateral action, in

particular the role of the United Nations in disarmament. The high-level Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the Declaration issued at that meeting strongly reaffirm the need to expedite the entry into force of that Treaty.

The Security Council summit meeting of 24 September on the nuclear danger represented a declaration of intention and was a valuable, though incomplete contribution to efforts to prevent military conflicts, an arms race, and nuclear proliferation and testing — in other words, to mitigate the threats to international security and the survival of humankind.

Significant developments have taken place in 2009 following the financial crisis that affected all countries at a time when regional conflicts and disputes are worsening. Also this year, a crucial impetus has emerged in the international community's priority focus on disarmament in all its aspects — conventional, biological, chemical and nuclear. In this context, Lebanon wishes to underscore a number of positive developments in the field of disarmament and towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free world, including the agreement concluded by the United States and the Russian Federation regarding the reduction of strategic nuclear weapons.

Lebanon also welcomes the fact that the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva was able to reach agreement on a programme of work after many years, which highlights the number of difficulties that stood in its path. Negotiations will soon be launched on a draft fissile material cut-off treaty.

Lebanon welcomes the adoption at the fifty-third General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of two resolutions pertaining to the application of IAEA guarantees in the Middle East — including with regard to the nuclear capabilities of Israel — in order to create a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region and to encourage Israel to accede to this zone and to submit its nuclear facilities to IAEA safeguards. In this regard, Lebanon underscores the importance of turning the Middle East into a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

The international community stands at an important moment as we await the Review Conference of Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), to be held in May 2010. This Treaty lies at the heart of international action and

serves as the ideal legal framework for resolving non-proliferation issues. Moreover, the Conference will provide an unparalleled opportunity to meet the expectations of those who see the application of double standards in the regime. Refusal to join the framework of the Treaty is unacceptable, although we have detected a certain complacency about the re-emergence of nuclear threats and dangers, and about the Treaty's lack of universality.

Thus, we must dissipate the nuclear danger threatening our peoples, in particular in the Middle East. To that end, the Review Conference is a pivotal opportunity to demonstrate the seriousness of our declared peaceful intentions, and one we must not squander. Lebanon encourages all relevant parties to cooperate in ensuring a successful outcome for that Conference. Nuclear-weapon States must abide by their obligations under the Charter. This is about not only reducing but totally eliminating nuclear arsenals, without, however, imposing additional conditions on non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty.

We have seen from studies that the proliferation of small arms and light weapons represents a new challenge in the field of disarmament. There are more than half a billion light weapons in the world. Every year, these weapons cause between 300,000 and 500,000 deaths worldwide. Ninety per cent of civilian casualties are caused by the use of such weapons. In this regard, Lebanon calls on the international community to step up its common efforts to impose effective controls and monitoring of the production, possession, stockpiling, export and import of such weapons. Lebanon, aware of the outcome of the work of the task force on the trade in conventional weapons, encourages the establishment of a consensual environment conducive to the elaboration of a comprehensive and binding convention to ensure that we do not repeat the experience of the NPT — to which Israel refuses to accede — and the threat it poses to security and stability not only in the Middle East but around the world.

Throughout its history, Lebanon has always abided by the United Nations Charter and the principles of international law. These have served as a protective shield, and even though they have not put an end to Israel's continued acts of aggression against us, Lebanon has chosen the path of international peace and security. Lebanon has no nuclear capability and was among the first States to sign and ratify the NPT.

Lebanon has also signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty in order to expedite its entry into force. We are in the process of adopting a resolution that will enable Lebanon to adhere to the International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation, and plan to attend all international meetings seeking to guarantee the security and safety of civilians.

How could we choose to act otherwise? Lebanon has suffered the consequences of numerous acts of war waged by Israel against our territory and peoples. Thousands of anti-personnel mines were placed by Israel in southern Lebanon and millions of cluster bomblets launched in the 2006 war, targeting Lebanese civilians, affecting their survival and livelihood, and killing children on their way to school. To ensure that this suffering does not occur in other countries, Lebanon participated in the formulation of the international Convention on Cluster Munitions in 2008, and strongly calls on all States, including Israel, to accede to it.

We call for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and support relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 488 (1981), noting that Israel is the only nuclear-weapon State that has yet to accede to the NPT and has still not submitted its nuclear installations to the comprehensive safeguards regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency, thus as always flouting international law.

Lebanon stresses the need to resolve conflicts by addressing their root causes. That is the way to overcome occupation, exploitation of natural resources and the situation of people living under occupation. The well-being and welfare of our peoples and the safety and security of our society are a common responsibility, and the history of humankind is replete with military conflicts and war. It is time that we take heart, show the necessary political will and take the necessary measures that will allow us to consolidate the basis for the elimination of all nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Sin Son Ho (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Allow me first of all, Sir, to congratulate you on your election as Chairperson of the First Committee. My delegation is very confident that this session will achieve fruitful results under your able chairmanship.

Disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament, remains the most pressing issue in ensuring world peace and security. Humankind has seen just how dangerous nuclear weapons are from the disastrous and brutal ravages caused by the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The first nuclear weapon in the world was manufactured by the State with the largest nuclear arsenal.

More than half a century has passed since then. Nevertheless, the nuclear arms race has taken new form, while we see no nuclear disarmament. During the cold-war era, the nuclear arms race was confined to the two super-Powers, but after the end of the cold war it is taking place among all nuclear-weapon Powers in a more competitive way and includes the modernization of nuclear weapons. Worse still, the modernization of nuclear weapons has reached such a dangerous stage that makes even a pre-emptive nuclear strike possible as it combines with the worldwide missile defence system of the super-Power.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea demands the total and complete elimination of nuclear weapons throughout the world. The United States call for a world without nuclear weapons deserves to be welcomed if it presupposes the disarmament of nuclear weapons in those countries with the largest nuclear arsenals. When the States with the largest nuclear arsenals take the lead in nuclear disarmament, they will positively influence the newly emerged nuclear-weapon States in various parts of the world and contribute to the total global elimination of nuclear weapons.

The current situation on the Korean peninsula is one clear example that eloquently proves why nuclear disarmament has remained stalemated in the international arena for such a long period. In this regard, the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea believes that due attention should be focused on the following questions.

First, when and by whom were nuclear weapons deployed for the first time on the Korean peninsula, and who is now being nuclear-blackmailed and by whom? It was none other than the United States that introduced nuclear weapons into South Korea in 1957. Since then, their number has snowballed to more than 1,000, targeting the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and thus threatening its sovereignty and right to existence. United States nuclear blackmail against us

began as early as during the Korean War from 1950 to 1953, which left millions of people as atomic bomb refugees. They are now separated families and, as is known worldwide, are living separately in the North and South of Korea.

Likewise, the United States nuclear threat is the main factor of acute confrontation in the Korean peninsula. Having designated the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as one of its targets for pre-emptive nuclear strikes in 2002, the United States continues to conduct large-scale nuclear war exercises on a regular basis on the Korean peninsula and in its vicinity. In March and August of this year alone, United States-South Korea joint military exercises were conducted, involving different kinds of weapons of mass destruction capable of nuclear pre-emptive strikes, such as the nuclear-powered carriers *USS George Washington* and *USS John C. Stennis*, nuclear-powered submarines, and others, under the codenames Key Resolve/Foal Eagle and Ulji Freedom Guardian.

Secondly, what kind of role is the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) playing with regard to the aforementioned nuclear-weapon State? On the Korean peninsula, the NPT was unable to foil nuclear-weapon deployment by a State which possesses the largest nuclear arsenal or to stop its nuclear threat. The NPT stipulates that nuclear-weapon States are obliged to dismantle nuclear weapons. Nevertheless, the offender, which introduced nuclear weapons to the Korean peninsula while resorting to nuclear blackmail, is now attempting to label the Democratic People's Republic of Korea an unlawful State by abusing international law. Unfortunately, this is today's reality in international relations. What cannot be overlooked is that the Security Council, forced by the United States, brought up our peaceful satellite launch as an issue, claiming it to be a missile launch threatening the peace and security of the region. Our satellite launch was conducted in accordance with all international procedures.

Thirdly, what is the real nature of the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula? As is well known, the nuclear threat against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is not an abstract concept but an actual reality posed directly by the United States. As a matter of fact, it was none other than the United States that pushed the Democratic People's Republic of Korea into nuclear armament, and the nuclear confrontation on the Korean peninsula has been precisely a

Democratic People's Republic of Korea-United States confrontation from the beginning.

If the United States continues to threaten the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with nuclear weapons, we will have no other option but to strengthen self-defensive deterrence to safeguard national sovereignty and dignity. That is the final conclusion we have reached after the half-century-long Democratic People's Republic of Korea-United States confrontation. If the Korean peninsula is to be denuclearized the United States should terminate its nuclear threat and hostile policy calling for regime change in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is in a position to replace the present unstable armistice status with a durable peace arrangement on the Korean peninsula, to liquidate the remnants of the cold war, the last of its kind in the world, and eventually to denuclearize the whole Korean peninsula. Replacing the Korean armistice agreement with a peace agreement is essential for peace and the reunification of the Korean peninsula and the peace and security of North-East Asia and beyond as a whole.

Today, the role of the disarmament machinery is increasingly important in international efforts for world peace and security. In particular, the First Committee should enhance its role in nuclear disarmament as an organ dealing with disarmament issues. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as a State member of the United Nations Conference on Disarmament, recognizes that the Conference is a unique disarmament negotiating body in the United Nations and the most useful to promote global disarmament. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea welcomes the adoption by the Conference on Disarmament of its programme of work in May this year, adopted for the first time after 10 years of deadlock. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea joined others in approving the programme of work because the nuclear disarmament issue was reflected in the document and, furthermore, because of its belief that it would lead to concrete and substantial discussion as the due outcome.

As for the nuclear disarmament issues to be deliberated in the First Committee, the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea expresses its support particularly for the draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International

Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons", introduced every year by Malaysia. We also associate ourselves with the statement made by representative of the Republic of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea will continue to honour its foreign policy of independence, peace and friendship and to make every effort to ensure peace and security in the region, including the Korean peninsula.

Mr. Akram (Pakistan): First of all, I should like to congratulate you, Sir, on your election as the Chairperson of the First Committee at the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly. I am confident that, under your able leadership, the session will achieve important results. I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation in this endeavour.

Pakistan fully associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

We meet this year in an environment characterized by optimism flowing from the expression of positive intentions and renewed commitment to the objective of disarmament by the major nuclear-weapon States. This has imbued the policy makers, the intelligentsia and civil society everywhere with a sense of hope. There is an expectation that the recent pronouncements will generate the necessary momentum and willingness to take concrete action for the realization of a peaceful and stable world free of all kinds of weapons of mass destruction and an equitable global security architecture underpinned by equal and undiminished security for all States.

Like other States, Pakistan has always espoused the cause of general and complete disarmament and worked assiduously towards peace and stability at the global and regional levels. It is encouraged by these developments. At the same time, we remain mindful of the ground realities that continue to threaten the realization of the ideals spelt out at the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (SSOD-I). The objectives of disarmament and global peace and stability cannot be effectively pursued in isolation from these realities, which mark the contemporary global and regional security environment. These include, first, the imbalances and asymmetries in defence spending regionally as well as globally, which are counterproductive to arms control objectives and also undermine attempts to establish

peace and security. Despite the end of the cold war, the national defence budgets of the major Powers continue to increase. Total military expenditure during 2008, for instance, was more than \$1,470 billion which, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute reports, represents an increase of 45 per cent since 1999. There is therefore a need to take concrete steps to address the asymmetries in both the nuclear and conventional fields that exist at the regional and subregional levels.

Secondly, regional disputes continue to fester around the globe, particularly in South Asia and the Middle East. To make matters worse, we have also seen the emergence of new conflicts. If arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation measures are to be successful, the causes of the arms race and threats to peace must be reduced by effective action for the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Thirdly, the derogation from non-proliferation norms, discriminatory exceptions for political or strategic interests, and disregard of any equitably applicable criteria have undermined the credibility and legitimacy of the non-proliferation regime. In order to restore and reinvigorate the non-proliferation regime, a new global non-proliferation and disarmament construct is required, based on the principles of non-discrimination and universally applicable criteria. In this regard, there is also a need for realism and to mainstream in the nuclear order, in an equitable manner, those States that have never been parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. In this context, Mr. ElBaradei, the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, has referred to the complex security perceptions of these States and called for pragmatic steps.

Fourthly, the growing trend of promoting the security of some States at the cost of others through measures adopted by a select group of States outside recognized multilateral negotiating forums undermines the principle of equal and undiminished security for all States. Since the issues of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation affect the vital security interests of all States, all States should have the opportunity fully to participate and play an equal role in negotiations on these issues. Multilateralism and multilaterally negotiated, universally accepted and non-discriminatory agreements therefore provide the best way forward for achieving the objective of disarmament and non-proliferation. The tendency to

bypass recognized United Nations negotiating forums should be eschewed.

Disarmament, non-proliferation and peace and security are inextricably linked. A holistic approach encompassing the simultaneous pursuit of these objectives is the only solution. Progress in any one of these spheres has a beneficial effect on all of them; in turn, failure in one sphere has negative effects on others. The best venue in which to pursue a holistic strategy for disarmament and global peace and security is the Conference on Disarmament, and the best manner to do so will be through the adoption of a comprehensive and balanced programme of work for the Conference that accords equal treatment and priority to all agenda items, particularly the four core issues of nuclear disarmament, negative security assurances, prevention of an arms race in outer space and a fissile material treaty.

Disarmament is the *raison d'être* of the Conference on Disarmament. The objective of disarmament should therefore be the central theme of the substantive work of the Conference in relation to all items on its agenda. Conference members bear a heavy responsibility to ensure that the Conference does not deviate from the role defined for it by the SSOD-I. Within this framework, Pakistan will extend its full support to efforts within the Conference on Disarmament to reach a consensus on a programme of work as soon as possible.

Access to nuclear technology for socio-economic development, including nuclear power generation for energy security, is the right of every State. As a fossil fuel-deficit country, Pakistan needs to explore all possible sources of energy, including nuclear power generation. In this regard, we emphasize the need for the adoption of universally acceptable criteria, applied without discrimination, for access to nuclear technology for peaceful uses under appropriate international safeguards. The Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency has on several occasions advocated the adoption of such a non-discriminatory, criteria-based approach.

Pakistan agrees with the disarmament and non-proliferation objectives of the recently adopted Security Council resolution 1887 (2009). However, the realization of the objectives of that resolution should be anchored in upholding the respective roles of the relevant international organizations and forums. The

issues of verification and non-compliance have to be addressed in the context of the international agreements to which States are parties and in accordance with the mechanisms defined for this purpose within these agreements. States that arrogate to themselves the right to define their approach towards key arms control and disarmament issues based on their national security assessments must also recognize the right of other States to decide freely about their adherence to international instruments. No State can be expected to approach the issues related to disarmament and non-proliferation in isolation from its security concerns.

Weapons of mass destruction are not the only threat to durable international peace and stability. In parallel with negotiations on nuclear disarmament, there is an urgent need for negotiations on the balanced reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments. As laid down in the Final Document of SSOD-I (resolution S-10/2), these negotiations should be conducted with particular emphasis on militarily significant States. The disturbing trend of escalation in the number and sophistication of conventional weapons has to be arrested, as it has a causal relationship with the continuing reliance on nuclear weapons.

There is a need to focus on conventional arms control that is not limited to controls over only trade in conventional arms, but also includes measures for arms reduction, limitation and restraint. Any future arrangement on conventional arms that addresses the transfer of arms but not their development, production and deployment will be inequitable against countries which do not themselves produce conventional armaments. It will therefore prove difficult to conclude or implement. Threat perceptions emanating from the possession, development, production, acquisition and development of larger and more lethal or sophisticated weapons and weapon systems by potential adversaries need to be addressed in the framework of any new arrangement on conventional arms. The issue of conventional imbalances within regions and the impact of arms transfers on regional stability should be addressed first and foremost. Illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons and the diversion of small arms and light weapons from licit to illicit channels is a matter of international concern.

In this regard, we fully 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. We believe that this mechanism should be further strengthened to deal with all aspects of the problem of small arms and light weapons. In parallel, States must also recognize their responsibility to streamline and strengthen their national export controls in order to prevent the possibility of the diversion of arms from legal trade to illicit channels. The diversion of arms is a matter of great concern for Pakistan. Terrorists and militants have been using arms and ammunition illegally trafficked into Pakistan. This poses a great challenge in the context of our ongoing law enforcement operations in the areas bordering Afghanistan.

Pakistan accords great priority to the promotion of an environment of peace and security at the regional and global levels. Our policy stems from our conviction that a peaceful and secure environment internally, regionally and globally, would contribute positively towards economic growth and development, which would lead to a reduction in poverty and help to enhance the welfare of our people.

Pakistan's desire to promote peace is also reflected in its adherence to the objective of non-proliferation. We share the concern that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction could destabilize the global security environment. We have therefore put in place wide-ranging legislative, regulatory and administrative measures to strengthen our national export controls in accordance with international standards. We are a party to a number of international instruments and initiatives on non-proliferation and nuclear safety and security, and continue to strengthen our partnership with the international community in the global efforts against proliferation and possible acts of weapons-of-mass-destruction terrorism.

Our vision for South Asia is anchored in a security architecture based on preventive diplomacy, confidence-building and conflict resolution. Our concerns arise from a growing strategic imbalance in South Asia that includes the recent introduction of nuclear submarines and submarine-launched ballistic missiles. Pakistan's efforts for the maintenance of peace and security in South Asia are well known. Between 1974 and 1998, we made several proposals to keep South Asia free of nuclear weapons. Unfortunately, these proposals could not elicit a positive response. However, we have persevered in our efforts to promote peace and stability in the region.

As a responsible nuclear-weapon State, Pakistan is pursuing a policy of credible minimum deterrence. Pakistan's proposal is for a strategic restraint regime that has three-tiered interlocking elements of conflict resolution, nuclear and missile restraint and conventional balance. This warrants serious consideration and the support of the international community. We expect extraregional Powers to adopt even-handed policies in South Asia and avoid steps that undermine the regional strategic balance.

Before concluding my statement, I wish to state that Pakistan will be presenting its four draft resolutions to the Committee. In your opening statement, Sir, you stressed the importance of adopting resolutions by consensus. We share your goal and hope that, with your support, our draft resolutions will be adopted by consensus.

Mr. Bankotine Batengue (Togo) (*spoke in French*): Allow me first to associate myself with previous speakers in extending to you, Sir, our congratulations on your election to chair the Committee. I should also like to congratulate the other members of the Bureau. You can rest assured of the support of the delegation of Togo in regard to the success of our work. I should also like to express to you, Sir, our sincere gratitude for having given us the floor after the list of speakers had already been closed.

Before continuing my remarks, I should like to point out that my country associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the African Group.

The struggle against the proliferation of nuclear weapons and all forms of weapons of mass destruction, as well as the illicit and uncontrolled spread of conventional weapons, is the duty of us all if we wish to spare our peoples unspeakable suffering. That is why my country, which has placed peace and security at the heart of its policy, gives the struggle against the illicit circulation of arms of all types and general and complete disarmament the highest priority. Our legitimate and long-standing struggle is reflected at the national level by the adoption of various legislative and regulatory measures, including decree No. 62/2 of 8 January 1962 governing the importation and manufacture and use of sophisticated weapons; decree No. 2001-98 of 19 March 2001 establishing the national commission to combat the proliferation and illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons.

At the subregional level, Togo was one of the pioneers of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Small Arms and Light Weapons in West Africa and among the first countries to have ratified the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials, an instrument that it is now implementing.

At the international level, my country is a party to the following legal instruments: 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 and its Protocols I, II, III, IV and V; the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction; the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction; the statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency; the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty; and many other conventions aimed at ridding the world of the tragic effects of weapons.

It is in the same spirit of its policy of disarmament that Togo requested and obtained the establishment of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa. The Centre, which is working with our national commission to combat proliferation and illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, has made an enormous contribution to addressing issues of disarmament in the subregion through its advice in the implementation of various disarmament projects. We need to ask for an increase in both human and financial resources to allow the Centre effectively to accomplish its task.

My delegation welcomes the proposals being considered to amend the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and to adopt a legally binding instrument on an arms trade treaty. However, the provisions of the draft resolution that we are called upon to adopt, seeking to convene a United Nations conference on an arms trade treaty, will require clarity and precision if we are to avoid any kind of erroneous interpretation

that might jeopardize the future of the arms trade treaty that we most fervently hope to see adopted.

Togo also wishes here to reiterate a well-deserved tribute to the Presidents of the United States of America and the Russian Federation for their most welcome decision to reduce their countries' nuclear arsenals. I also take this opportunity to urge all the other nuclear-weapon States to act likewise and to encourage those that would seek to produce such weapons to abandon their plans, since the future of our planet hinges on that decision.

This is no time for lofty speeches; it is time now for broad action. Our present choices and behaviour will determine the security and safety of our peoples and of generations to come.

The Chairperson (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the observer of Palestine.

Mr. Hijazi (Palestine): At the outset, Sir, allow me to convey my delegation's congratulations to you and your country, Uruguay, on your election as Chairperson of the First Committee. We extend our best wishes to the Bureau and express our confidence that the Committee will successfully conclude its important work under your able stewardship. My delegation also wishes to express its appreciation to Ambassador Marco Antonio Suazo of Honduras and the previous Bureau members for their commitment and hard work during the past session.

I also wish to state that Palestine aligns itself with the important statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Palestine believes that disarmament efforts must be made in a manner that upholds the principles of international humanitarian law, particularly the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols. That is the only acceptable context for any serious effort or discourse on this issue. In this regard, we believe that all Member States have a duty to stop the transfer of arms to States that seriously violate international humanitarian law, including by committing grave breaches identified in the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. This is particularly relevant to belligerent occupying Powers that do not respect their obligations under international law and have been proven to use indiscriminate and excessive force against civilian populations.

Combating and preventing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is another important goal which the international community needs to address. Palestine also believes that Member States should accord due attention to official State arming and forming of militias that reside unlawfully in an occupied land, committing aggressions that terrorize the civilian population. These militias own State-sanctioned and funded small arms, which feed conflicts and perpetuate human rights violations. The routine, illegal Israeli settler violence against Palestinian civilians in the occupied Palestinian territory is a clear example of such situations.

Additionally, we must address the use of certain conventional weapons which have indiscriminate and excessive effects, especially when used illegally against civilians, such as cluster munitions, anti-personnel landmines, flechette missiles, so-called dense inert metal explosive munitions, and ammunition containing depleted uranium. Additionally, we must seriously consider the illegal use of weapons, such as white phosphorus, which are not proscribed as illegal under international law. The long-term devastating effects of these weapons on civilian populations have been proven beyond any doubt.

Recently, several international and United Nations reports, including the report of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict (see A/HRC/12/48), headed by the honourable Judge Richard Goldstone, have documented Israel's use of such weapons against civilians and their devastating consequences. South Lebanon is another example. There, the civilian population, particularly children, continues to suffer from Israeli cluster munitions, which have claimed the lives and limbs of scores of innocents. That is why we support the conventions, protocols and efforts that seek to prohibit, ban and tackle the humanitarian threats to civilians as a result of using such indiscriminate weapons.

The proliferation of nuclear and non-conventional weapons represents the most serious threat to humanity's survival. That is why it is placed, and rightly so, high on the international agenda. But this renewed international commitment must be accompanied by concrete actions. We regret that the Middle East has yet to become a nuclear-weapon-free zone and that Israel remains the only State in the region that has neither become nor stated its intention to become a party to the Treaty on the

Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). We believe that this is an undeniable expression of the true obstacle standing in the way of ridding the region of these weapons of mass murder.

Israel has clearly and repeatedly declared that it is a nuclear-weapon State. Such a declaration must be particularly alarming to all concerned. In this regard, we express our alarm at statements made by certain Powers that not only ignore the reality in our region but also encourage the belligerence of a Member State. We believe that such statements are counterproductive. That is why we must warn against selectivity in our efforts to rid the Middle East of nuclear arms. We maintain that turning a blind eye to States that are stockpiling and developing nuclear weapons while refusing to submit to international inspection is gravely dangerous. Our efforts for nuclear non-proliferation and international inspection in the region must be comprehensive, not selective. In this regard, we believe that international efforts in the region must exert concerted pressure on Israel to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons without delay, in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Establishing a zone free of nuclear weapons in the Middle East is an indispensable condition of stability and peace in the region for generations to come. In this regard, we contend that any attempt to precondition international accountability in this regard is a disingenuous pretext to escape adherence. We believe that it is vital to push for the implementation of the package deal on the indefinite extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference, in particular the resolution on the Middle East. Anything less will prove devastating and could trigger a nuclear arms race in the region. We are certain that this is a possibility no one wants to face. We believe that the 13 practical steps towards nuclear disarmament adopted at the 2000 NPT Review Conference must also be respected in order to maintain the credibility of the Treaty.

We wish to reiterate that the resolution adopted by the International Atomic Energy Agency General Conference at its fifty-third session, entitled "Israeli nuclear capabilities", constitutes a step in the right direction. But implementation and adherence are key to the success of the international community's efforts to combat the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Failure to

do so would only further undermine the single most important multilateral nuclear arms control agreement.

Finally, we believe that the devastating and long-term effects of human rights violations, impunity, foreign occupation, underdevelopment and poverty are directly linked to our efforts in disarmament. These conditions induce violence, radicalism and hopelessness, providing fertile ground for a host of illicit trades, which this Committee must address responsibly. It is our responsibility to endorse the reality that deadly conflicts and the illicit arms trade will continue so long as the root causes of conflicts continue unresolved. We cannot deny our collective responsibility for eliminating the causes rather than managing the symptoms of conflicts. This moral and political responsibility should take centre stage in our efforts.

At a time when the world community is cooperating to overcome economic and environmental dangers, we must show equal determination to work collectively on stopping the scourge of needless and senseless wars. Millions of defenceless civilians, who have long suffered senseless violence and grinding poverty, count on us to do that. Only then will our future generations stand a chance at living a prosperous life, free of the worst nightmare humanity can face — a nuclear arms race and unchecked violations of human rights.

The Chairperson (*spoke in Spanish*): I now call on the observer of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Mrs. Filip (Inter-Parliamentary Union): Please allow me to begin by congratulating you, Sir, and your Bureau upon your election to lead the work of the First Committee during the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly. We would like to wish you full success in discharging this important function, and assure you of the full support of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) throughout the process.

I would like to take this opportunity to refer to the issue of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation from the perspective of the efforts undertaken more recently by the IPU and its member parliaments in this field. Member States may recall that the 2007 Parliamentary hearing at the United Nations addressed the issue of the rule of law in international relations, with one of its sessions dedicated to the implementation of key international commitments in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. That

panel was addressed by the United Nations Deputy High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), the President of the Global Security Initiative, the Chair of the Mexican Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), and was followed by a substantive exchange of views among the participating legislators — some 200 members of parliament from more than 70 countries. Much of the discussion focused on the nuclear predicament and the need to mobilize political leadership and a commitment effectively to deal with it. This was an issue many parliamentarians felt simply could not wait much longer.

Based on the outcome of that annual hearing, IPU members decided that this warranted a more serious examination, including within parliaments themselves, and therefore introduced the issue on the formal agenda of work of the IPU.

The IPU Standing Committee on Peace and International Security was therefore mandated to look into the issue of the role of Parliaments in advancing nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, and securing the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). Two prominent legislators from Australia and Zambia were designated as rapporteurs, and their substantive report and draft resolution were circulated for consideration by the member parliaments of the IPU. We also benefited from the expertise of the United Nations and the support of other parliamentary organizations, in particular the network of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament.

After a rigorous process of examination, debate and negotiations, a parliamentary resolution was adopted by consensus by the IPU member parliaments in April this year. That text has been circulated to the General Assembly and this Committee under the respective agenda item, so I do not propose to dwell too much on its content. I would note, however, that it carries a strong political message that serves as a call for action by parliaments and parliamentarians from around the world on a number of fronts: ensuring universal ratification of the CTBT; strengthening the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons regime and achieving universal accession thereto;

promoting the Secretary-General's five-point plan for nuclear disarmament; and supporting a number of concurrent steps, such as reductions in nuclear stockpiles and in the operational status of nuclear weapons, the establishment of additional nuclear-weapon-free zones, in particular in the Middle East, and the commencement of negotiations on a fissile materials treaty as well as on a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention.

During the discussions on the draft resolution, several parliaments underscored the type of activities that they are already undertaking in order to advance nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation: seeking swift ratification of relevant international treaties and protocols; urging their executives to sign international agreements to which their countries are not yet a party; introducing motions in parliament for general or extended debates; adopting resolutions in parliament on very specific issues, such as resolutions calling for the dismantlement of military bases with nuclear weapons in the territory of various countries; establishing new bodies within parliament, such as subcommittees, caucuses or all-party groups, to deal specifically with matters relating to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation; exercising their powers of oversight and reviewing the extent to which their Governments are implementing agreed commitments; and improving parliamentary mechanisms to more rigorously scrutinize military budgets and procurement programmes, and even introducing and amending legislation that allocates funding to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation initiatives.

In practical terms, allow me to provide just a few of the examples brought forward by participating legislators during our last IPU Assembly, which also saw the adoption of the said resolution. On that occasion, members of parliament from Angola, China and Pakistan shared their experiences in the adoption of national laws regulating the use, transport and transfer of nuclear technologies and materials according to international standards. Legislators from Mongolia and New Zealand provided examples of legislation that criminalizes nuclear-weapon activities. The Parliament of Norway explained how it was able to develop legislation that divests Government pension funds from corporations involved in the production of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems. Members of parliament from South Korea referred to their efforts

of parliamentary diplomacy seeking to engage in dialogue with legislators from North Korea. The Chair of the Committee on Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation in the German Bundestag convened a hearing in parliament on the need for a nuclear weapons convention.

At the regional level, the Namibian Parliament had recently been involved in convening a regional workshop for the States members of the Southern Africa Development Community on the CTBT, and it remains committed to following up on these efforts. From Australia, we heard how there is scope for its Parliament to do more, in the light of its strong linkages to Asia, to promote non-proliferation and disarmament, in terms both of support for treaties from countries of the region and of norms of nuclear restraint. For example, it was noted that there is particular benefit in Australian parliamentarians becoming more engaged with their counterparts in India on non-proliferation issues.

In terms of specific efforts to ensure the entry into force of the CTBT, we learned how the collaborative efforts among the Parliaments of Costa Rica and Austria, through the CTBTO and the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT, are in fact contributing to accelerating the ratification process in Latin America and the Caribbean region. Members of parliament from the nine Annex 2 States that have not yet ratified the CTBT came forward to address not only their concerns but also the avenues that they were willing to explore. Clearly, this is a discussion that needs to continue with renewed energy, and clearly the value of inter-parliamentary exchange and cooperation cannot be underestimated here.

We believe that, for all of the reasons cited by previous speakers in this Committee, the international community today has a unique window of opportunity to make real progress towards achieving the ideal of a nuclear-weapon-free world shared by citizens around the globe. We need to seize the moment. We know that building political will is the key and we know that parliaments and parliamentarians are an important part of this solution. The IPU is therefore committed to playing its role in moving forward this crucial process.

The Chairperson (*spoke in Spanish*): The Committee has heard the last speaker in the general

debate on all disarmament and international security agenda items.

The representative of the Republic of Korea has asked to make a statement in exercise of the right of reply. I would remind her that, in accordance with the rules of procedure, the first statement in exercise of the right of reply shall be limited to 10 minutes.

Ms. Kim Sung-eun (Republic of Korea): In relation to the remarks made by the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, I should like to point out, among other things, one that my delegation assumes is factually misleading. The Republic of Korea-United States joint military exercise is purely defensive in nature to maintain joint preparedness. I believe that all States, including the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, conduct similar military exercises. In doing so, the Republic of Korea has given prior notice of the annual exercise to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea through the United Nations command channel to enhance transparency and confidence-building.

The Chairperson (*spoke in Spanish*): During the course of the general debate, over seven meetings, we listened to more than 100 statements, which have highlighted the main concerns and priorities in the area of disarmament and international security. This high number of speakers is a clear sign of the importance attached by member States to matters of disarmament and international security.

Organization of work

The Chairperson (*spoke in Spanish*): The Committee has thus concluded the first phase of its work. Tomorrow, the Committee will embark on the second phase, namely the thematic discussion on item subjects and introduction and consideration of all draft resolutions submitted under all disarmament and related international security agenda items 86 to 103. During this phase, the Committee will discuss in greater detail the seven thematic clusters: nuclear weapons; other weapons of mass destruction; outer space (disarmament aspects); conventional weapons; regional disarmament and security; other disarmament measures and international security; and disarmament machinery. The programme for this phase of our work is available in document A/C.1/64/CRP.1.

As I have explained previously, delegations wishing to take the floor during the thematic phase are

invited to inscribe their names on the informal rolling list of speakers for a given cluster with the Secretariat. Of course, during the thematic debate requests for interventions will also be taken directly from the floor on the given day. As delegations familiar with the work of the Committee are aware, flexibility is required for this segment of our work, as it may not always be possible to adhere strictly to the schedule set out in document A/C.1/64/CRP.1. Thus, delegations are requested to ask to speak on a given cluster and to be prepared to intervene at whichever meeting the cluster will be addressed, as time allows.

I would remind everyone that tomorrow afternoon we will take up the matter of the follow-up of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Committee at its past session and the presentation of reports with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs. Following that, we will have an exchange with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs,

Mr. Sergio Duarte, and other high-level officials in the field of arms control and disarmament. In the last part of the meeting, if time permits, we will begin with the list of speakers under the thematic cluster "Nuclear weapons".

Allow me to remind all delegations that the deadline for the submission of draft resolutions and draft decisions under all disarmament and international security agenda items is Thursday, 15 October, at 12 noon. I am aware that a number of delegations have already submitted their draft resolutions. I should like to express my appreciation to those delegations for their early submission, and I encourage others to follow suit. Meeting the submission deadline of 15 October will enable the Secretariat to make the documents containing draft resolutions available to the Committee in all official languages as soon as possible.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.