



# General Assembly

Sixty-fifth session

## First Committee

5<sup>th</sup> meeting

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New York

Official Records

*Chair:* Mr. Miloš Koterec ..... (Slovakia)

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

### Agenda items 88 to 104 (continued)

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

**Mr. Bodini** (San Marino): I wish to congratulate you, Sir, and the other members of the Bureau on your election to your very important posts. I am sure that your guidance will contribute to the success of our work.

San Marino, together with the overwhelming majority of Member States, shares a dream with the objective of a nuclear-weapon-free world. We believe that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is a fundamental instrument and we welcome the adoption of the Final Document of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)). It contains concrete actions to move forward towards nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. It is very important to ensure full compliance with the provisions of the Treaty in order to achieve our ultimate goal — a world free of nuclear weapons.

Moreover, we are all aware of the risk of nuclear proliferation and greatly concerned about the interest of terrorists and illegal non-State actors in the acquisition of nuclear weapons. I should also like to underline that the NPT Review Conference expressed deep concern over the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of such weapons. This

concept should strengthen our commitment towards their complete and irreversible elimination.

We thank the United States of America and the Russian Federation for their renewed efforts to reduce their nuclear arsenals. Moreover, we praise those countries that have decided to establish regional nuclear-free zones and we encourage the establishment of such zones in other parts of our world in order to achieve our final goal — global nuclear disarmament. We thank the Secretary-General for all his initiatives in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation and for his strong support for the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty by 2012.

In conclusion, San Marino strongly believes that the First Committee plays a vital role in nuclear disarmament and that right now we have a unique and historic opportunity to reach further decisive and positive results. Our collective message is loud and clear: No more nuclear weapons; we are running out of time.

**Mr. Gerasimovich** (Belarus) (*spoke in Russian*): Issues considered by the First Committee traditionally enjoy the priority attention of the Belarus delegation. We believe that under your stewardship, Sir, the current session will yield fruitful and effective discussions. Among the many problems linked to international security, the themes of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation remain at the top of the agenda.

The Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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(NPT), held in May this year, confirmed the importance of preserving and strengthening that international instrument, which we consider to be the cornerstone of the entire security architecture. The adoption at the Conference of an Outcome Document (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)) containing, inter alia, a specific list of follow-up actions gives us hope that the NPT States parties will continue productive work towards the speedy implementation of the goals of the Treaty. Belarus voluntarily renounced its nuclear weapons and for many years has been a responsible party to the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms of 1991.

We believe that achieving general and complete nuclear disarmament is the main strategic goal of the NPT, and we support a realistic, balanced and phased approach to this process. In that context, we welcome the signing by Russia and the United States in April of the New START treaty. We view this step as a serious contribution to enhancing strategic security and stability in the world. We trust that the Russian and American sides will work to develop effective measures geared towards further reductions of offensive arms that could create the conditions for making the process of nuclear disarmament irreversible and multilateral. We note with satisfaction the recognition in the new treaty of the contributions of the Republics of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine to the process of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Giving the NPT non-nuclear-weapon States parties clear and unconditional security assurances on the basis of a legally binding document could significantly bolster the nuclear non-proliferation regime. Giving such guarantees would be a symbol of trust and predictability in international relations and an important incentive towards the universalization of the Treaty. We should remember that the Outcome Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference stipulated that all nuclear-weapon States pledged fully to honour their existing commitments in terms of security assurances.

We support the expeditious opening of negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament on the drawing up of a cut-off treaty for fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear devices. During its chairmanship of the Conference on Disarmament from February to March 2010, Belarus proposed a draft

programme of work for this forum for the current year. We believe that, at this stage, we should adopt a principled decision on opening talks. The scope and purview of the future treaty must be the subject of a negotiating process. We supported the initiative of the Secretary-General to convene in September a High-level Meeting on revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations. We believe that the mere holding of such a Meeting affirmed the unique nature of the Conference on Disarmament as a forum for multilateral negotiations on issues of international security and disarmament.

We welcome the efforts of the United Nations to counter the illicit and uncontrolled proliferation of small arms and light weapons. We trust that next year's meeting of the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on this issue will set the stage for substantive discussion within the conference in 2012 on consideration of the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

The Republic of Belarus actively recognizes the need for comprehensive consideration of issues of information and communication technologies in the context of international security. We are troubled by the fact that the malevolent use of information and communication technologies in the political, military, economic, scientific and technical fields is becoming an increasingly tangible threat to international and national security. We welcome the activities of the Group of Governmental Experts on the Issue of Information Security. We are gratified that the Group of Governmental Experts, pursuant to its mandate, agreed on a draft report that has been submitted to the General Assembly. The report reflects the main areas of the international community's activity in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security. The Group's work and the report's recommendations confirm our conviction of the need to continue active, multilateral cooperation in the sphere of international information security.

**Mr. Wang Qun (China)** (*spoke in Chinese*): At the outset, allow me, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, to congratulate you, Sir, on your election to the chairmanship of the First Committee at this session of the General Assembly.

The first decade of the twenty-first century has witnessed complex and profound changes in the international security landscape. While the overall international situation is stable, traditional security threats, such as regional hot spots and conflicts, continue to emerge and non-traditional security issues are increasingly pressing.

In confronting the numerous complicated security challenges, it has become the common choice of States to join hands to attain the goal of security for all through mutually beneficial means. China maintains that if we are to effectively address the common security challenges and build a safer world for all, we should foster a peaceful and stable international environment, fully respect and accommodate the legitimate and reasonable security concerns of all countries, conduct dialogue and cooperation on an equal footing and build State-to-State relations of mutual understanding and trust, adhere to multilateralism, and consolidate the collective security system, with the United Nations at its core.

We welcome the progress that has been made in international arms control and disarmament since the beginning of this year. To advance the international disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation process, joint and unremitting efforts are called for on the part of the international community. On this issue I should like to make four points.

First, the recommendations contained in the Outcome Document (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)) of the Eighth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) should be fully implemented. To this end, the international community should stick to the NPT's three major objectives of nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and commit to the goal of the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons. The success of the NPT Review Conference in May was of great significance to further enhancing the authority, effectiveness and universality of the Treaty.

China believes that the nuclear-weapon States should explicitly undertake not to seek permanent possession of nuclear weapons, earnestly reduce the role of nuclear weapons in their national security policy, unequivocally commit not to be the first to use nuclear weapons, pledge unconditionally not to use or

threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States and nuclear-weapon-free zones, and conclude an international legal instrument in this regard at an early date. Meanwhile, the international community should work to promote the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

China welcomes the recent signing of the new bilateral nuclear disarmament treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation and wishes to see its speedy ratification. In the meantime, we hope that those two countries, which possess the largest nuclear arsenals and have special and primary responsibility for nuclear disarmament, will continue to make drastic and substantive reductions in their nuclear arsenals so as to create the necessary conditions for the ultimate realization of complete and thorough nuclear disarmament. When conditions are right, other nuclear-weapon States should also join the multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament.

In nuclear disarmament, the principle of global strategic stability and undiminished security for all is essential. Nuclear non-proliferation is an essential condition for the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons. The international community should work to safeguard the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and strengthen the safeguards function of the International Atomic Energy Agency. It is essential that all States strictly fulfil their non-proliferation obligations and strengthen their export control systems. Resort to double standards should be discarded. Non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy should be handled in a balanced manner. The legitimate right of each State to the peaceful use of nuclear energy should be fully respected, and nuclear non-proliferation obligations strictly fulfilled.

We wish to see a peaceful solution to regional nuclear issues through dialogue and negotiation, and hope that the Six-Party Talks on the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula can be resumed and that dialogue between Iran and the E3+3 countries restarted at an early date.

Earnestly strengthening nuclear security is crucial to the peaceful use of nuclear energy and non-proliferation. The Nuclear Security Summit held in April helped to raise the international community's awareness of nuclear security. The consensus reached at the Summit has provided useful guidance to the

international community in its efforts to address nuclear security challenges and nuclear terrorism threats.

China ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism on 28 August. The recommendation of this year's NPT Review Conference on the 2012 international conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction is of positive significance. We hope that all parties concerned will participate in the preparatory process in a constructive manner so as to ensure that the conference will achieve a substantive outcome.

Secondly, we must revitalize the work of the Conference on Disarmament so as to take multilateral disarmament negotiations forward. China welcomes the initiative of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to convene the High-level Meeting on 24 September. We are of the view that the Conference on Disarmament's position and role are irreplaceable. In order to revitalize the work of the Conference on Disarmament, we maintain that three principles are essential: preserving and strengthening the authority and position of the Conference on Disarmament, respecting and upholding the Conference on Disarmament's rules of procedure, particularly its consensus rule, and treating the legitimate security concerns of each member State as equal and addressing them in an earnest manner.

China for its part has always actively supported the work of the Conference on Disarmament and firmly believes that the Conference on Disarmament is the only viable forum for negotiating a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT), with the participation of all States concerned. The early commencement of FMCT negotiations, on the basis of the Conference on Disarmament's comprehensive and balanced programme of work, will serve the common interests of all parties. In the meantime, it is also imperative that the Conference on Disarmament reactivate its substantive work on such core issues as the prevention of an arms race in outer space, nuclear disarmament, and security assurances for non-nuclear-weapon States. These are equally important.

Thirdly, we must actively pursue preventive diplomacy to safeguard a global common space for the benefit of all mankind. Outer space is the common wealth of mankind, and its peaceful use and exploration is in the interests of all humankind. The

early negotiated conclusion of a new legal instrument on the prevention of the weaponization of outer space would help to address the vacuum in the existing legal system on this front, and be of great significance in preventing the weaponization of and an arms race in outer space, and in safeguarding outer space security. While it is true that certain appropriate and feasible transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space may help to safeguard outer space security, they nevertheless cannot be a substitute for the role of the aforementioned legal instrument. They can only supplement such a role.

The twenty-first century is the era of information, and the broad application of information and communication technologies has helped to accelerate the pace of development of human civilization. States should exercise effective administration over cyberspace and maintain its security in order to prevent it from becoming a new battlefield and tool for interfering in other countries' internal affairs. This obviously is another area for multilateral activity. In this context, we welcome the first report of the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on the Issue of Information Security. We hope that the international community will, on the basis of the report, make fresh efforts to explore effective ways of combating cyberthreats and preserving a sound international cyber-order.

Fourthly, we need a step-by-step approach to advancing arms control negotiations in the field of conventional weapons. China shares the view that the international community should take appropriate measures to regulate the relevant arms trade and combat illicit arms trafficking. The negotiation of an arms trade treaty should proceed step by step and in an open, transparent and consensual manner. Such a treaty should cater to the legitimate concerns and requirements of States on the political, security, and economic fronts. It should also be based on universal, objective and non-discriminatory principles in order to avoid being used for political purposes to interfere in other countries' internal affairs and to disrupt their normal arms trade.

The parties concerned should continue to seek to conclude, within the framework of 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 (CCW), a protocol on cluster munitions,

balancing humanitarian concerns with legitimate security needs. China appreciates the great efforts put into this protocol by the Chairman of the Group of Governmental Experts. The latest version of the Chairman's report (CCW/GGE/2010-II/1) reflects new developments and the maximum consensus reached during the negotiations over the past two years. It is our hope that the Group of Governmental Experts will, on the basis of that report, move forward next year and achieve a positive outcome at an early date. I take this opportunity to inform the Committee that, on 29 April, China ratified the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War annexed to the CCW.

We congratulate Mr. Üzümcü on his appointment as the new Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. We will continue to lend our full support to the Director-General. In the meantime, we call upon all States parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention to fulfil their obligations in a comprehensive and faithful manner.

The Chinese side attaches great importance to next year's Seventh Review Conference of the States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention and commits itself to further enhancing the authority, effectiveness and universality of the Convention. China will co-host an international workshop on the Review Conference with Canada and the Implementation Support Unit in Beijing in November. We hope that the workshop will help to contribute to the implementation of the obligations under the Treaty and to the success of the Review Conference.

A more prosperous and harmonious world cannot be achieved in the absence of a peaceful and stable international environment. China, for its part, stands ready to work with other countries to further advance the international arms control and non-proliferation process so as to create a better future of lasting peace and common prosperity.

**Mr. Nimchynskyi (Ukraine):** Allow me at the outset to congratulate you, Sir, and the other members of the Bureau on your well-deserved election. We are confident that your leadership will steer our work to a successful conclusion. In this regard, you may be assured of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

The important ideas that have emerged so far during the general debate have confirmed the essential role of the United Nations in world affairs. The main

task before us is to enhance the effectiveness of the Organization, to bring the world community together to confront new and existing threats, and to ensure international security.

More than 16 years ago, Ukraine voluntarily renounced the world's third largest nuclear arsenal, thereby making a significant contribution to nuclear disarmament and the strengthening of regional and global security. It is encouraging that many political leaders are coming out in support of the clear and vital goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world. We support all practical steps to reduce the nuclear threat and to ensure the consistent and irreversible elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. Governments must begin now to think how they will design the future security of their countries without nuclear weapons.

Ukraine welcomes the positive outcome of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), held under the skilful leadership of the representatives of the Philippines, Zimbabwe, Ukraine and Japan. The NPT is one of the most important disarmament treaties of our time. We also continue to work towards universal accession to the NPT and call upon those States that are not yet parties to it to join the Treaty.

We would like to reiterate the vital importance of the universalization of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). Ukraine is confident that the entry into force of the CTBT will tangibly help to realize the noble objective of a safe and peaceful world free of nuclear weapons. We very much welcome the announcements by Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Guatemala of their commitment to ratifying the CTBT soon.

Ukraine greatly values regional approaches to nuclear disarmament. Confidence-building measures, including the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, can contribute significantly to disarmament. We welcome all existing nuclear-weapon-free zones and call for the establishment of similar zones in South Asia, the Middle East and other parts of the world. We vigorously support the idea that security assurances for States that have renounced their nuclear arsenals, as well as for States that are non-members of any military alliances, have to be reflected in a legally binding international document. Ukraine is convinced that such an international document, with a clear mechanism for

its implementation, could substantially enhance the nuclear non-proliferation regime and improve mutual trust and overall stability.

We stress the need to continue to strengthen actions in countering the uncontrolled proliferation of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition. Ukraine is a devoted advocate of efforts within the United Nations system and at the regional level to address the small arms and light weapons issue in all its aspects. As a firm supporter of practical steps at a national level to ensure the effective implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, Ukraine attaches particular importance to the destruction of excessive stockpiles of these weapons and related ammunition.

Another important instrument of both disarmament and international humanitarian law is the Mine Ban Convention. Ukraine attaches great importance to the proper implementation of the Convention, which includes mine clearance, assistance to victims and the destruction of stockpiles. It is evident that, without deepening international cooperation, it would be very difficult to reach the paramount goal of the treaty. Ukraine remains ready to intensify efforts with its partners in order to ensure timely and proper implementation of its mine ban treaty obligations.

Ukraine deeply regrets the continuing deadlock over the resumption of activities of the Conference on Disarmament on the issue of the fissile material cut-off treaty. We support the immediate commencement and early conclusion of negotiations on this treaty, while urging all States possessing nuclear weapons to declare and maintain a moratorium on the production of fissile materials for weapons purposes, voluntarily to declare fissile material that is no longer required for military purposes, and to place such material under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards or other relevant international verification.

As a State party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), with its amendments and all five Protocols, Ukraine is fully committed to proper compliance with them. My country recognizes the need to strengthen the effectiveness of the CCW and its Protocols currently in force as important instruments aimed at reducing the negative consequences of conventional warfare operations and

their aftermath for combatants and civilians alike. We believe that the CCW provides an effective basis for international actions on major problems arising from the use of existing conventional weapons, as well as those still to come.

Regarding the possible enlargement of the scope of the CCW to other kinds of conventional weapons, we would like to stress the importance of taking into account all positions of the parties to the Convention before a final decision is taken. At the same time, we are confident that the effectiveness of new binding measures can be fully achieved only under conditions of their universal application and results-oriented international cooperation.

With regard to the issue of regulating global trade in conventional arms, Ukraine supports the initiative on the elaboration of an arms trade treaty, which could become a comprehensive instrument to establish common standards in this field, thus preventing conventional arms proliferation. At the same time, the introduction of new rules should not hamper the legitimate defence needs of participating States.

That is a brief review of the Ukrainian position on the main issues on the disarmament agenda.

Now, with your permission, Sir, I should like to read out the text of the joint declaration on behalf of the delegations of Chile, Mexico and Ukraine, which will also soon be distributed as an official document of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

“The delegations of Chile, Mexico and Ukraine, as countries that have voluntarily taken concrete steps to eliminate the use of highly enriched uranium for civilian purposes, would like to state the following.

“In recent years, the possibility of non-State actors acquiring nuclear materials to carry out acts of nuclear terrorism has become one of the most challenging threats to international peace and security. It is thus necessary to consolidate a robust international system to strengthen national legislative and regulatory frameworks to effectively maintain the security of all nuclear materials. We reaffirm our will to work together for our common security, including the fulfilment of the commitments made at the Washington, D.C., Nuclear Security Summit in April 2010,

especially to work on securing vulnerable nuclear materials.

“The decision of our countries to eliminate the use of highly enriched uranium is a significant contribution to strengthening the international regime of non-proliferation. These measures taken by non-nuclear-weapon States are an example of concrete steps towards reducing the nuclear threat. But in order to make a safer world for all, it is necessary for the nuclear-weapon States also to take concrete steps towards the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals in a transparent, verifiable and irreversible manner, leading towards the common goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

“We welcome the positive steps in the sphere of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and the outcome of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), and will follow up the actions agreed by consensus. We call upon all States that are not parties to the NPT to accede to it promptly and without conditions as non-nuclear-weapon States in order to achieve universality. We call upon the nuclear-weapon States to fulfil their obligations derived from article VI of the NPT and to accelerate the implementation of practical steps towards nuclear disarmament agreed at the 2000 and 2010 NPT Review Conferences, including the unequivocal undertaking to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals.

“We call upon States that have not yet done so to conclude a comprehensive safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency, and to consider signing and ratifying the Additional Protocol. The achievement of a world free of nuclear weapons will require the full compliance of all States with the legal framework encompassing all international treaties and agreements on this matter. Our countries have demonstrated that, when there is political will, actions can be taken to make the world a safer place, and that we will spare no effort in pursuing this objective. We are jointly resolved to achieve the goal of a world free from nuclear weapons. We firmly hold that the post-nuclear era must start now.”

**Ms. Rahamimoff-Honig (Israel):** At the outset, let me congratulate you, Sir, on your election as Chair of the First Committee and assure you of my delegation’s full support in the performance of your duties. We are confident that your leadership will steer our deliberations to a successful outcome.

Among the issues on the agenda of the First Committee in recent years have been two resolutions regarding the Middle East. One resolution deals with the notion of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region. This resolution has commanded consensus for almost 30 years, and while we have certain reservations regarding its language, we attach importance to the annual endorsement of this idea as part of the eventual establishment of the Middle East as a mutually verifiable zone free of biological, chemical and nuclear weapons and their means of delivery. In particular, we do so because the area of the Middle East clearly lacks any confidence-building measures or dialogue on affairs relating to arms control and regional security.

The second resolution relates to the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East. This is a contentious text that seeks to focus on only one aspect of the regional security context, namely, Israel. It also ignores the region’s greatest proliferation dangers and its inherent instability. It chooses to disregard the extreme hostility of certain countries in the region that continue to reject any form of peaceful reconciliation and coexistence with Israel. In many ways, the introduction of this resolution constitutes an annual declaration by its sponsors that they prefer to continue to try to alienate Israel rather than engage it and pursue ideas that might foster and encourage cooperative ventures for the good of regional stability.

This Committee would do well to foster and encourage initiatives of a conciliatory nature that aim at the reduction of regional tensions rather than at their aggravation. While the First Committee has always enjoyed its healthy share of cynicism, we cannot help but find it surprising that Egypt calls on Israel to join the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) while it refrains from ratifying, *inter alia*, the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty and the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The region of the Middle East has embodied and reflected many of the arms control and disarmament challenges faced by the international community. This

arises from a myriad of reasons mainly connected to the type and character of some of the regimes in the region. It is also the result of what one can only describe as the habitual indulgence of some Middle Eastern States in becoming parties to international obligations that they do not intend to implement or even intend blatantly to breach. It is no coincidence that four out of five gross violations of the NPT have occurred in the Middle East — Iraq under Saddam Hussein, Libya, Syria and Iran — while the fifth case, that of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, has been deeply involved in nuclear proliferation to the Middle East.

Iran's hostile policies and statements, its aggressive pursuit of missile technology, and its active involvement in supporting and training terrorists in our region and beyond gravely exacerbate the situation and severely damage the possibilities for the peaceful resolution of disputes. Israel has consistently been the target of a vicious anti-Semitic campaign by the Iranian regime, notably statements made year after year by Iran's President calling for the destruction of Israel. The possibility that terrorists would enjoy an Iranian nuclear umbrella, or that they would actually receive such weapons from the Iranian regime, is startling and poses an imminent threat to regional as well as global peace and stability. We are convinced that without halting the Iranian nuclear programme it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to promote an international or regional agenda aimed at strengthening the prevailing non-proliferation regime.

The Middle East has been referred to in the interventions of several States during the course of the general debate of the First Committee. Some of these references have been made in the context of the Outcome Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the NPT (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)). Israel would like to stipulate in the clearest terms that those who wish to impose on the region resolutions and initiatives from the outside — resolutions and initiatives that are not the result of careful, patient and comprehensive dialogue among all relevant regional States and that do not accurately and fully address the necessities emanating from the regional security situation — will not contribute to resolving the problems of the Middle East. In fact, they could even further prolong the problems.

Arms control and other security issues must be realistically addressed while considering the regional

context. The political reality in our region requires a practical, step-by-step approach. Comprehensive, durable and sustainable peace and stability in the Middle East are essential in this respect. The foundations for such a future must be based on historic reconciliation, mutual trust and respect, safe and recognized borders, and good-neighbourliness. Effective arms control measures can be achieved and sustained only in a region in which war, armed conflict, terrorism, political hostility, incitement and calls for the annihilation of other States cease to be features of everyday life.

Given the global realities, the renewal of interest in nuclear energy for peaceful purposes must be accompanied by extensive efforts aimed at ensuring that such programmes will not be misused for proliferation purposes, given that the characteristics of these technologies are inherently dual-use in nature. Particular care should be taken in a volatile region such as the Middle East.

Despite its inability adequately to address the particular challenges of the Middle East, Israel has always valued the non-proliferation regime and acknowledged its importance. Israel has consistently demonstrated a responsible policy in the nuclear domain and has joined, wherever possible, treaties and initiatives aimed at curbing and halting nuclear proliferation. As a signatory to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), Israel is an active member of the CTBT Organization, maintains two monitoring stations and has contributed significantly to the build-up of its on-site inspection regime. Israel participated in April this year in the global Nuclear Security Summit, which was convened at the initiative of President Barack Obama. Israel has also joined the Megaports Initiative led by the United States Department of Energy, which works to prevent the possible illicit trafficking of radioactive and nuclear materials and to combat nuclear terrorism.

In addition, and in conformity with its responsibilities as an active member State of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT), Israel hosted in June this year an international workshop on nuclear forensics and legal aspects of combating radiological and nuclear terrorism. With more than 100 participants from over 20 countries, the workshop produced a clear report on how to develop this important field within the framework of GICNT. Israel attaches great importance



to the goals of GICNT and has participated in many of its activities.

It would be encouraging to see our Arab neighbours adopt practical non-proliferation measures, as Israel has done, in the form of adherence to the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Australia Group, the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Wassenaar Arrangement. All of these regimes have been incorporated into Israeli laws and regulations.

Israel has been stressing for several years that the prevention of transfers of arms to terrorists should be addressed by the international community as a matter of priority, and that a clear and comprehensive norm banning such transfers should be created alongside the demand for concrete steps to be taken. In our view, nothing can justify the practice of certain States to condemn terrorism and at the same time condone the transfer of arms to terrorist groups.

In this context, Israel is of the view that the arms trade treaty negotiations should serve as an appropriate and relevant forum to codify such a norm. Israel welcomes the process that has begun with this year's preparatory meetings. It is Israel's view that these negotiations could eventually lead to the creation of a good instrument provided that the following principles are accepted by all States negotiating. An arms trade treaty should opt for high and robust standards on export control rather than settling for the lowest common denominator; it should include concrete measures to combat arms transfers to terrorists; and decisions on arms exports must remain under the full responsibility and sovereign considerations of States.

Illicit trade and uncontrolled transfers of small arms and light weapons have severe destabilizing effects and humanitarian consequences and pose an acute threat to international peace and security. Israel welcomes the successful outcome of the Biennial Meetings of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons held in 2008 and 2010, and is looking forward to the upcoming subsequent meeting of experts in 2011. Israel is ready to play its part and engage constructively with other Member States to contribute to the success of the next review conference in 2012. This success will be yet another step forward towards preventing the transfer of arms to terrorists and reduce the human suffering caused by this phenomenon.

The international arms control and disarmament community is facing the growing phenomena of independent initiatives that aim to circumvent the difficulties of multilateral negotiations by carrying out initiatives outside the scope of the United Nations or other relevant bodies, in smaller settings and among the like-minded. In some cases, the most relevant actors are absent. While it is clearly the sovereign prerogative of States to carry out negotiations on issues of their choosing and even to become parties to such treaties, these initiatives cannot purport to create global normative standards, nor are such discussions a substitute for painstaking negotiations that address security concerns in their fullest complexity through the involvement of the greater international community.

In this context, Israel supports the ongoing negotiations on cluster munitions under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) aimed at striking the appropriate balance between military and humanitarian concerns. We are of the view that these negotiations could have a real impact on the ground from a humanitarian point of view. It is our hope that States that have been engaged on parallel tracks will not hold out on the possibility of making substantive achievements on the CCW track.

Israel aspires to achieve peace and security for all peoples of the Middle East. We hope that the day will come when a regional security framework encompassing all countries of the region will provide a cooperative multilateral response to all the security problems of the region.

**Mr. Acharya (Nepal):** I should like to extend my congratulations to you, Sir, and the other members of the Bureau of the Committee on your election. We are confident that the Committee will conclude its work under your able leadership. My delegation associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Over the years, we have gone through a cycle of limited progress on specific disarmament issues and continuous development of ever-more destructive arms and armaments. We had a moment of great hope when we banned one whole class of weapons, yet we have not been able to seize the opportunity to realize our common goal of general and complete disarmament. Today, spending on weapons worldwide is well above \$1 trillion, with an unabated rise.

It is important for us to have a greater reflection on the overall landscape of disarmament and the opportunity it provides for stable security and economic advancement. More than 1 billion people live in poverty and hunger. Still, our precious yet scarce resources are consistently being diverted towards the procurement, research and development of ever-more sophisticated weapons systems. This runs contrary to our moral standing. It is not enhancing our common security. The Secretary-General, in his annual report on the work of the Organization (A/65/1), has aptly remarked that we are overarmed and underfed. This is a clear case of a mismatch of our priorities and concerns. It needs to be corrected.

The year 2010 has witnessed some positive developments in disarmament within and outside the United Nations. The Fourth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects; the first Preparatory Committee meeting for an arms trade treaty; and the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) have succeeded in bringing Member States together towards building trust and understanding in some important areas. The signing earlier this year of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty by the Russian Federation and the United States has renewed our hope for further progress on disarmament.

The adoption of a forward-looking action plan at the 2010 NPT Review Conference — covering nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear energy, and the Middle East — is a welcome development on which future progress could be consolidated. It is our hope that the 2012 conference and later meetings will bring all concerned parties together for consensus and to contribute positively towards realizing the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world. In particular, we call for the nuclear-weapon States to fulfil their obligations by taking practical steps as they have the special responsibility to do so.

Nepal believes in general and complete disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction, including biological, chemical, nuclear and radiological weapons, in a time-bound manner. Weapons by themselves have never ensured complete security for anyone. Nuclear weapons, because of their unlimited and indiscriminate power, have posed a

grave security threat and triggered a destabilizing arms race throughout the world.

As a party to the NPT and the Chemical Weapons Convention, Nepal strongly supports the elimination of nuclear weapons to attain nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation once and for all. In this context, we appreciate the efforts of the Secretary-General to make disarmament one of his priorities and for his continued advocacy of disarmament, including through a five-point action plan for a nuclear-weapon-free world.

Nepal fully supports the effective implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. We support the adoption of a legally binding instrument to regulate international arms transfers for transparency and accountability. Nepal stands for the prevention of an arms race in outer space and encourages the early conclusion of a fissile material cut-off treaty.

To that end, the Conference on Disarmament must be revived as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, as per its mandate. In this context, we commend the Secretary-General for having convened the High-level Meeting last month with the objective of revitalizing the Conference on Disarmament. We are convinced that the convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament would ensure a high priority for the issues of disarmament through multilateral negotiations and focus our efforts in that direction.

In today's interconnected world, challenges to security are multiple, complex and often interrelated. Non-State actors, mostly terrorist outfits, have emerged as a threat to all. Securing nuclear security and preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction thus become an important challenge for the international community.

*Mr. Sorreta (Philippines), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

As host to the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, Nepal believes that regional mechanisms can contribute as building blocks to global disarmament efforts. Regional understanding and confidence among the countries in the region is vitally important for global peace and stability. It is our hope that the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in

Asia and the Pacific, relocated to Kathmandu in 2008, will be able to respond to the needs of member States in the region and intensify its activities in collaboration with Member States and other stakeholders in the region. As in previous years, Nepal will introduce a draft resolution entitled “United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific” (A/C.1/65/L.56) at the current session of the Committee.

Faith in multilateralism has to be resurrected and strengthened in the field of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and international peace and security. This will certainly inject the requisite dynamism and effectiveness into the process. This Committee, being a truly multilateral and inclusive deliberative forum, has an important responsibility to guide the course of disarmament, non-proliferation and international peace and security. My delegation is confident that the Committee will continue to devote its time and energy to broaden understanding, create consensus and build confidence among member States with a view to making the world a safe, stable and peaceful place for all to live in.

**Mr. Ikongo Isekotoko Boyoo** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (*spoke in French*): On behalf of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, I should first like to join other delegations in congratulating Mr. Koterec on his assumption of the Chair of the First Committee in charge of disarmament and international security issues. We assure him of the full cooperation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and of its ongoing openness throughout the session to the efforts and cooperation of all participants with a view to seeking mutually acceptable solutions to questions and issues on the agenda of our programme of work. I wish him every success in his leadership of the Committee. I should also like to congratulate the other members of the Bureau on their appointments, which demonstrate a shared commitment to the noble cause that brings us together.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo would also like to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for the special attention he has given to the evolving security situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We also offer our congratulations to the Secretary-General’s High Representative for Disarmament Affairs on his opening statement. The Democratic Republic of the Congo also associates itself with the statements of the African Group

delivered by the representative of Nigeria and the Non-Aligned Movement delivered by the representative of Indonesia.

Nuclear weapons are of great concern to all. As far as we are concerned, the situation of ongoing tension in the nuclear sphere reassures no one. Today, we are seeing the updating and further development of new types of nuclear weapons, in contravention of the spirit of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

As everyone knows, in 2000 the nuclear-weapon States undertook to eliminate their nuclear arsenals. But what is the situation today? The strategic defence doctrines advocated by nuclear Powers only reflect the desire of these States to resort to nuclear weapons. How can we talk of a nuclear security guarantee in a world in which new types of atomic weapons are being updated and developed?

Everyone knows that nuclear weapons are subject to a certain number of control instruments at the global level, the most important being the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. Today, however, the arms race is being questioned, and we therefore call on the international community to work together to persuade those who, for various reasons, want to pursue their development of nuclear weapons to return to the righteous path in the interests of the survival of humankind and of human existence. To that end, it would be desirable for the process to reduce nuclear weapons to extend over time. In a word, we have to return to a denuclearized world.

That is why we must join efforts to limit the expansion and prevent the use of nuclear weapons by strengthening the export control regime. Hence, we ask the Security Council to undertake collective and, if necessary, binding actions to reach that goal. Our changing world, which is evolving before our very eyes, is not that of leaders who invest their countries’ future in the culture of war, but rather of those who have understood the very close relationship among peace, democracy, human rights and development.

After having participated in a workshop on Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) concerning the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and in a discussion of non-State actors who obtain these weapons, held in Gaborone, Botswana, from 25 to 29 September 2007, the Democratic Republic of the Congo appointed a focal and contact

point. It set up a counter-terrorism coordination committee, which operates under the supervision of the President of the Republic. Similarly, nuclear activities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are limited to peaceful purposes and agrarian research.

With respect to conventional weapons, small arms and light weapons, and the reduction of armed violence, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has made significant progress 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. We set up a national commission for the control of small arms and light weapons and armed violence reduction, led by the Ministry of the Interior and Security and supported by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and National Defence and Veterans Affairs.

With respect to the destruction of weapons and munitions and the rehabilitation of our national territory — which served as a battleground for foreign armies in which more than 4 million people were killed, 2,318,000 women were raped, and 10,164 elderly were abused — from 2007 to 2010 the Democratic Republic of the Congo has destroyed 106,629 small arms and light weapons and 672 tons of munitions. The destruction of the hundred-thousandth weapon and the launching of a campaign to mark small arms and light weapons took place on 21 August 2010 in Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo now chairs the Central African Convention for the control of small arms and light weapons, their ammunition and all parts and components that can be used for their manufacture, repair and assembly. The Democratic Republic of the Congo has begun to set up provincial satellite offices of the National Commission for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in all provinces, with a pilot project concerning disarmament and community security in the test territories of Bunia, Mahagi and Libi in the province of Ituri. The Democratic Republic of the Congo has also obtained three electronic weapons-marking machines from the United States Government — which we would like to thank here — but, given the extent and immensity of our territory, we need at least one machine per province.

With respect to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, efforts under way have achieved the following results: 2,694 zones suspected of or proven to be contaminated have been identified; 3,296 landmines destroyed; 137,592 unexploded ordnances destroyed; 6,690,416 square metres demined; 1,438,100 explosive munitions of various calibres destroyed; 17,212 kilometres of roads decontaminated; 2,145,628 people educated; 15,255 educational sessions devoted to the risk of landmines and explosive remnants of war; and 2,411 landmine victims compensated. With the support of other nations of the world, the Democratic Republic of the Congo is determined to succeed in the area of disarmament and peace.

To conclude, the Democratic Republic of the Congo welcomes the statement made by the President of the United States calling for the denuclearization of the world and supporting the concerns of the Group of 21. The Democratic Republic of the Congo insists on the importance of nuclear disarmament, negative security guarantees, and the prevention of an arms race in outer space. Our country stresses in particular that an arms trade treaty must be binding and apply to all States Members of the United Nations because small arms and light weapons are destructive, destabilize democratically elected regimes in Africa, and undermine peace and development. Lastly, the Democratic Republic of the Congo hopes that the First Committee will adopt practical resolutions at this session that will make the nations of the world more secure.

**Mr. Almutairi (Kuwait)** (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, allow me on behalf of the State of Kuwait to offer our sincere congratulations to Mr. Koterec on his election as Chair of the First Committee. We are certain that, thanks to his experience, he will contribute to the success of the work of this Committee. We would also like to seize this opportunity to congratulate the members of the Bureau and to assure the Chair that my country's delegation will cooperate with him and the Bureau in order to see his mission succeed. Furthermore, I would be remiss if I did not welcome the statement of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The State of Kuwait is fully convinced that the possession of nuclear weapons does not achieve security for any country whatsoever and that, on the contrary, the proliferation of these destructive weapons

will have a negative impact on international security and stability.

My country also views nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation as two basic elements of international security. Trusting in the vital role of the United Nations in this issue, my country particularly recognizes the growing international challenges in the field of the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Summits and international conferences have been convened to discuss these. Yet despite the difficulties inherent in disarmament, we and all parties concerned still have the opportunity to achieve our aim of creating a world that is safe and free of weapons of mass destruction.

My country views with concern the evolving dangers from the regional and international proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and from the possession of such weapons, or some of their components, by terrorist groups. The State of Kuwait therefore signed in September 2005 the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and submitted its national report to the United Nations Secretariat, identifying the steps we have taken to comply with the provisions of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) concerning measures to be taken by States to prevent terrorist groups from obtaining the components of weapons of mass destruction. The State of Kuwait has ratified other international conventions and agreements, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the agreement on the early reporting of a nuclear accident, as well as comprehensive safeguards agreements and the Additional Protocol of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

We are optimistic vis-à-vis the developments in disarmament and welcome the international momentum towards disarmament, the convening by the Secretary-General of a High-level Meeting on revitalizing the work of the Conference On Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations, held in New York on 24 September 2010, and the convening of the 2010 NPT Review Conference last May at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Conference was an important event in confronting the wider challenges to the disarmament machinery in supporting

the multilateral negotiations aimed at disarmament under effective international supervision.

There is hope that the international conference scheduled for 2012, with the participation of all States of the Middle East, will launch negotiations on an agreement to make the Middle East an internationally verifiable region nuclear-weapon-free zone. In this context, we express our confidence that the concerned parties will resume negotiations to reach agreement on creating a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

At the regional level, agreements making Central Asia and Africa nuclear-weapon-free zones entered into force last year. We look forward to seeing the Middle East, too, as a region free of nuclear weapons, since it continues to face security risks and challenges arising from the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction despite the resolution adopted at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference calling for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. My country hopes that all States parties to the NPT will unselectively and fully honour their duties and commitments within the framework of the NPT in all its three parts. There is also a need to implement the IAEA proposal for the effective monitoring of radioactive waste across international borders.

This Committee must insist that Israel, the only country of the Middle East not to accede to the NPT, as well as the only country of the region to possess nuclear weapons in defiance of the resolutions of international legitimacy, immediately accede to the Treaty and subject all its nuclear facilities to the safeguards regime of the IAEA. We must also emphasize that the Israeli position vis-à-vis the Treaty will provide excuses and reasons for other States to obtain and possess nuclear weapons, which will embroil the region in chaos, with dangerous negative implications.

With regard to the Iranian nuclear programme, the State of Kuwait is not far geographically from the reactor in question and is concerned lest any nuclear leak occur due to natural causes. My country believes that all States, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, have the right to conduct scientific research and to produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination. However, Iran must cooperate with the IAEA and resolve all issues that arise through

dialogue, cooperation and confidence-building in order to reassure the countries of the region and the international community about the nature of its programme, pursuant to the requirements of the IAEA and resolutions of international legitimacy.

In conclusion, we hope that the consultations of the Committee will be positive and inclusive in order to fulfil the aspirations of member States to achieving international peace and security. In this context, I wish to quote Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who said in a statement to the East-West Institute:

“A world free of nuclear weapons would be a global public good of the highest order.”

**Ms. Ojiambo** (Kenya): I wish to add my voice to those of others who have spoken before me in congratulating Mr. Koterec on his election to chair the deliberations of this important Committee. My delegation has confidence in his leadership abilities and commitment to guide our work. Allow me also to congratulate the other members of the Bureau and to extend to the Chair the assurances of our fullest cooperation. My delegation 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.

We are encouraged by the positive developments that have taken place during 2010. This has indeed been a good year for disarmament. During the course of the year, we have managed to discuss and agree on the way forward on nuclear disarmament, as evidenced by the adoption of the consensus Outcome Document (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)) of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). We managed to have an enlightening debate on the state of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects during the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States, and we took the first step towards the conclusion of a treaty on the arms trade by deliberating and developing elements, principles and parameters of an eventual arms trade treaty during the arms trade treaty Preparatory Committee in July 2010. The Convention on Cluster Munitions entered into force in August 2010. We also saw action, led by none other than the Secretary-General, aimed at revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament.

All of this is encouraging and commendable work, which needs concerted and robust follow-up. It is therefore of the utmost importance that the momentum built up thus far not be allowed to wane. Dialogue and engagement on all disarmament fronts must continue at full speed.

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

Kenya remains committed to the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world. We continue to advocate the belief that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only sure guarantee that the danger that such weapons pose to humanity will never materialize. This year, we have witnessed very encouraging movements in the nuclear disarmament agenda. These have included the signing of the New START treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation in April and the adoption of the consensus Outcome Document of the NPT Review Conference in May.

As a member of the Conference on Disarmament, Kenya participated in the negotiation and drafting of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). Kenya signed the Treaty in 1996 and ratified it in 2000. We welcome the ratification of the Treaty by the Central African Republic, Trinidad and Tobago and the Marshall Islands. Kenya reiterates its unwavering support for the universalization and early entry into force of the CTBT, and in this regard we call upon those States that have not yet signed or ratified the CTBT to do so as a matter of urgency. We especially call upon CTBT annex 2 States, whose ratifications are crucial for the Treaty's entry into force, to ratify it as soon as possible.

The entry into force of the Pelindaba Treaty confirms Africa's commitment to strengthen the global nuclear weapons regime and greatly contributes to international efforts on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We note that while the Treaty

commits the continent to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, it also provides for the peaceful use of nuclear science and technology. This aspect is very important for Kenya and many developing nations, especially as they seek alternative sources of energy to spur their development agendas.

As we deliberate on nuclear disarmament and proliferation, we should not lose track of a really immense problem in our part of the world, namely, the issue of small arms. For Kenya and the major part of Africa, small arms are indeed our weapons of mass destruction. The problem of the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons continues to be a great source of worry to Kenya and, indeed, the rest of the African continent. The volume of weapons diverted from the legal trade in small arms and light weapons to a thriving black market continues to grow at an alarming rate. Those who carry out and benefit from this illicit trade do not have the slightest regard for the suffering and violence unleashed on the most vulnerable populations in Africa.

In addressing the problem of illicit small arms and light weapons, it is important that we address such challenges as the absence of export and import controls, the failure to enforce existing mechanisms due to loopholes in the law, and, more importantly, the root causes for the demand for these weapons. It is imperative that States implement the United Nations Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons at both the national and regional levels, as the problem of small arms and light weapons is often a cross-border one. In this regard, in the East African region, the efforts of the Regional Centre on Small Arms are commendable.

We are pleased to note that significant progress has been made towards achieving a legally binding treaty governing the transfer of conventional weapons. Kenya strongly supports the establishment of an arms trade treaty to govern the trade in arms, and we look forward to constructive engagement towards the convening of a United Nations conference in 2012 on an arms trade treaty.

Kenya signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions in December 2008. As in the case of the Ottawa Convention, my country is not a mine-affected State and does not possess cluster munitions, but we believe that it is crucial to give support to both these Conventions, which seek to make our world safer and

more humane. We have commenced internal processes that will enable us eventually to ratify the Convention.

In conclusion, Kenya urges all delegations to seize the current positive momentum in disarmament to further the work of this important Committee. My delegation will work diligently towards this end.

**Mr. Badji** (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, may I convey to Mr. Koterec my heartfelt congratulations on his accession to the Chair of the First Committee and assure him of the full support and cooperation of the Senegalese delegation. Senegal aligns itself with the statements delivered by the representatives of Nigeria and Indonesia on behalf, respectively, of the African Group and the Non-Aligned Movement.

Even as we speak, several regions of the world continue to suffer upheavals giving rise to serious problems in terms of security and stability. These upheavals, which undermine international peace and security and jeopardize development efforts, persist and are compounded by an absence of international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms. Today, for countries and regions such as our own, these arms constitute veritable weapons of mass destruction, fuel and perpetuate conflicts, propagate crime and the risks of terrorism, and undermine sustainable development.

In that regard, we believe that only a universal arms trade treaty can enable us properly to control conventional arms. Senegal welcomes the momentum generated between 10 and 23 July 2010 with, in particular, the holding of the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee, and we believe that our commitment on this issue should remain steadfast until the conclusion of a binding treaty. Moreover, an arms trade treaty will not be effective or viable unless it encompasses all conventional weapons, including small arms and light weapons and their ammunition, and identifies clear criteria that include a broad definition of transfers, the integration of brokerage activities, respect for the norms of international humanitarian law and human rights, and institutional capacity-building, as well as international cooperation and assistance. Furthermore, the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms should continue to enjoy the active support and participation of all States, in particular the weapons-manufacturing States.

With respect to light weapons, my country calls for the effective implementation of the outcome document of the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held from 18 to 21 June 2010, and particularly on the key points of international cooperation and assistance, illicit brokerage, management of stockpiles and the destruction of surpluses, and marking and tracing. However, we also need to ensure that the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons becomes legally binding and that a similar instrument is adopted for the illicit brokerage of light weapons.

The proper implementation and universalization of the Ottawa Convention on anti-personnel landmines must continue to mobilize our energies if we are to rid the world of these deadly devices. The same goes for the Convention on Cluster Munitions, whose entry into force we welcomed on 1 August, marking a major step forward towards the protection of civilians and of strengthening international humanitarian law.

For a number of years, the global disarmament and non-proliferation regime has faced numerous obstacles that considerably hamper the progress that Member States are entitled to expect in this field. However, some glimmers of hope have appeared on the horizon, in particular with the success of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which took place in May, and the conclusion of a New START agreement by the two nuclear super-Powers. A promising start has also been noted with the holding of the Security Council summit of 24 September 2009 (see S/PV.6191) and the High-level Meeting of 24 September 2010 organized by the Secretary-General with a view to revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament. For Senegal, these issues must remain a priority if we are to build on this start and ultimately make real progress.

First, the will to rid the world of nuclear weapons should, more than ever, remain a key goal that enjoys the support of all.

Secondly, enhancing the authority of the NPT, which requires universalization, remains an overarching priority to that end.

Thirdly, the disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation framework must be complemented as soon as possible by the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the negotiation and adoption of a binding instrument prohibiting the production of fissile materials.

Fourthly, the nuclear-weapon States must agree on an irreversible and more far-reaching programme of arsenal reduction and at the same time grant security assurances to the non-nuclear-weapon States through a binding instrument.

Fifthly, there is a need to encourage greater accession to treaties on existing nuclear-weapon-free zones and to create one in the Middle East, since such zones contribute decisively to building confidence and stability. To that end, we call on all stakeholders to act in good faith for the proper implementation of the outcome of the most recent NPT Review Conference regarding the holding in 2012 of a conference on the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

Sixthly and finally, there is a need to reaffirm the right of countries to the peaceful use of nuclear energy and to ensure an effective and secure transfer of relevant technology to States that honour their NPT commitments. That would require enhancing the authority and capacities of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The aforementioned major challenges to international peace and security are not insurmountable, and any progress we make in future will depend on the degree of multilateral cooperation and political will devoted to it. The First Committee may rest assured of Senegal's support. We remain confident that a safer world, free of nuclear weapons and where conventional weapons will be better monitored and controlled, is possible.

**Mr. Abay** (Ethiopia): Allow me to join previous speakers in congratulating Mr. Koterec and other members of the Bureau on their elections. I confirm my delegation's confidence that, under his chairmanship and with the efficient assistance and facilitation of the Bureau, our deliberations will come to a successful conclusion. My delegation associates itself with the



statements delivered by the representatives of Nigeria on behalf of the African Group and of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Ethiopia firmly believes that multilateral engagements and negotiations are vital instruments for curbing the proliferation of conventional and non-conventional weapons, which have increasingly become a real threat to the peace and security of our world. The proliferation of weapons poses a great danger in any part of the globe, with manifold net adverse effects for the developing world, particularly the least developed countries. As we know, our continent, Africa, has many development challenges that cannot afford to be thwarted by the wanton production, distribution, transfer, use and trafficking of weapons of any sort. Our subregion, the Horn of Africa, is known to be one of the most volatile and heavily affected regions of the world, and continues to bear the multifarious negative effects of illicit dealing in small arms and light weapons, and other conventional arms. The fragile political and security situation prevailing in many parts of the subregion has made it possible for various internal and external actors to use it as a dumping ground, a convenient trafficking route, or a conduit for the illicit transfer and use of various weapons, thus further exacerbating the situation.

In light of the foregoing, my country continues to do its level best to meet its international and regional commitments and treaty-based obligations, particularly with respect to combating illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons. Accordingly, Ethiopia has consistently played a key role in this regard, particularly at the subregional level, where States are coordinating their efforts to combat the illicit trade in small arms within subregional institutions established to implement the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, the Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons and, at the subregional level, the Nairobi Declaration and its Protocol.

Ethiopia believes that peace and security in the world can be guaranteed only when all nations are able to enjoy a relatively stable economic and social order. In line with this, the main focus of my Government is to build a vibrant economy that is able to sustain

adequate defence capabilities in order to maintain peace and thereby realize our objective of bringing economic development and building a democratic system. As such, the Ethiopian Government has taken the necessary steps to keep defence expenditures below 1 per cent of the total annual budget of the country. Whereas the majority of the people in our part of the world are living in abject poverty, increases in military expenditure cannot be justified on any ground, especially where such spending has an impact on the fight against poverty and economic development.

*The Chair returned to the Chair.*

The other issue that continues to be a cause of serious concern in our subregion is landmines. Ethiopia suffers from landmine contamination left over from the conflicts dating back to the five-year foreign occupation of the mid-1930s and including the 1998-2000 war between Ethiopia and Eritrea. After the 1998-2000 war with Eritrea, the Government's main focus has been to undertake extensive mine-clearing activities. Accordingly, more than 7 million square metres of land have already been cleared of landmines and unexploded ordnance. My delegation would like to bring to the attention of the Committee that Ethiopia, in its commitment to the success of global and regional efforts to eradicate landmines, has met its treaty obligations by regularly submitting to the relevant United Nations organ an annual national report on the status of implementation of the Ottawa Convention.

We are all well aware that the absence of common international standards on the import, export and transfer of conventional arms is one of the factors that exacerbate conflicts, the displacement of people and crime and terrorism, thereby undermining peace and security and sustainable development. My country therefore welcomes the agreement to negotiate an arms trade treaty and urges that transfers of all conventional weapons be subject to the highest possible standards of scrutiny so that they do not contribute to regional instability or support violations of human rights.

Ethiopia joins other countries in calling upon States to reaffirm their commitment to preserving and strengthening the authority and integrity of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The NPT, based on its three mutually reinforcing pillars of non-proliferation, disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, represents a unique and irreplaceable framework for maintaining and

strengthening international peace, security and stability.

Our country recognizes the essential role of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) within the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Nonetheless, it is worrying to see some nuclear-weapon States still clinging to doctrines of national defence and security strategies based on nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons remain a major danger to the survival of the human race, either as the result of an accident or, God forbid, through deliberate action. We believe that the abolition of nuclear weapons is the only assurance against their use. My country therefore joins others in calling upon States to refrain from any action that would defeat the objective and purpose of the CTBT pending its entry into force, in particular as regards the development of new types of nuclear weapons. In this connection, we support the call made by the Secretary-General a few days ago for continuing efforts aimed at bringing the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty into force by 2012.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to seize this opportunity to state that Ethiopia once again reaffirms its unreserved commitment to discharging all its treaty obligations and to upholding the pertinent United Nations resolutions covering various issues of disarmament. I should like to take this opportunity also to thank our partners for their generous assistance in our ongoing efforts to combat and prevent the proliferation of arms, particularly the illicit trafficking and transfer of small arms and light weapons.

**Mr. Errázuriz (Chile)** (*spoke in Spanish*): Allow me to congratulate you, Sir, on your election as Chair of the First Committee and to wish you every success in your work. We also extend our congratulations to all the members of the Bureau and to the outgoing Chair, Ambassador José Luis Cancela of Uruguay, for his excellent work. The full version of this statement is being distributed in the room.

While associating ourselves with the statement of the Rio Group, and that delivered by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, we would like to make the following comments of a national nature.

One year ago in this same forum, we referred to the emerging positive climate favourable to relaunching the disarmament agenda. It was

undoubtedly an ideal context in which we saw major progress both in the area of disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation and in the area of conventional weapons. After intensive diplomatic negotiations, the Eighth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) successfully concluded its work with the adoption of its Outcome Document (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)) and a follow-up action plan that we believe is constructively promoting disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation.

My country, Chile, supports general and complete disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We believe these to be complementary and interdependent processes, and that one cannot be considered more important than the other. The complete elimination of nuclear weapons is the only guarantee.

In a climate conducive to disarmament, such as that prevailing this year, we join other delegations in acknowledging positive signals in this area. We highlight, *inter alia*, the practical steps taken recently by some nuclear Powers, including the signing by the United States of America and the Russian Federation of the New START treaty and the transparency measures adopted by certain nuclear States regarding the nuclear weapons in their arsenals. In that connection, and in the conviction that even greater progress can be made in this area, we believe that the latest United States Nuclear Posture Review points in the right direction with regard to the reduction of the role of nuclear weapons in strategic security policy. We also wish to highlight the Nuclear Security Summit held in Washington, D.C., in April, as well as our commitment to its communiqué and workplan.

We reaffirm the importance of the existence of nuclear-weapon-free zones and their contribution to peace and security at the global and regional levels, and welcome the holding of the second Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia on 30 April 2010 at the United Nations. We welcome the entry into force of new nuclear-weapon-free zones in Africa and Central Asia, and hope that such zones will be created in other regions. In this connection, we are pleased that steps have been taken to implement the 1995 resolution on the Middle East as a result of the recommendations of the action plan of the recent NPT Review Conference.

Convinced of the need closely to follow up the Eighth NPT Review Conference, we support the work and joint declaration of 22 September 2010 by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and representatives of Australia, Canada, Chile, Germany, Japan, Poland, Mexico, the Netherlands, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates.

We believe that nuclear disarmament must be addressed simultaneously through the continued reduction of nuclear weapons until their complete elimination; the early elimination of non-strategic nuclear weapons; the decreasing role of nuclear weapons in national security strategies; the consistent application of the principles of irreversibility, verifiability and transparency; and the promotion of increased levels of mutual confidence-building. We also stress the effective reduction of the operational readiness of deployed nuclear-weapon systems, an area in which our country strongly supports the proposal that New Zealand will introduce in the First Committee in its capacity as coordinator of the De-Alerting Coalition.

Chile and other Latin American countries strongly condemned the atomic tests conducted in the South Pacific in the 1980s and 1990s. Our country therefore acceded to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and currently has seven stations in the network monitoring that instrument. In this connection, we appreciate the work of the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the CTBT organization in the prompt rebuilding of stations on the Juan Fernández Islands, destroyed by the earthquake and tsunami of last February.

Chile is in favour of promoting the international safeguards system and of its strengthening through the universalization of the Additional Protocol. Chile defends the right to benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and scientific developments through exchanges and multilaterally regulated cooperation. We believe that this right, although inalienable, must be exercised in harmony with and full respect for the non-proliferation obligations embodied in articles I and II of the NPT.

My country warmly welcomed the adoption of a programme of work last year by the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. That decision, adopted by consensus, raised great hopes, which unfortunately were not reflected in an effective outcome. Chile has

been closely involved in all the diplomatic processes of recent years to break the impasse at the Conference. Together with other States, we have supported a series of initiatives to that end. The task now is to activate the Conference, which has produced so many instruments aimed at the security of persons, so that it can again be the undisputed body for disarmament at the multilateral level.

To that end, we must acknowledge that the consensus rule should not operate as a simple veto preventing the majority from doing the work it considers necessary. We must consider reviewing the membership of the Conference to ensure the participation of States that have waited for years to participate in its work, as well as assigning a proper role to civil society. In welcoming the High-level Meeting on the Conference on Disarmament convened by the Secretary-General on 24 September, we hope that the revival of multilateralism in this area will allow us to move to a new phase in enhancing and strengthening the universal non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament regime and to a safer and nuclear-weapon-free world.

Chile reaffirms its commitment to supporting multilateral efforts in favour of disarmament, non-proliferation and the prohibition of the use of all weapons of mass destruction. We condemn the military use of biological and chemical weapons by any country and in any circumstances, and stress the need for universal accession by States to the conventions on chemical and biological weapons.

Recent years have been a productive period in consolidating and advancing instruments regulating conventional arms, including the entry into force in August of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, an instrument that represents a qualitative step forward in matters of international humanitarian law. As proof of the region's commitment, in 2009 my country hosted the Fourth Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean on Cluster Munitions, and in June this year it again hosted a preparatory international conference for the First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, to be held in November in Laos. In this context, we also reaffirm our support and adherence to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction and the need to advance towards their complete elimination.

The delegation of Chile wishes to highlight the steps taken towards an arms trade treaty. We resolutely support this initiative, resulting from a mandate from General Assembly resolution 64/48. Another area in which progress is needed is small arms and light weapons, a scourge the effects of which, measured by the number of lives destroyed, are practically equivalent to those of weapons of mass destruction. We 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. In that connection we welcome the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action, held in June.

I should like to conclude by emphasizing the need for strong commitment and the necessary political will to create the climate of mutual trust required for progress in the area of disarmament. In this regard, we hope to make a constructive contribution to the work of the First Committee.

**Mr. Sefue** (United Republic of Tanzania): Allow me to join other delegations in congratulating you, Sir, and the Bureau on your election to preside over these critical deliberations on the maintenance of international peace and security. We wish you success and assure you of the full support and cooperation of the delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The United Republic of Tanzania associates itself with the statements delivered by the representatives of Nigeria and Indonesia on behalf of the African Union and the Non-Aligned Movement, respectively. We also welcome your statement and that of the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Sergio Duarte, particularly in support of the disarmament of small arms and light weapons, the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons in the Middle East and, of course, ultimate nuclear disarmament.

We have just concluded a successful High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals. We realize however, first, that those Goals cannot be achieved in societies embroiled in conflict. Secondly, we realize that conflicts on the African continent are sustained by an unending supply of small arms and light weapons, especially to non-State actors, and by other destabilizing and negative forces. The United Nations must address the challenge of disarmament and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in a more

resolute and compelling manner. Arms employed to wreak havoc in Africa and elsewhere also thrive on account of the supply of ammunition. Disarmament efforts should go in tandem with the curtailment of the supply of ammunition to non-State actors, warmongers and organized criminal gangs, wherever they may be.

Development can be a good incentive to end conflicts and to disarm. In post-conflict societies, development and opportunity are the best anchors and guarantees of disarmament and sustainable peace. Tanzania believes that peace and security need to be underpinned by growth and development. People must have a peace dividend. They must have a stake in peace if they are to cherish and preserve it. My country belongs to the African Great Lakes subregion, where, for almost two decades, armed conflicts have afflicted societies at the expense of development. We need to live up to the letter and spirit of Security Council resolution 1653 (2006).

Many years after the end of conflicts, too many innocent people in Africa and elsewhere continue to lose life and limb on account of unexploded mines. It is important that we find an effective and the least costly way to deal with this problem. For many years now, the Belgian non-governmental organization APOPO has worked with the Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania to train and use rats to detect landmines as a cheap and efficient mine-detection tool. The technology is now accredited with the United Nations, and some countries have already made use of it to clear their minefields. We invite the United Nations, the international community and Member States to take advantage of this cost-effective technology in demining operations.

The situation in Somalia has to be of concern to the whole world. Its deterioration will have dangerous repercussions far beyond the region. That conflict, too, is fuelled by a steady supply of small arms and light weapons. It is true that the conflict embraces more than the supply and use of arms, but their ready supply exacerbates the conflict. Somalia needs disarmament, and we support United Nations efforts in that regard. We welcome the appointment of Ambassador Augustine Mahiga, former Permanent Representative of Tanzania to the United Nations here in New York, as the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia. We urge that he be given the full support and cooperation of this body, its member States and the protagonists in Somalia and leaders of influence in the

region. We hope and trust that Somalia will eventually embark on the course of disarmament with the support of the African Union, particularly the troop-contributing countries, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the United Nations and the international community at large. The Security Council must be more engaged with Somalia.

We have met several times this year to discuss how we can make the world a better place by committing to disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, other weapons of mass destruction, and small arms and light weapons. We have heard powerful nations pledge to reduce their nuclear arsenals and to do more to ensure nuclear security. We have heard many voices saying that more needs to be done to achieve a just and secure world, free of weapons of mass destruction. We are here to offer our support towards that endeavour.

The right things have been said; now the right things have to be done. Promises and commitments have to be kept. The successful conclusion of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in May this year was a major achievement. We thus call on all States parties to support the implementation of the five-phase action plan proposed by the Secretary-General in good faith. Likewise, we call for the immediate and unconditional accession to the Treaty by States that have not yet done so.

While underscoring our unwavering commitment to the NPT, we also wish to reaffirm that no rule or principle of international law should be interpreted in a manner that inhibits in part or in whole the inalienable right of all parties to the Treaty to develop, research, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. We urge the annex 2 States that are yet to sign and/or ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty to expedite the processes to allow the Treaty to enter into force at the earliest opportunity.

A Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction will contribute a great deal to regional and global stability, peace and security. Similarly, the immediate launch of negotiations for a fissile material cut-off treaty and a nuclear weapons convention under the auspices of the Conference on Disarmament would add value to our collective commitment of eliminating nuclear weapons.

In conclusion, I urge all Member States to commit themselves to working together and to deliver on the commitment made at the birth of our Organization 65 years ago to “save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind”. We have not done too well on this front. These deliberations provide us with another opportunity to do so, beginning with total, complete and irreversible disarmament, particularly of weapons of mass destruction. It is our duty to make amends and to do so swiftly. Tanzania is ready to do its part.

**Mr. Quinlan** (Australia): I congratulate you, Sir, on your election to the chairmanship of the First Committee. You can certainly be assured that Australia will continue to give priority to the work done by this Committee to promote disarmament and international security issues. Certainly, our delegation will work very constructively with you and the Bureau to get results.

In particular we, with Mexico, look forward to supporting New Zealand in its leadership this year of the draft resolution (A/C.1/65/L.48) on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). We also look forward to supporting the Republic of Korea in its leadership of the draft resolution entitled “Preventing and combating illicit brokering activities” (A/C.1/65/L.49). We hope that we will be able to achieve the strongest possible support and sponsorship for these draft resolutions.

Certainly, it is obvious to everybody that the Committee is meeting at a time when the mood for action on arms control issues is tangible and strong. The reaffirmation by the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in May of the NPT as the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regimes and, more importantly, its adoption by consensus of an action plan were historic achievements. The action plan is unprecedented, as we know, in its scope and balance across the three pillars. As we look forward over the next review cycle to 2015, we see the action plan as having obvious significant value as a road map against which we can assess progress, but the work, of course, should not be left until the next Preparatory Committee meeting in 2012.

Taking forward the action plan, we think, requires fresh thinking and dedication. In response to that task, Australia and Japan have sought to generate momentum by bringing together for this purpose a number of countries that are cross-regional in nature, diverse in perspectives and practical in focus. Each country in this consultation has a strong commitment to nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and to the NPT itself. Ministers met for the first time on 22 September in New York, jointly convened by the Australian and Japanese Foreign Ministers, and adopted a forward-looking statement with a view to give effect in practical ways to the Review Conference outcomes. We look forward to working with others in this task, and the statement is available to delegations.

The successful outcome of the NPT Review Conference is, of course, but one strong development in the field of international security. We welcome the signing by Russia and the United States of the New START agreement, and urge them to make every effort to achieve swift ratification of the treaty through their own domestic processes. We urge all nuclear-armed States to follow their lead and commit to further, deeper and irreversible cuts in their nuclear arsenals. We applaud the commitments already made by France and the United Kingdom.

Two weeks ago, Australian Foreign Minister Rudd also chaired the ministerial conference for the CTBT. That meeting reconfirmed that the national security interests of all countries are enhanced by the CTBT coming into force. We welcome the announcement by Indonesia that it is moving to ratify the CTBT. We are also encouraged by the United States Administration's ongoing support for the CTBT and its commitment to pursuing ratification. We again call on all States that have not yet ratified the CTBT to do so without delay and urge all signatories to support progress to complete the verification regimes.

On conventional weapons, we welcome the entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which is a significant humanitarian achievement. We also welcome the commencement of United Nations-mandated negotiations on an arms trade treaty. The illicit and irresponsible trade in conventional arms has a direct and devastating impact on communities, undermines security and exacerbates conflict. The widespread availability and misuse of these weapons not only represents a security threat, but as we all know is a crucial retarding factor on socio-economic

development. We are deeply concerned about the devastating impact of armed violence and illicit conventional arms movements, particularly small arms and light weapons, on achieving the Millennium Development Goals in particular, and about their severe impact on women, children and people with disabilities.

Australia itself has been playing an active role in the arms trade treaty process, and we were pleased to have been a friend of the Chair at the first meeting of the arms trade treaty Preparatory Committee in July. These are early days, of course, but our assessment is that the meeting made genuine progress in examining the structure and prospective content of a comprehensive treaty. Australia also contributed to building on the work of that Preparatory Committee by co-sponsoring, with the Governments of Austria and Luxembourg, the Boston symposium on an arms trade treaty last week. That was just one more step towards our goal — the conclusion of an arms trade treaty in 2012.

Universal adherence to and full compliance with multilateral arms control regimes are clearly fundamental to establishing the conditions for international peace and security. Australia obviously supports the actions of the Security Council to address the challenges posed by Iran and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We continue to remain very concerned about the nuclear activities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Its pursuit of nuclear weapons poses a significant threat to regional and global stability and to international non-proliferation efforts.

We are also deeply concerned about Iran's failure to heed the calls of the Security Council, its continued failure to cooperate fully with the International Atomic Energy Agency, and troubling unresolved questions about its nuclear activities. Iran's continued pursuit of sensitive nuclear capabilities in the face of repeated calls by the Security Council, leading to the imposition and tightening of sanctions, constitutes a direct nuclear proliferation and international security threat.

Finally, I have to say that Australia remains deeply dismayed by the continuing lack of progress in the Conference on Disarmament. We welcome the initiative of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to convene the 24 September High-level Meeting to help identify constructive means to restore to the

Conference on Disarmament its proper function as a negotiating body for international disarmament treaties. As Australian Foreign Minister Rudd said at that meeting, the Conference on Disarmament's long-standing impasse is scandalous.

The Conference on Disarmament needs to return to work. It should commence negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT) and substantive discussions on its other core issues. Fifteen years after the Shannon Mandate, we cannot waver as to the value of the FMCT. It is a priority for Australia and an overwhelming majority of countries simply because ongoing production of fissile material for weapons purposes is unquestionably a threat to international security, and because the FMCT is a physical precondition to reaching our collective goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

While Australia would prefer to see FMCT negotiations take place in the Conference on Disarmament, the fact is that the Conference on Disarmament does not have a monopoly on such negotiations and other treaties have been successfully negotiated outside its framework. The Conference on Disarmament is on notice that the clock is ticking. If the Conference on Disarmament cannot return to work and sustain that work we will need to consider other avenues for the FMCT.

To conclude, I want to emphasize that Australia has consciously re-energized its commitment to working with others to identify and promote practical, results-driven initiatives to promote non-proliferation and disarmament. Of course, this is a complex and hard task, but that is simply a measure of how vital the objective is. It should never be the excuse not to try harder.

**Mr. Alrowaiei** (Bahrain) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, allow me to congratulate you, Sir, on your election to the Chair of this important Committee. I also congratulate the members of the Bureau, and confirm my country's full support and cooperation. I wish to thank Mr. José Cancela for his excellent conduct of the work of the Committee at the sixty-fourth session. My delegation associates itself with the statement made on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The success of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), held in New York; the

adoption of its Outcome Document (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)) by consensus; and the signing by the United States of America and the Russian Federation of the New START agreement constitute new developments in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. These achievements are a cause for optimism and a positive aspect of multilateral efforts, and we must focus our attention on them. They also confirm the eagerness of the international community to find effective ways to establish a world free of nuclear weapons.

The international community has fully recognized the importance of the NPT as the cornerstone of the non-proliferation and disarmament regime. The importance of achieving fully universal adherence has become urgent. Therefore, Bahrain reaffirms the importance of the outcome of the eighth NPT Review Conference, especially with regard to the Middle East. It also calls for serious efforts to make the Middle East, including the Gulf, a zone free of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction, and urges Israel to accede to the Treaty and to subject its nuclear installations to the inspections regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). In this respect, we look forward to the holding of the 2012 conference on establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, as agreed at the Review Conference. We confirm that the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East would make a clear contribution to nuclear disarmament and reinforce global peace and security.

It is of paramount importance that the international community accord high priority to nuclear security and safety. We must ensure the greatest transparency in the international application of safeguards and security measures, and total commitment to the requirements of the IAEA. If such transparency were a reality, the issue of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes would not be controversial or a matter on which we would need to dissipate and squander our energies here. We reaffirm and recall that the peaceful use of nuclear energy is the right of all countries, especially the developing countries, in their quest for renewable and clean energy while observing all the rules and regulations of the IAEA safeguards system and international law. In this respect, the Kingdom of Bahrain welcomes the commitment of Iran to the peaceful nature of its nuclear programme and

wishes to confirm the importance of full transparency and commitment to the requirements of the IAEA and the NPT.

The Kingdom of Bahrain looks forward to cooperating with all in support of peace and security throughout the world.

**Mr. Loulichki** (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): Allow me first, Sir, to extend to you the sincere congratulations of my delegation on your election to the Chair of the First Committee. I want to assure you and all the members of the Bureau of our full support in order to make this session a productive one for the Committee. Allow me also to pay tribute to your predecessor, Ambassador José Luis Cancela. I should like, finally, to reiterate our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his commitment and initiatives to promote concerted multilateral action, as well as for his commendable efforts in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.

The Moroccan delegation, which endorses the statements made by the representatives of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and of Nigeria on behalf of the African Group, wishes to share some comments on certain important issues on the agenda.

First, I should like to stress the importance of the favourable context in which the work of the current session is taking place, where the statements made and positions taken give rise to hope. All countries that share a faith in multilateralism and international law and are committed to international peace and security welcome the success of the most recent Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The consensus reached in May 2010 will allow us to strengthen that instrument, which we all consider to be the cornerstone of the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime and which has been weakened by certain challenges and deadlocks.

The action plan adopted at the end of the Conference is the fruit of the flexibility demonstrated by various groups and delegations and was facilitated by the favourable climate created by such unilateral and bilateral constructive initiatives as that of President Obama for a world without nuclear weapons and measures regarding disarmament set forth in his statement in Prague in April 2009, as well as the renewed commitment to disarmament reflected in Security Council resolution 1887 (2009), adopted at

the Council's September 2009 summit (see S/PV.6191). We note in particular that, through dialogue and the spirit of reconciliation, we have been able to reach compromises that have allowed us to make progress towards the achievement of the goals of the NPT. However, every party must play its full role and assume its responsibilities in order to consolidate the progress made thus far.

The launching of the process to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East would be a remarkable step forward on our path towards a world without nuclear weapons. We should not, however, ignore or underestimate the importance of other action. The implementation of the action plan adopted at the NPT Conference must be balanced, progressive and based on multilateral dialogue.

In that respect, action must be focused first and foremost on revitalizing the United Nations disarmament mechanisms. The impasse in the Conference on Disarmament must end. Morocco is absolutely convinced that the creation of a world free of nuclear weapons requires efficient United Nations disarmament mechanisms, in particular the Conference on Disarmament. It is incomprehensible that multilateral disarmament initiatives should proliferate and succeed outside that United Nations forum, which was created precisely to that end, while the Conference itself is unable even to agree on its own programme of work. There is also a need to enhance the effectiveness of the preparatory meetings of the Review Conference by giving more time to interaction on practical proposals. It is also necessary to strengthen the financial and human capacities of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the institution with responsibility in the fields of non-proliferation and technical cooperation for peaceful purposes.

Secondly, the process of implementing the 1995 resolution on the Middle East must begin. Morocco attaches particular importance to this issue, which was one of the main causes of the deadlock at the 2005 Conference. To that end, the 2012 international conference on the Middle East must be convened.

While responsibility is shared, we believe that the nuclear-weapon States, by virtue of their status, have particular responsibility in this issue and in the successful implementation of the action plan in general. In that regard, I welcome the initiative of France to hold consultations among the nuclear Powers



ahead of the 2012 conference, and the unified action called for by Japan. These initiatives, as well as other proposals presented to which we have listened with interest, can strengthen multilateral dialogue provided for in the upcoming NPT review process.

Thirdly, international action must be stepped up with a view to ensuring the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) as soon as possible. Fourteen years after being opened for signature, and despite the broad political support of 182 signings and 153 ratifications, the CTBT has yet to enter into force, although the verification regime required by the Treaty is virtually ready.

We are particularly encouraged by the positive prospects for ratification by a number of annex 2 States, and we hope that the nine remaining annex 2 States will join us in making the ban on nuclear testing irreversible, transparent and verifiable. Morocco, which with France co-chaired the article XIV conference, will pursue its efforts to achieve the universality of that instrument.

Fourthly, we must launch the negotiation of a fissile material cut-off treaty and consultations within the Conference on Disarmament with a view to opening negotiations on a convention delegitimizing nuclear weapons.

We call on all to demonstrate a sense of responsibility in meeting the challenges to international peace and security. For my delegation, the thorny issue of conventional weapons, in particular small arms and light weapons, is the biggest of these challenges. These weapons are true weapons of mass destruction that dare not speak their name. The absence of regulation or control over the use and transfer of these weapons contributes to their uncontrolled proliferation in hotbeds of tension, particularly in Africa. The capacity to respond to the expectations of populations and civil society in this field sorely tests not only the effectiveness of disarmament mechanisms, but the whole United Nations system and the principles of the Charter.

In that spirit, Morocco regularly presents its national report under the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, and on the implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light

Weapons. Also to that end, Morocco supports the conclusion of an arms trade treaty, the negotiation of which should not ignore the founding principles of international law, including respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, as well as the right of legitimate self-defence, as stipulated in the United Nations Charter.

In the context of the thematic debate, and taking into consideration the proposals and comments made during this general debate, Morocco will make further, more detailed comments on certain issues of particular importance to our country and our region, as well as to the achievement of a safe, secure world free from fear and the threat of weapons of mass destruction.

**The Chair:** We have heard the last speaker in the debate for this morning. I should like to thank delegations for adhering to the 10-minute limit for national statements.

I now call on those representatives who wish to make a statement in exercise of the right of reply.

**Mr. Aly (Egypt):** Maintaining what we hope will not continue to be a tradition of disregarding international consensus and isolating itself from international regimes and efforts to promote nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the realization of regional security in the Middle East, the delegation of Israel again demonstrated here today in its statement this morning its persistent attempts to challenge the existing global consensus on the unsustainability of the nuclear situation in the Middle East.

The representative of Israel referred to the two Middle East draft resolutions that my country presents, and claimed that introducing the draft resolution entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East" (A/C.1/65/L.3), represents a declaration of intent by its sponsoring States to alienate Israel. I wish to correct this by very clearly declaring that a simple look at that draft resolution would clearly clarify that it is not a declaration but rather an invitation that has been on the table for many years, and has continued to be ignored by Israel to our great regret. However, we still invite Israel to take the actions outlined in the draft resolution — supported by a vast majority of the representatives of the international community — to promote the regional security that Israel itself criticized in its statement this morning.

Israel found it surprising that Egypt calls for Israel to join the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) while it has not ratified the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty or the Chemical Weapons Convention. I wish to invite the delegation of Israel to look at our statement read out here by the Permanent Representative of Egypt on Tuesday morning, from which I can very clearly quote something that will take away any surprise.

“Israel’s persistent refusal to join the NPT as a non-nuclear-weapon State remains a significant obstacle to Egypt’s accession to the two conventions and to its ratification of the CTBT, despite our full support for the objectives and principles of the three treaties.”

The instruments referred to here are the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention and the CTBT.

“Our accession and ratification would further widen the gap between the commitments of States parties to the NPT, which implement all their Treaty obligations, and the sole State outside the NPT in our region.” (A/C.1/65/PV.3)

That sole State, obviously, is Israel.

I also wish in this regard to make a brief comment on the repeated reference by the representative of Israel to the achievement of comprehensive regional peace as a condition of moving forward on regional security issues. We question how that can be possible while Israeli policies persist that do not help the peace process. Let me simply refer to ongoing settlement activities, for example, which still represent a very serious hurdle that we in the region are collectively trying to work to address. How then can we make the peace process in this regard the condition for further moving ahead on regional security?

Regarding the stipulation that the representative of Israel made today in the clearest terms regarding the steps adopted by consensus in May at the 2010 NPT Review Conference regarding the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, the Review Conference indeed mandated the Secretary-General, by consensus, to convene a conference in 2012, in consultation with the NPT depositary States and States of the region, in order to move forward and to start negotiations on a zone free from nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

The conference represents an unprecedented opportunity not only to Arab States and Iran, but also to Israel.

We invite Israel again to avoid any misunderstanding that would allow it to miss this opportunity. We very clearly declare our will fully to cooperate with all the involved parties to make sure that the 2012 conference will be held successfully and pave the way forward to transform our regional security setting. If that is the case and Israel decides strongly to engage in this regard, many of the concerns reflected in the Israeli statement would be addressed.

I would mention not only the accession of Egypt to the Chemical Weapons Convention — and one assumes Israel would also do so — but also Israel’s concern with its adherence to the Missile Technology Control Regime, because the resolution and the conference on the Middle East in 2012 have a very balanced and comprehensive mandate. They address not only nuclear, but also chemical and biological weapons and means of delivery. Israel would thus manage to address most or all of its concerns in one regional forum, and we would definitely wish to see that. If that were to be the case, the delegation of Egypt, together with its fellow members of the League of Arab States, would be glad to refrain from introducing the draft resolution on the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East.

Having said that, we hope that this explanation and renewed invitation will not go unheeded by Israel. We hope that this will perhaps encourage Israel to take the necessary actions to promote regional security based on security for all, rather than build a security regime that is based on undermining the security of others. The continuation of an Israeli nuclear programme will certainly, sooner or later, promote nuclear arms races in our region that will serve neither the Israeli security nor our own security. We invite Israel to move forward along with us. We in Egypt have an incredible record with commitments we have undertaken. We decided long ago to lead by example and to practise what we preach, and we invite Israel to follow suit. It is certainly worthwhile.

**Mr. Hallak** (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): We will have the opportunity to express our congratulations to you, Sir, when we make our statement in the general debate.

The representative of Israel this morning made a statement that lacks any understanding of the simplest realistic norms on the applications of the item under discussion. As is the tradition when the Israeli position is fragile, weak and unrelated to reality, the Israeli statement on a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East propagates falsehoods and confusions while presenting ideas and evading accountability concerning Israel's active aggression against my country in 2007.

The Israeli representative referred to the fact that four of the most serious violations of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) have taken place in the Middle East. Such nonsense seeks to distract representatives from the dangers of the Israeli nuclear arsenal and the fact that Israel has neither acceded to the NPT nor subjected its installations to the control of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), despite the fact that, over successive decades, former and present Directors General of the IAEA have visited Israel in order to urge its rulers to observe hundreds of international resolutions calling for it to do so. Resolutions have been adopted at the highest level, including Security Council resolution 487 (1981), the 2009 IAEA resolution GC(53)/RES/17, and numerous General Assembly resolutions, the most recent of which was resolution 64/26.

In a histrionic intervention that was ironical and reminiscent of the theatre of the absurd, the representative of Israel desperately sought to distract this Committee with false claims and pretexts in order to draw attention from the fact that Israel has flouted international resolutions on the NPT and failed to accede to the NPT and to subject its nuclear installations to the control and inspection of the IAEA.

It is no secret that Israel pursues an aggressive nuclear policy based on a huge nuclear arsenal and means of delivery that exceed both the British and the French arsenals. It also hides the dangers emanating from its possession of nuclear weapons and ongoing threat to use them as an act of aggression. This is called a nuclear ambiguity policy. It was also ironic that the Israeli representative should make false claims even as Israel continues to refuse to subject its nuclear installations to the control of the IAEA. In this respect, we call on the international community to bring pressure to bear on Israel to accede to the NPT as a non-nuclear party and to eliminate its nuclear arsenal and its means of delivery in order to contribute to peace and security in the area.

**Mr. Hosseini** (Islamic Republic of Iran): The Committee heard this morning a number of allegations against my country by the representative of the Zionist regime. In this regard, I should like briefly to state the following.

First, the Zionist regime is based on violence, aggression, occupation, State terrorism and bloodshed. The 33-day war against Lebanon and the barbaric 22-day attack on Gaza are only two recent examples of that regime's atrocities. That regime still continues the inhumane blockade of the Gaza Strip, which has led to the worsening humanitarian crisis therein. Likewise, the Zionist regime's clandestine nuclear activities seriously threaten both regional and international peace and security. It is therefore evident that any allegation made by such a racist and oppressive regime is totally baseless.

Secondly, it is evident that no amount of slander, deception or smear campaigns by the Zionist regime can obscure its dark history.

Thirdly and finally, I should like to recall the Final Document (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)) of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), adopted by the Treaty parties by consensus, including the major patron of this regime. That document recalls the reaffirmation by the 2000 NPT Review Conference of the importance of the Israeli regime's accession to the Treaty and the placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. Accordingly, it would be more appropriate for that regime, instead of making baseless allegations against countries of the region, to heed the aforesaid call by the international community, including its strategic patron and all its allies, to accede promptly and without condition to the NPT as a non-nuclear-weapon party, and to place all its nuclear-related facilities under the comprehensive IAEA verification system.

**The Chair:** I remind members once again that the cut-off time for the list of participants is 6 p.m. today. Participants that have not yet done so are encouraged to submit their delegation lists to the Secretariat before that deadline. The names of participants submitted after the deadline will be included in an addendum, which will be issued only after the session.

*The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.*