



# General Assembly

Sixty-sixth session

## First Committee

7<sup>th</sup> meeting

Friday, 7 October 2011, 10 a.m.  
New York

Official Records

*Chair:* Mr. Viinanen ..... (Finland)

*In the absence of the Chair, Mr. Aljowaily (Egypt),  
Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

*The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.*

### Agenda items 87 to 106 (continued)

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

**Mr. Fasel** (Switzerland) (*spoke in French*): I should like to join previous delegations in congratulating the Chair on his election to the chairmanship of the Committee.

Security challenges related to disarmament are numerous and will remain a major concern unless they are appropriately addressed.

Nuclear weapons continue to pose an existential risk to humankind, while the regime set up to deal with them remains incomplete. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) does not provide a comprehensive response to all of the challenges posed by such weapons. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) has not yet entered into force. Negotiations on fissile materials have not even begun, nor have those on negative security assurances.

Multilateral nuclear disarmament processes are at an impasse and the unilateral and bilateral steps taken have failed to address adequately the fissile material issue or the continuing deployment of thousands of weapons and their modernization programmes. In the area of non-proliferation, no new developments over

the past year have led to any foreseeable resolution of the outstanding cases in the short term.

New threats such as cyberattacks have emerged, and are evolving rapidly. We hardly understand their potential effects on our increasingly interdependent world, and we certainly lack the instruments to meet the new challenge. A whole range of other risks — related, for instance, to advances in life science or to security in outer space — are evolving much faster than existing international instruments.

In the area of conventional weapons, small arms and light weapons, as well as anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war, continue to kill and maim people and to fuel armed violence. The instruments developed to confront those challenges have yet to be strengthened, universalized and implemented more effectively.

Switzerland feels that the list of challenges to be overcome in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation is growing longer every day. Important progress is therefore urgently required to respond to those challenges. In that respect, developments at various levels are necessary. We must act on the basis of a global, long-term perspective that integrates national security interests within a broader concept of security and stability. The traditional hard security approach must be complemented with a focus on human security, human rights, development, climate and environmental protection and global health, among others. Moreover, cross-cutting approaches and cross-regional alliances

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are increasingly necessary, all the while building on what has worked in the past.

Last, but not least, we need a functional and effective disarmament mechanism. Its institutions — in particular the Conference on Disarmament (CD) — should respond to the concerns of the many who wish to start negotiations, rather than allow a few to prevent even the very beginning of negotiations in order to protect narrow interests.

Against the backdrop of those unresolved problems, and given the institutional and political conditions, meaningful progress will remain difficult. But the remainder of 2011 and the year 2012 will provide plenty of opportunities to achieve significant progress, if we can muster the necessary political will.

A smooth start to next year's new review cycle of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is essential to further strengthen and better implement that key regime. Much of the NPT's credibility will depend on the full implementation of the action plan adopted at the 2010 NPT Review Conference. Switzerland is particularly interested in receiving feedback from nuclear-weapon-free States on the implementation of the steps related to their disarmament obligations.

The upcoming Biological Weapons Convention Review Conference will provide another valuable opportunity for progress. Switzerland expects the Conference to decide to restructure future intersessional activities to include working groups, in order to ensure the Convention's capacity to respond to rapidly evolving scientific developments. A mechanism to facilitate cooperation and assistance and enhance existing implementation support should also be established under that framework.

We also expect the review of confidence-building measures to update that current methodology and to address the utilization of confidence-building information. The launch of a process of joint reflection on concepts to demonstrate compliance is also an issue of crucial importance.

Several events will also provide us with an opportunity to move forward in the area of conventional weapons. The upcoming United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty will clearly be an important landmark of the coming year. We hope that the substantive efforts undertaken in recent years will lead to the conclusion of a strong and comprehensive legally

binding treaty that effectively addresses the various aspects of the international arms trade and sets high standards for the transfer of arms.

We consider that the draft documents prepared by Ambassador Roberto García Moritán, Chair of the Preparatory Committee, are a useful starting point for negotiations. The treaty should be comprehensive, both in terms of the type of weapon and the type of transfer it covers. When granting an export licence, criteria such as international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights, the possible impact on the sustainable economic and social development of the recipient country, as well as the risk of abuse and diversion, should be taken into account.

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, whose Review Conference will be next month, now finds itself at a critical juncture. We regret that the negotiations on a protocol on cluster munitions have, so far, not resulted in a proposal that enjoys consensus.

Switzerland, like other countries, remains concerned that due to the failure of the draft, there will be no immediate effect on the ground that could help to protect civilian populations from future harm due to the indiscriminate effects of those weapons. Switzerland therefore urges users and producers to shed light on the consequences of the draft text and increase transparency in the negotiation process by providing information on the qualitative and quantitative impact of the draft protocol on their stockpiles. We also stress the need to focus on the universalization of the Convention and its Protocols, as well as on mechanisms for their enhanced implementation.

On a related point, we welcome the results of the second Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, held in Lebanon a few weeks ago. The Convention was able to make progress in terms of both its universalization and its effect on the ground. Switzerland is currently in the process of ratifying that instrument and will continue to contribute actively to its implementation.

The Review Conference on the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects will be held in 2012 and will provide an opportunity to strengthen that important instrument.

Switzerland believes that it is high time to significantly accelerate and improve its implementation.

The second Ministerial Review Conference on the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development will be held in Geneva on 31 October and 1 November. We expect it to produce a reaffirmation of the will to achieve, by 2015, measurable reductions in the global burden of armed violence, as well as tangible improvements in development.

While much has been achieved towards a better understanding of the linkages between armed violence and development and ways to reduce the risks of armed violence, much more work needs to be done to systematically boost efforts to ensure safety and security.

In conclusion, the coming months will also provide us with an opportunity to work towards greater functionality and effectiveness of the process to advance disarmament and non-proliferation. It is crucial that we overcome the current institutional crisis, before the impasse further undermines the credibility of an important part of the United Nations system. We should reach agreement on the means necessary to put the Conference on Disarmament back on track and to define ways to better use the outstanding human and intellectual resources available in Geneva. Switzerland is firmly committed to upholding and preserving the institutions that have served us well in the past. We are also ready to contribute to the revitalization and reform of existing mechanisms and to explore new avenues in order to develop the instruments necessary to cope with current and future challenges.

**Mr. Sin Son Ho** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Let me first of all congratulate the Chair on his election to the chairmanship of the First Committee. I believe that, under his able leadership, this session will be crowned with success.

I also wish to associate myself with the statement made at the Committee's 3rd meeting by the representative of the Republic of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

It has been 20 years since the end of the Cold War. Nevertheless, international efforts aimed at disarmament and peace and security in the world are still confronted with serious challenges. In today's international relations, hegemonic policy and the use of force and nuclear blackmail are openly practised and

translated into action. Armed conflicts and insecurity continue to persist in different parts of the world, threatening the right to exist of sovereign States. The Korean peninsula is not exempt from that situation.

My delegation takes this opportunity to underline the root causes of the ever-worsening situation on the Korean peninsula. After more than half a century, the Korean peninsula, which was forcibly divided in two by outside forces, remains in a state of neither war nor peace. The nuclear issue, along with the periodically explosive situation and continuing tension on the Korean peninsula, arose from hostile relations between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States, which led to mistrust and confrontation. Despite unanimous aspirations and demands for peace at home and abroad, an arms build-up continues, and nuclear war exercises against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are ceaselessly conducted on the Korean peninsula and in its vicinity.

In its Nuclear Posture Review of April 2010, the United States officially announced that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was excluded from the list of countries that would receive a negative security assurance. In essence, this illustrates that the policy of the United States remains unchanged with regard to its claim of the right to conduct a pre-emptive nuclear strike against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In August, despite repeated warnings from my country, the United States carried out nuclear war exercises under the code name Ulji Freedom Guardian, with the mobilization of massive armed forces in South Korea.

Another fundamental reason for the increasing tension on the Korean peninsula is the absence of peace mechanisms.

More than half century has passed since the end of the Korean War, but no peace mechanism has yet been established. Instead, there is an outdated armistice regime — a legacy of the Cold War. From a legal and technical perspective, therefore, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States are still in a state of war. As long as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States, the direct parties to the Korean Armistice Agreement, maintain their hostility by levelling guns at each other, nothing can be done to alleviate their mutual mistrust or to demilitarize the Korean peninsula.

Last year, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea proposed to conclude a peace agreement. That proposal is the most effective confidence-building measure for eliminating mistrust between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States. The conclusion of a peace agreement proposed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea would play a role as a powerful driving force to ensure the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

We strongly believe that our proposal to conclude a peace agreement would be a good one both in the light of the peculiar security situation of the Korean peninsula and with respect to regional peace and security. The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea stands firm on its position on ensuring peace and security and speeding up the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula through dialogue and negotiations.

The current situation on the Korean peninsula demands that the concerned parties seize the opportunity with a bold and timely decision to address the fundamental root cause through dialogue. The main party in this case is the United States of America. The nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula stems entirely from the hostile policy and nuclear threats of the United States against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The United States is therefore the key party responsible for and capable of addressing its root cause. If the United States is genuinely concerned about peace and stability on the Korean peninsula, it should cease hostile military actions, which only add to existing tensions, and respond positively to the proposal of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to conclude a peace agreement.

For the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, safeguarding peace and security and promoting shared prosperity on the Korean peninsula and in the rest of the world is a sacred duty. We will do our utmost to realize those goals.

**Mr. Nimchinskiy** (Ukraine): Let me first join previous delegations in congratulating the Chair on his assumption of the chairmanship of the First Committee.

It is a true pleasure for me to take part in the work of the First Committee, which is called upon to lay the groundwork for a fruitful discussion at the General Assembly of the problems in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

My delegation considers the issue of disarmament to be critical to global peace and development, and believes that general and complete disarmament is the cornerstone of international security. Ukraine consistently supports a multilateral approach to disarmament and other security matters. While recognizing the present impasse in disarmament efforts, we fully reaffirm our commitment to strengthening the current disarmament machinery and to deepening cooperation in order to reinforce the disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

Recent events in international forums give us hope that other States share that approach. The Nuclear Security Summit held in Washington, D.C., the signing of the New START agreement between the United States of America and the Russian Federation, and the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons were milestone undertakings that set the tone for future activities.

We fully support those developments and continue to make our own contribution to the process. The most recent one is our commitment to eliminating all our stocks of highly enriched uranium. That decision was announced by President Viktor Yanukovich at the Nuclear Security Summit. Our underlying message is clear, namely, that Ukraine takes nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament seriously.

Ukraine's initiative in convening the Summit on Safe and Innovative Use of Nuclear Energy, held in Kyiv last April, was yet another step on the path towards the implementation of the Nuclear Security Summit commitments — namely, to promote the idea of converting highly enriched uranium fuel nuclear reactors to low-enriched ones, as well as to secure the rights of non-nuclear States to nuclear materials and technology for peaceful purposes in accordance with the requirements of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The Kyiv Summit also served as an integral part of a broader preparatory agenda for the next Nuclear Security Summit, scheduled for April 2012 in South Korea.

Ukraine attaches particular importance to finding ways of unblocking the negotiation process within the Conference on Disarmament, which remains one of the world's most important multilateral forums. Ukraine considers that the Conference is capable of resolving the pressing issues related to comprehensive disarmament, provided that the will exists to unify all efforts. We

are convinced that despite the protracted impasse, the Conference's potential has not been exhausted yet.

Ukraine believes that in order for the work of that forum to be effective, there is a need for strict adherence to the rule of consensus, which makes it possible to take into consideration the legitimate security concerns of each State. That rule must be respected for as long as all Member States have an equal interest in ensuring adequate national security. The most recent work of the Conference on Disarmament demonstrated that member States are often unwilling to make concessions with respect to their own interests in favour of reaching a compromise, which hampers the proper functioning of the Conference. Working on compromise solutions and reaching consensus, which could unify the efforts of all participating States, therefore becomes increasingly important.

Ukraine is convinced that elaboration of a well-balanced agenda, with due consideration given to the interests of all States, is the only way to break the Conference's deadlock.

It goes without saying for Ukraine that States must not use their nuclear weapons or threaten to use them against non-nuclear-weapon States. Nor can they abuse their nuclear status in order to assist, encourage or induce in any way the use or threat of use of force in international relations or exert any kind of pressure on the non-nuclear-weapon States, in contravention of their sovereign rights.

A practical tool for ensuring this is the further endorsement and development of negative security assurances. Ukraine therefore believes that the assurances outlined in Security Council resolution 984 (1995) should be reaffirmed once again in a relevant multilateral legally binding document. We have consistently advanced this principle and will continue to do so.

That was the principal idea underlying Ukraine's participation in the establishment of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Effective International Arrangements to Assure Non-Nuclear-Weapon States against the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons.

The elimination of nuclear weapons is the only guarantee that they will never be used. However, mere declarations are insufficient for achieving that goal. It will require a set of practical steps. One such step is to put an end to the production of fissile material. Thus

a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT) would be a tremendous step towards global nuclear disarmament. The FMCT would also close a number of windows of opportunity for terrorists to obtain nuclear materials which can be used for creating nuclear weapons.

Ukraine therefore deeply regrets the continuing deadlock over the resumption of the activities of the Conference on this issue and calls for the immediate launch of the negotiations on the FMCT.

Another vital step towards nuclear disarmament would be the universalization of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). It is crucially important that the norms set forth by the Treaty be observed worldwide. We strongly hope that the renewed commitment of key States regarding the ratification of the Treaty will finally pave the way for its entry into force.

In the meantime, the moratorium on nuclear tests or any other nuclear explosions should be maintained. We call upon all States to ratify the CTBT, observe their obligations under it and refrain from any actions contrary to its objectives.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime. Ukraine is fully committed to the implementation of the NPT in all of its three mutually reinforcing pillars.

In that context, we welcome the outcome of the 2010 Review Conference of the parties to the NPT. Since 2000, the Conference has managed to reach consensus on a Final Document that outlines realistic steps towards creating a world free of nuclear weapons. The Final Document also contains other important provisions in the field of non-proliferation, compliance, disarmament, the peaceful use of nuclear energy and effective international arrangements aimed at securing non-nuclear-weapon States. These are undoubtedly of crucial importance for strengthening the universal security architecture.

Ukraine is an active player in the field of outer space. We assure the Committee in this regard that we adhere to the relevant principles of international law and ensure the full transparency of our actions.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that it is the responsibility of the nuclear-weapon States to set a good example and demonstrate a proactive approach in the area of nuclear disarmament. It is my strong

expectation that eventually Ukraine's approach will set an example that will be followed by not only highly developed States but also by those that are highly conscious.

**Ms. Phommachanh** (Lao People's Democratic Republic): Allow me to extend to Mr. Viinainen my warm congratulations on his chairmanship of the First Committee and to assure him and the Bureau of my delegation's full support for the work of the Committee under his able leadership.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic also associates itself with the statements made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and by the representative of Myanmar on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). My delegation will therefore make a few additional remarks from the national perspective of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Over the past year and a half, we have seen positive developments in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. The successful conclusion of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the START II Treaty, as well as the progress made towards the arms trade treaty, are important and encouraging aspects towards disarmament and a world free from nuclear weapons. At the same time, the entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in August 2010 was a crucial step towards reducing the threat posed by cluster munitions.

Notwithstanding those achievements, the world still faces multiple emergencies, including the deadlock of the disarmament machinery, the slow progress in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and the increasing expenditure on armaments even as humankind struggles with extreme poverty. Those challenges are further aggravated by the non-fulfilment of commitments and obligations under the relevant legally binding instruments, especially with respect to weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons treaties.

In this regard, the Lao People's Democratic Republic welcomes the High-level Meeting on Revitalizing the Work of the Conference on Disarmament and Taking Forward Multilateral Disarmament Negotiations, convened in September 2010 by the Secretary-General, and the subsequent General Assembly plenary debate on follow-up to the High-level Meeting, held in July

2011. The Lao People's Democratic Republic wishes to underscore the need for strong political commitments and collective efforts to overcome the difficult impasse and re-emphasize the importance of multilateral approaches for achieving the ultimate goals of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

The continued existence of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, poses a serious risk of their possible use or threat of use. The total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee in that respect. The NPT is the cornerstone of nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, and States should adhere to their commitments and obligations. We join others in the call for implementing the 64-step action plan towards nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy contained in the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference. We also welcome the New START treaty signed by the United States and the Russian Federation to further cut their strategic and tactical nuclear weapons.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic shares the concern of the world community about the risk of nuclear accidents, as seen at the Daiichi Fukushima nuclear-power plant earlier this year and during the Chernobyl tragedy 25 years ago. My delegation strongly supports the Secretary-General's statement that the time has come for a global rethink on the nuclear energy and safety issue, and calls for the implementation of the recommendations of the high-level meeting on nuclear safety and security held last September in New York.

This year marks the fifteenth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). Achieving universal adherence to the Treaty and accelerating its early entry into force are important tasks that should be accomplished without further delay. In that regard, the Lao People's Democratic Republic welcomed the holding of the seventh CTBT ministerial meeting, here in New York last month, which aimed at enhancing support for the strengthening of the global verification regime and the international monitoring system for nuclear testing.

The creation of nuclear-weapon-free-zones has significantly contributed to strengthening regional and global peace and security. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone. We encourage the

nuclear-weapon States to provide negative security assurances and to accede, as soon as possible, to the Treaty's Protocol, with a view to improving further its full operation and implementation. Likewise, the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, as emphasized by the 2010 NPT Review Conference, would contribute to lasting peace in that region.

We, as the international community, certainly aspire to making the entire planet a nuclear-weapon-free zone. A key step to that end would therefore be to follow through on the Secretary-General's October 2008 call for a nuclear weapons convention, which is one of the points in his five-point plan for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

At the same time, we cannot afford to ignore the challenge posed by conventional weapons, in particular cluster munitions, which constitute a threat to peace, human security, poverty eradication, socio-economic development and the achievement of the targets set forth in the Millennium Development Goals. Having presided over the Oslo Convention throughout the past year, the Lao People's Democratic Republic has received invaluable support and assistance from States parties and non-State parties, the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, and international and civil society organizations. That support and assistance has helped to bring about the early implementation of this humanitarian Convention, for which we would like to express our appreciation.

The broad and active participation of countries in the first Meeting of States Parties to the Oslo Convention on Cluster Munitions, held in November 2010 in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, was gratifying. We sincerely hope that Member States will consider becoming party to this humanitarian Convention, which is of particular importance for countries and innocent victims suffering from the destructive consequences of cluster bombs.

In conclusion, the Lao People's Democratic Republic strongly believes that political will and cooperation from all States are essential for progress in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. My delegation remains committed to constructive engagement to contribute to the success of the work of the First Committee.

**Ms. Ochir** (Mongolia): Let me join previous speakers in congratulating the Chair and the other

members of the Bureau on their unanimous election. I am confident that we will have fruitful deliberations under their able leadership. I assure them of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

My delegation wishes to associate itself with the statement made by the representative of Indonesia at the Committee's 3rd meeting on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

While substantial challenges remain, there has been significant progress in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control over recent years. The successful 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the entry into force of the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America, and the Secretary-General's visionary five-point proposal on nuclear disarmament have all brought hope to the global disarmament and non-proliferation regime. But many outstanding issues still need to be addressed.

First, it is now time to deliver on the commitments and vigorously implement the forward-looking action plans agreed in the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)), including putting an end to the protracted stalemate at the Conference on Disarmament (CD), the world's sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. We highly value the Secretary-General's efforts to revitalize the work of the Conference.

Secondly, while commending the entry into force of the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America, my delegation wishes to emphasize that eliminating nuclear threats requires measures beyond concrete disarmament steps; it requires a framework to achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons. Mongolia therefore continues to support the early start of negotiations at the CD on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified time frame, including a nuclear weapons convention. We also support the early start of negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty. Mongolia is convinced that more vigorous implementation by the nuclear-weapon States of their disarmament obligations and efforts to promote nuclear non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing and must be pursued simultaneously.

Mongolia shares the view that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Pending the achievement of that goal, a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons should be pursued as a matter of urgent priority.

My delegation would like to refer to the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, which stated that the CD should

“immediately begin discussion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, to discuss substantively, without limitation, with a view to elaborating recommendations dealing with all aspects of this issue, not excluding an internationally legally binding instrument.” (*NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I), p. 21*)

Thirdly, the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is absolutely vital for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. My delegation welcomes the expressions of a number of States, including some annex 2 States, of their intention to ratify the Treaty in the near future.

For its part, Mongolia actively participated in the recent Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. In 2010, Mongolia and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization jointly organized a regional workshop on the CTBT and strengthening capacity-building. The workshop, we believe, helped to increase awareness and promote accession to the CTBT among the countries in our region.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) continues to play a central role in ensuring non-proliferation through its safeguards and verification regime, assisting Member States in embarking on nuclear power and uranium production, as well as introducing nuclear technology in food and agriculture, human health, water resources, the environment and other nuclear applications.

The nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Japan following a devastating

earthquake and tsunami gravely reminded us of the inherent risks associated with nuclear power. In that respect, my delegation would like to commend the Secretary-General for convening the United Nations High-level Meeting on Nuclear Safety and Security last month, which proved to be practical and useful.

As IAEA Director General Amano rightly pointed out in his statement at the High-level Meeting, Fukushima Daiichi was a terrible accident, “but it did not mean the end of nuclear power”. There is, however, a critical need for individual countries to enhance the safety of nuclear power plants in their respective territories and to combine efforts to close the existing safety gaps worldwide. The IAEA, the only international organization with the relevant expertise, must lead the international effort to strengthen nuclear safety and security worldwide.

There have been reports in some media that Mongolia has been in talks to host an international spent fuel storage facility on its territory and import nuclear waste from other countries. Those claims are groundless. Importing foreign nuclear waste would be in gross violation of Mongolia’s domestic law and regulations. The law on Mongolia’s nuclear-weapon-free status expressly prohibits “dumping or disposing of ... nuclear waste on Mongolia’s territory”.

It is an undisputable fact that nuclear-weapon-free zones strengthen both nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and thereby international peace and security. Mongolia strongly supports strengthening the established nuclear-weapon-free zones. It welcomes the renewed discussions between the States parties to the Bangkok Treaty and the nuclear-weapon States on the Protocol to the Treaty. We also support the establishment of new nuclear-weapon-free zones, including in the Middle East. The decision to hold an international conference in 2012 on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction was one of the most important achievements of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Likewise, we support the initiative of the Director General of the IAEA to hold a forum in November on experiences of possible relevance to the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

Mongolia’s nuclear-weapon-free status, declared nearly 20 years ago, has strengthened my country’s

international security. Our status enjoys full international recognition, as documented in a wide range of international instruments, such as the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, the outcome documents of the two Conferences on nuclear-weapon-free zones, the biennial resolutions of the General Assembly on Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status, as well as the final documents of Non-Aligned Movement summits and ministerial meetings.

Over the past year, Mongolia has continued its consultations with representatives of nuclear-weapon States on ways and means to institutionalize our nuclear-weapon-free status. We believe that those consultations have led to a better understanding of Mongolia's unique location and the realization that the institutionalization process therefore requires an equally unique approach. We hope that the consultations and the renewed spirit of understanding displayed by the parties will soon lead to formalizing that status.

The potential spread of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) to non-State actors who are ready to deploy them under any circumstances remains an immediate threat. Mongolia reaffirms its commitment to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), which, *inter alia*, provides a good basis for improving national control facilities, with the assistance pledged under the resolution. We welcome the extension of the mandate of the 1540 Committee until 2021.

With regard to conventional weapons, Mongolia notes the entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions as a welcome step forward. Mongolia has unwaveringly supported the purposes and principles of the Ottawa Convention on Anti-Personnel Mines. However, a range of obstacles have prompted us to pursue a step-by-step policy towards the issue of acceding to this landmark treaty. Last year, my Prime Minister reaffirmed Mongolia's commitment to early accession to the Convention.

Mongolia is closely following the work of the Arms Trade Treaty Preparatory Committee. The Committee is making good progress towards the negotiation of a legally binding instrument on the highest possible common international standards for the transfer of conventional arms.

Mongolia commends the work of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament for Asia and the Pacific. My delegation also welcomes

the Centre's launch of two new projects and its plan to hold an inter-institutional training course for law enforcement officers to strengthen the capacities of countries in the region in combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

In conclusion, as a north-east Asian country, Mongolia strongly hopes for the resumption of the Six-Party Talks on the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula.

**Mr. Wai (Myanmar):** I would like to join previous speakers in congratulating the Chair on his unanimous election as Chair of this year's First Committee session. I am confident that, under his able guidance and leadership, the First Committee will achieve great success this year. I assure him of my delegation's full support and cooperation. We also express our appreciation to the other members of the Bureau.

My delegation associates itself with the statement made at the Committee's 3rd meeting by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Myanmar remains committed to disarmament and non-proliferation. Nuclear disarmament is our highest priority, because nuclear weapons pose the greatest threat to the very existence of humankind. The continued existence of nuclear weapons means that they can be triggered at any time, either by miscalculation or by mistake or by falling into the wrong hands. Despite the growing call by the international community to dismantle nuclear weapons, achieving and maintaining a world without them remains a distant goal. Bold and swift actions, particularly by the nuclear-weapon States, are necessary to achieve that goal.

The commitments and responsibilities stipulated in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the consensus agreements reached at last year's NPT Review Conference serve as a basis for future steps towards a nuclear-weapon-free world. My delegation again urges all nuclear-weapon States to fully and immediately comply with the 22-point action plan on nuclear disarmament that is contained in the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)).

For its part, Myanmar is fully cognizant of the obligations that derive from international and regional legal instruments to which we are committed. Myanmar is a State party to the NPT and its safeguards protocol.

We have signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). Regionally, Myanmar is a State party to the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty.

This year, my delegation will again contribute to the work of the First Committee by presenting a draft resolution entitled “Nuclear disarmament”. Last year’s resolution on this important issue (resolution 65/56) enjoyed support from the vast majority of the United Nations Member countries. It is our hope that Member States will once again lend their support to this year’s draft resolution.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty plays a crucial role in achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We would like to urge annex 2 States that have yet to ratify the CTBT to demonstrate renewed political commitment to achieve the earliest entry into force of this important treaty.

As enshrined in article IV of the NPT, the right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy is the inalienable right of the States parties to the Treaty. That right should be fully recognized and all activities in its pursuit must be encouraged at all times.

My delegation reiterates our call for the establishment of an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament in the Conference on Disarmament (CD) to negotiate a phased programme of nuclear disarmament leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons. That negotiation process can begin by establishing a subsidiary body to deal with nuclear disarmament at the beginning of the Conference’s 2012 session.

As nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are inextricably linked goals, a treaty banning the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices is a logical step towards those goals. While emphasizing the need for a future treaty to cover both existing stockpiles and future production, it is essential that any negotiation process also be transparent and inclusive.

The state of play in the Conference on Disarmament this year was again marked by stagnation. We are indeed disappointed that the CD has been unable to undertake substantive work on its agenda, but my delegation still sees the CD as the sole multilateral negotiating forum on disarmament.

We would like to express our support for the immediate commencement of negotiations on a fissile materials treaty in the CD.

My delegation attaches great importance to the matter of negative security assurances, which is one of the four core issues of the CD.

The negotiations on establishing a nuclear weapons convention and on the prevention of an arms race in outer space are also important issues that require our constant attention.

This may be an opportune time to review the functioning of the United Nations disarmament machinery in order to achieve the desired outcome and to be able to respond to the challenges of the twenty-first century. We cannot wait for things to happen, we need to make things happen. My delegation believes that the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament will enable us to conduct a comprehensive review of the functioning of the entire United Nations disarmament machinery.

In conclusion, we would like to express our hope that this year the First Committee, under the able guidance of the Chair, will be crowned with success.

**Mr. Sorreta** (Philippines): I congratulate the Chair on his well-deserved election and assure him of my delegation’s full support.

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

We meet at a crucial time in the field of disarmament. Next year, we will negotiate some of the most pressing issues before us. There will be a Review Conference on the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, including a session of the Preparatory Committee. The first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons will also be held, as will negotiations for a genuinely novel arms regulation treaty in the form of the arms trade treaty. We also hope that a conference will be held on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. For the Philippines, the results of the current session will certainly set the tone for those upcoming negotiations.

The Philippines maintains that nuclear disarmament and nuclear nonproliferation remain our highest priority.

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 provides parties with a road map on how to reach the desired outcome, namely, a world free of nuclear weapons. If the world is serious about making progress on nuclear disarmament, all 64 action points must be implemented, including the 1995 resolution on the Middle East.

Among the actions in the Final Document that the Philippines considers particularly important are the following: the negotiation of a nuclear weapons convention; the fulfilment by nuclear-weapon States of the commitments they have made, particularly vis-à-vis actions 3, 5 and 21; the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East by holding an international conference in 2012 and, prior to that, appointing a facilitator in consultation with the States in the region; achieving the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty; the revitalization of the Conference on Disarmament (CD); the conclusion of a legally binding instrument on security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States; universal adherence to the additional protocol of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); the implementation by States parties to the NPT that have not yet done so of the IAEA comprehensive safeguards agreement; appropriate action in cases of non-compliance; compulsory securing of nuclear material; and guaranteed access to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

With regard to nuclear-weapon-free zones, the Philippines considers such zones important to achieving the goal of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We recognize the contributions made through the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones by the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok, Pelindaba and Central Asia, and by Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status. On the Bangkok Treaty, the Philippines is very pleased with the cooperation afforded by the five permanent members of the Security Council (P-5) concerning their possible accession to the additional protocol of the Treaty. There were positive discussions on this issue in Geneva last August, and there are ongoing discussions now. We hope that the current direct consultations with the P-5 will have positive results.

The Philippines also attaches great importance to the creation of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. We hope that all States in the region will participate

in the planned 2012 international conference and use the meeting as a genuine opportunity to resolve one of the most intractable issues of our time. The Philippines sees the Arab Spring as an opportunity that must be seized, and these changes in the region could very well lead to progress on the establishment of the zone. It is unfortunate that, to date, neither a venue nor a facilitator have been decided on. It is our hope that these issues will be resolved soon so that preparations for the conference may begin. In that regard, the three depositary States, as well as the Secretary-General, have a special responsibility, as set forth in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference. The Philippines calls on them to take the necessary action.

Concerning the Conference on Disarmament, the Philippines recognizes its importance and the need to break the deadlock that has plagued it for the past decade and a half. In that regard, the Philippines commends the Secretary-General for organizing the High-level Meeting on the theme "Revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations" in September 2010, and the President of the Assembly for organizing a follow-up meeting in July. It is most unfortunate that in spite of those meetings and numerous calls to break the impasse there is still no progress.

The Philippines, together with several other delegations that form the international group of observer States in Geneva, sees an urgent need for expansion of the membership of the CD, and views that as a possible solution to the impasse. In the interests of promoting greater inclusivity and dynamism in the CD, the Philippines calls for a review of its membership, as stipulated in its rules of procedure, to allow for its expansion. The Philippines hopes that once the impasse in the Conference is broken, negotiations can commence immediately on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices. If not, alternative means may have to be agreed on in order to make a modicum of progress.

Concerning the upcoming 2015 NPT Review Conference cycle, the Philippines commends Australia for taking on the role of Chair of the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee next year, and wishes Ambassador Peter Woolcott every success. As is the practice, the Philippines will introduce at this session a draft procedural resolution on the 2015 NPT Review Conference and its Preparatory Committee. We hope that delegations will support the draft resolution.

Turning to other developments within the purview of the First Committee, the Philippines first remains concerned at the proliferation and the uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons. The Philippines therefore emphasizes the importance of the early and full implementation of the 2001 Programme of Action. The Philippines looks forward to participating actively in the Preparatory Committee and Review Conference scheduled for next year.

Secondly, the Philippines commends Ambassador Roberto García Moritán of Argentina for his work on the arms trade treaty, and views the future treaty as necessary to the regulation and rationalization of the trade in conventional arms. It is crucial, however, that any future treaty recognizes the right of a State to self-defence and territorial integrity.

Thirdly, the Philippines recognizes the adverse humanitarian impact on innocent civilians of landmines and cluster munitions. We therefore support the full implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Landmines and on Their Destruction. We are also a signatory to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Fourthly, the Philippines looks forward to the convening of the seventh Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, and hopes that States that are not yet signatories to it will become signatories soon as possible.

Fifthly, the Philippines recognizes the significance of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (CWC), and calls on States to meet the deadlines, as extended by the Conference of States Parties, for destruction of such weapons. The Philippines also calls for the few remaining States not yet party to the CWC to sign and ratify the Convention without delay.

I would like to conclude by again stressing the importance of the current session and the need for positive outcomes to continue what little success we have had in disarmament. No difficulty is insurmountable as long as we are all guided by good faith and sincerity to cooperate, and by our readiness to be flexible not only

in our national interest, but for our collective survival and security.

**Mr. Truelson (Denmark):** I will try to be brief and will make only five points.

First, let me start by congratulating the Chair and the other members of the Bureau on their election and by assuring them of Denmark's full cooperation and support throughout this session of the First Committee.

Secondly, Denmark welcomes the positive momentum created by recent international developments in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. The ultimate goal of our common effort is clear: achieving a peaceful world free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. That momentum must be utilized and sustained — a process in which the Conference on Disarmament (CD) will be pivotal. The issues at hand are: the fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT), nuclear disarmament, negative security assurances and outer space. Denmark agrees with the large number of countries that believe that the FMCT should be the first topic for negotiation. It is time for the CD to roll up its sleeves, break the deadlock and get to work.

The issues are too important to not forge ahead. The prolonged state of hibernation, now entering its fifteenth year, can no longer be justified. But we still need to focus on getting the CD back to work. Furthermore, the CD should be a legitimate forum for negotiation. With only a third of United Nations States Members as members of the CD, the Conference clearly lacks that legitimacy, which is also contrary to the Final Document of the first session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, which states that "All States have the right to participate in disarmament negotiations" (*S/10-2, para. 28*). The question of the enlargement of the CD must therefore be addressed and a special coordinator on this matter appointed.

Thirdly, Denmark welcomes the outcome of the 2010 Review Conference on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, an important element of the gathering momentum. The role of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy is a cornerstone of our common endeavour. However, the success of the 2010 Conference will continue only if it leads to concrete actions and results. A concrete action is certainly the conference on establishing a Middle East zone free of

nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. Denmark calls on everyone to work towards a successful conference in 2012, in an open and constructive manner. Furthermore, Denmark believes that we should explore how to enable the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, including in the Middle East and in the Arctic, to become an integral element of a comprehensive multilateral strategy to implement global nuclear disarmament and combat the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Fourthly, achieving a peaceful world free of nuclear weapons is our shared goal. So, too, is ensuring the peaceful uses of nuclear energy under due safeguards and due security. Terrorism remains an ever present threat to our ambitions and peaceful aspirations. The issue of nuclear security is a vital one. Denmark welcomes and supports the forthcoming 2012 Seoul Nuclear Security Summit, which we hope will become another successful step in the process started by the Summit held in Washington, D.C., in 2010. We also call upon interested States that are not already involved to associate with the Proliferation Security Initiative. Denmark commends the ongoing work of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. Each of those plays a big part in securing our progress towards increased peace and security.

Finally, I would like to stress that Denmark is a strong supporter of a global arms trade treaty. We are encouraged by the discussions in the preparatory Committee. Furthermore, Denmark believes that the Chair's paper accurately reflects the views of Member States and regional groups, and therefore provides an appropriate basis for negotiations at the Diplomatic Conference to be held in 2012. Denmark looks forward to the Conference, with a view to reaching an agreement on a solid, comprehensive and legally binding international arms trade treaty.

**Mr. Limeres** (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): First of all, I would like to congratulate the members of the Bureau on their election at this session of the First Committee. I also thank Ambassador Sergio Duarte for his briefing.

The Argentine Republic understands that, given their capacity for devastation, the complete elimination of weapons of mass destruction should be the priority of the efforts of the international community in the area of disarmament. Specifically with respect to nuclear weapons, we would support a balanced

implementation of the three pillars of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), namely, nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. In that regard, the 2006 relaunching of our nuclear programme to produce energy and provide various services to our society strictly complies with international regulations and our obligations in this area.

As the first Latin American country to operate a nuclear power plant, Argentina has a tradition of nuclear technology and recently opened its third such power plant. My country has successfully completed the process of reducing highly enriched uranium in its research reactors and has based all of its production on low-enrichment uranium. Moreover, all of those activities have been carried out in compliance with the highest security standards.

In the area of non-proliferation, my country is developing a responsible international cooperation policy on the peaceful use of nuclear energy and the export of equipment, material and nuclear technology, in keeping with the guidelines of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, in which we play an integral role.

I would also like to highlight that July of this year marked the twentieth year since the signing of an agreement between Brazil and Argentina on the exclusively peaceful use of nuclear energy, which has led to a shared system of oversight and accountability over nuclear materials and the establishment of a bilateral agency on implementation. The Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials is unique in the world and strengthens the safety of nuclear power plants in both countries.

Argentina understands that the challenges in this area that today confront the international community will clearly find better responses and solutions if nuclear-weapon States would show their willingness to completely eliminate such weapons. Argentina believes that those States' nuclear arsenals remain of a dimension that is overwhelming and pose the greatest threat in terms of collective security and the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

We would like to highlight the entry into force of the New START treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation as an event that provides us with some hope for progress in this area. Argentina would like also to reiterate its call on those States that have not yet signed or ratified the Comprehensive

Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), specifically the annex 2 States, to take the measures necessary to do so, so that the regime established by the CTBT can come into effect as soon as possible.

Moreover, my delegation believes that the Conference on Disarmament must undertake negotiations, on an urgent basis, on a fissile material cut-off treaty for nuclear weapons or other nuclear devices, and on an instrument for negative security assurances. Argentina strongly supports all measures aimed at the total elimination of nuclear weapons on the basis of the principles of the transparency, irreversibility and verification of measures related to nuclear disarmament.

In that context, as a State party to the first nuclear-weapon-free zone to be established in a highly populated region of the world, we reiterate our call on those States that made interpretive statements with regard to the Additional Protocols of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean — the Treaty of Tlatelolco — to withdraw them, in accordance with the text of the Treaty and in the face of protests by a region that committed itself to never produce, use or allow the presence of nuclear weapons on its territory.

The issue of the physical safety of nuclear materials and the threat posed by nuclear terrorism — a threat that affects all countries of the world — is of special magnitude in the case of nuclear-weapon arsenals, given the possibility of their direct use if any of them were to be seized by illegal groups. Argentina participates in the efforts of the international community in the field of nuclear security through the process of the Nuclear Security Summit, whose second meeting will be held in March 2012 in the Republic of Korea, and in the framework of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism.

In 1978, the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament elaborated, for the first time, a consensus-based strategy for comprehensive disarmament and ratified the central role and the primary responsibility of the United Nations in the field of disarmament. At that time, it also concluded that agreements on disarmament and arms control should provide measures satisfactory to all parties.

A process of reflection was undertaken several years ago to determine the reasons behind the stalemate in the Conference on Disarmament and in the other

disarmament mechanisms of the United Nations, and to devise possible solutions to this problem. That analysis revealed that the problems facing the Conference on Disarmament in terms of its being able to resume its substantive work lay primarily outside of that forum, and that to improve the Conference's methods of work, renewed political will was necessary in order to achieve tangible results. Argentina therefore believes that it is still possible to revitalize the disarmament bodies and that it is not imperative in this case to hold negotiations outside the Conference on Disarmament.

For more than a decade, there has been international recognition of the need for multilaterally negotiated norms to provide predictability in the transfer of conventional arms, elaborated in keeping with the principles of international law. The reasons underlying this recognition include the illegal use of weapons under the norms of international humanitarian law and human rights law and the risk of their diversion by terrorists or criminal groups. Argentina therefore believes that an international instrument is required that sets out common norms at a global level that make it possible to identify the factors and circumstances that need to be taken into account by States when they authorize transfers of conventional weapons, with a view to averting the diversion of such weapons to parties or for uses that are unauthorized under international law.

My delegation would therefore like to highlight the spirit of cooperation that has characterized the work of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty in the identification of the recommendations of the Conference on the elements necessary to achieve a legally binding, effective and balanced instrument, on the basis of the highest possible common international standards for the transfer of conventional weapons.

I should like to assure Mr. Viinainen that he can count on the full cooperation of my delegation in the promotion of an open dialogue that will enable us to achieve the necessary agreements so that this session of the First Committee can achieve fruitful results.

**Mr. Al Khalifa** (Bahrain) (*spoke in Arabic*): I should like to begin by congratulating Mr. Viinainen on his election to the chairmanship of this important Committee as well as the members of the Bureau on their election. We trust that given his wisdom, broad experience and skills in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, the work of the Committee will

be crowned with success and his mission will be most fruitful.

For a number of years, we have witnessed a dogged race by a number of States to acquire nuclear technology and benefit from nuclear energy. This has, in turn, given rise to some suspicions in the minds of some with regard to the exclusive use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Those suspicions are based on the extent of the danger inherent in the use of nuclear energy and the related possibility of global destabilization.

We would like to stress the need for the universalization of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), without too many exceptions or restrictions. This can be done through scrupulous respect for the provisions of the NPT and by providing all non-nuclear-power States parties with unconditional security assurances and legally binding guarantees.

Moreover, given the interest of the world in the issue of disarmament and the specific importance of disarmament for the Kingdom of Bahrain, my country has acceded to a number of international treaties and instruments in that field. On 3 November 1988, Bahrain acceded to the NPT, and on 12 April 2004 acceded to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). It joined the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in December 2007, given the importance of the role played by the Agency in the context of the nuclear non-proliferation regime, and attach the highest priority to its work. We are convinced of the need to remove all weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East, including the Arab Gulf.

In keeping with the Secretary-General's annual report on the work of the Organization with regard to preparations for a meeting in 2012 on establishing a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, it is imperative for Israel to accede to the NPT. Israel is the only State in the region that has yet to sign the Treaty. Israel should also submit its nuclear facilities to the comprehensive safeguards regime of the IAEA.

With a view to promoting international relations based on peace and cooperation, as well as on the principle of collective security set forth in the United Nations Charter, the Kingdom of Bahrain was one of the first countries to sign and ratify the Convention on Chemical Weapons. In that connection, the King of Bahrain enacted national law No. 5 of September 2009,

on the issue of banning the development, production, stockpiling or use of chemical weapons and on their prohibition. That law also provided for the destruction of existing weapons. Moreover, with reference to the same law, approved by His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Kingdom of Bahrain established a national committee to provide oversight of chemical weapons and to work at the national level to eliminate them.

We must not let the many challenges in the area of disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation around the world become an impediment to the emergence of a more stable and more secure world. It is therefore necessary to establish a climate conducive to creating a world free of nuclear weapons in order to promote international peace and security. Fortunately, the world is witnessing some positive measures in the area of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

In that regard, the Secretary-General indicated in his report on the work of the Organization (A/66/1) that there were a number of conclusions and results at the 2010 Review Conference of States Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. His report underscored the fact that States parties to the NPT are beginning to honour the commitments undertaken during the Review Conference, as well as the need to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. In that connection, I would like to refer to paragraph 92 of the Convention. Moreover, States parties are continuing to examine all the requirements that need to be put in place in order for a world free of nuclear weapons to emerge. They are also exploring the possibility of continuing negotiations for a nuclear treaty that is verifiable and can be implemented effectively.

We wish to commend the Secretary-General's efforts to relaunch the programme of action on disarmament. We trust that his efforts will be successful, if they receive the necessary international cooperation towards the goal of containing and eliminating weapons of mass destruction for a better and safer world free of such lethal weapons.

**Mr. Ikongo Isekotoko Boyoo** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, allow me, on behalf of the delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to convey to the Chair our congratulations on his election to lead the First Committee. I assure him and the other members of the Bureau of the full cooperation of my delegation.

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

My delegation attaches the highest importance to issues of disarmament and international security. In that regard, we note that promising commitments have been made in 2011, as detailed in the statements of preceding delegations. This is a favourable context for issues of disarmament and provides an opportunity that should be seized by the international community if we are to make tangible progress in such a sensitive area.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo, which is a party to the main treaties and conventions related to weapons of mass destruction, would like to recall that the ultimate goal of those international instruments is to rid the world forever of such weapons. The prospects for the total elimination of nuclear weapons inevitably require nuclear disarmament through progressive measures in accordance with the principles of irreversibility, transparency and verifiability.

According to the terms of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), nuclear-weapon States have certain obligations that must be respected. In that regard, we recall the 1996 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (see A/51/218), which reaffirmed the ongoing obligation of States to work towards reducing and eliminating their nuclear arsenals, as well as the illicit nature of resorting to, or using, nuclear weapons.

While reiterating our adherence both to the non-proliferation regime established by the NPT and to the legitimate right of all States parties to use nuclear energy for civilian purposes, the Democratic Republic of the Congo once again emphasizes that the nuclear issues of certain States must be resolved by diplomatic means and in strict compliance with the provisions of the NPT and the statute of the IAEA. That position is based on the fact that only dialogue and peaceful means are likely to resolve disagreements.

The delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo remains convinced that, in accordance with article VI, nuclear disarmament is the ultimate objective of the NPT. We welcome the results achieved in the context of the negotiations of the eighth NPT Review Conference, held in New York in 2010.

My country is among the majority of States that have chosen to place the atom at the exclusive service of civilian applications, including in the area of research and development, in line with article VI of the NPT. It is undeniable that, given the requirements of economic development and continuing technological progress, the right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy takes on a particularly important dimension today. For many countries, nuclear energy is an essential strategic choice to meet their energy and security needs.

The proposals that have been put forward, including at the IAEA, to establish a multilateral mechanism to supply nuclear fuel should be the subject of broad consultations and based on respect for the inalienable right of all States parties to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. That process must not in no instance lead to the limitation or restriction of that right.

The existence of certain deadlocks — which are all causes of concern for the delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in particular the current impasse in the Conference on Disarmament and the continued delays in the implementation of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) — should lead to the convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. The special session should create conditions conducive to working together towards general progress on all of the problematic aspects of the issue of nuclear disarmament, based on the Assembly's political authority, universal membership and the mandates entrusted to it under the Charter of the United Nations, particularly with regard to disarmament, as well as appropriate frameworks to enable coordination of our various initiatives and foster the necessary debate.

In order to meet the many challenges to global peace and security and overcome the confrontational mindset in the Conference on Disarmament, which has paralysed its activities for the past 12 years, the Conference must benefit from the successful eighth NPT Review Conference of 2010 and the positive momentum generated by its outcomes in order to relaunch its efforts and uphold its mandate. In that spirit, the Democratic Republic of the Congo welcomed the initiative of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to hold a high-level meeting to revitalize the work of the Conference on Disarmament.

My delegation has noted the recommendation of the Secretary-General, contained in the Chair's

summary (A/65/496, annex), that the Conference should once again adopt the programme of work (CD/1864) approved in 2009. The delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo believes that no United Nations forum should replace or diminish the prerogatives of the Conference on Disarmament or legitimize any division of the fundamental issues of its mandate. In addition to the worrying precedent of such action, it would call into question the universality and balance to be maintained among the central and complementary topics on the Conference's agenda. For its part, the Democratic Republic of the Congo remains committed to disarmament and to effectively launching the work of the Conference with a view to restoring its calling as a unique multilateral framework for disarmament negotiations.

The illicit trade in and transfers of small arms and light weapons continue to threaten peace and stability in many countries, and remain an ongoing concern of my delegation. We therefore reiterate our commitment to the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, adopted in 2001, and we urge that it be strengthened. That important instrument has clearly contributed to a genuine awareness of the negative political and humanitarian consequences of that scourge and how small arms and light weapons fuel destructive phenomena, including terrorism and organized crime. Within that framework, the Democratic Republic of the Congo is committed to implementing the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons. Our relevant report of 2010 referred to activities undertaken in that regard. Similarly, national regulations will cover the instrument's three tracks, as announced by the Democratic Republic of the Congo at the fourth Biennial Meeting of States Parties to the Programme of Action, held in New York in June 2010.

With respect to the arms trade treaty initiative, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has supported that process since the very beginning, convinced that an international instrument concluded under the auspices of the United Nations that is aimed at establishing standards for the import, export and transfer of weapons would help to strengthen peace and security at all levels. The debates held in the context of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, held in New York in July, have

demonstrated the interest and importance delegations attach to the issue.

At the regional level, the Democratic Republic of the Congo is committed to the promotion of international peace and security as a permanent aspect of its foreign policy. My country is determined to support and contribute to efforts aimed at advancing and prioritizing dialogue and consultation and strengthening security within its traditional frameworks of participation and solidarity, particularly in the Great Lakes region, the Southern African Development Community and Central Africa. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is also honoured to submit an annual report for consideration by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs that covers all activities in the area of small arms and light weapons.

In conclusion, it should be emphasized that the annual consideration of disarmament issues in the First Committee provides us an opportunity to take stock of our collective security system, an exercise that highlights the central role of the Committee in the area of disarmament. The Democratic Republic of the Congo takes this opportunity to renew its commitment to the multilateral disarmament undertaking, including the related instruments and mechanisms.

**Mr. Abass** (Niger) (*spoke in French*): It is an honour and privilege for my delegation to take the floor on the occasion of the 2011 general debate of the First Committee, a body of strategic importance when it comes to disarmament and international security issues.

On this occasion, allow me first of all to convey my delegation's congratulations to the Chair on his election to preside over the work of the Committee and to express our gratitude for the manner in which he is guiding our debates.

My delegation also endorses the statements made on 3 October by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the African Group and by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (see A/C.1/66/PV.3). I shall therefore limit my statement to a few general comments on the central aspects of the 20 agenda items allocated to the Committee at the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

As one can imagine, Niger is not a military power and harbours no ambition of becoming one. On the contrary, it believes and promotes in the ideals of

peace, security and the peaceful settlement of disputes between States. It knows no enemies in the world except underdevelopment and poverty. Therefore, since gaining sovereignty, in 1960, we have adopted a foreign policy based on comprehensive peace and development in Africa and the rest of the world.

Nevertheless, like other sovereign and independent States, Niger jealously guards its territorial integrity and national sovereignty. It therefore bases its position on principles and concepts that respect those attributes and ensure their longevity. In other words, our arms policy adheres to the strict minimums required in order to meet the prerequisites of national sovereignty that I just mentioned.

As I mentioned earlier, during the sixty-sixth session the Committee will consider 20 items related to disarmament and international peace and security. Those issues are of crucial importance to efforts to build and preserve a better world. For my delegation, however, all of them are inextricably linked to development imperatives, given the fact that disarmament is essential for promoting peace and security for all, which in turn are essential to development.

My delegation would therefore first like to underscore the importance and relevance of the military budget cuts that the delegation of the former Soviet Union rightly included on the agenda of the General Assembly in 1973, in the hope of transforming the financial resources freed up as a result into additional instruments for development financing in developing countries, including least advanced countries such as mine. In today's world, it is unjustifiable that millions of people struggle to live on the barest daily minimum while enormous amounts of financial resources continue to be spent on weapons. States have certainly made many efforts in that regard, including the adoption of the 1987 action programme on the relationship between disarmament and development. However, we still believe that the impetus that produced those results in the framework of the United Nations, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and regional organizations must be maintained and accelerated.

For its part, Niger is pleased that it is a party to all core international instruments on disarmament issues concluded by the United Nations and the IAEA, despite the fact that some instruments impose trade restrictions on raw materials, such as uranium, which account for a substantial amount of Niger's export revenues. Niger has

also become a party to the 16 main international legal instruments established to fight international terrorism and, in 2008, adopted a specific law in that regard.

At the regional level, Niger is a party to the Economic Community of West African States 2006 Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials, and to all instruments establishing mechanisms to prevent and manage conflict at the subregional level and in the countries of the African Union. All of those instruments are essential for promoting sustained regional cooperation on disarmament, peace and security in our region. In other words, we are fully committed to disarmament and to building a harmonious and developed world in which all people and all nations can enjoy well-being.

My country also places particular importance on the forthcoming United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty. We have followed the preparatory work for the Conference that the Chair has so ably led and coordinated, and we welcome the agreements already reached on some of the key points of the treaty.

Niger occupies a vast area of 1,267,000 square kilometres in the Sahelo-Saharan subregion, sharing 5,500 kilometres of borders with seven neighbouring States. The Sahara desert covers two thirds of that territory. In the 1990s, Niger experienced some insecurity within its borders following the formation of armed movements by some of its people. In such an environment of insecurity, Niger subsequently faced the even greater threat of terrorist groups and drug traffickers, including the Organization of Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, which were transplanted in Niger as a consequence of the exacerbated residual insecurity in the area concerned. The conclusion of an effective, fair and balanced arms trade treaty could be a significant factor in Niger's efforts to limit the illicit circulation of arms, which, in our view, has produced the situation that we are facing today.

Beyond the arms trade as such, however, Niger believes that unforeseen circumstances, such as those arising from conflict situations, can create conditions whereby weapons of mass destruction may be acquired by undesirable groups, thereby threatening the peace and security of other States. As the Committee is aware, the draft arms trade treaty does not provide for such circumstances. In conclusion, therefore, my delegation expresses its fervent hope that all United Nations

peacebuilding efforts in post-conflict situations will take the regional aspect of the issue into consideration.

**Mr. Proaño** (Ecuador) (*spoke in Spanish*): I should like to begin by conveying to the Chair and the members of the Bureau the congratulations of the delegation of Ecuador on their elections. My delegation stands ready to provide the cooperation necessary to achieve the objectives set by the First Committee.

The delegation of Ecuador associates itself with the statement made by the delegation of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is a crime against nature and humankind, as well as a violation of international law, international humanitarian law and the very Charter of the United Nations. The sole guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is therefore their complete prohibition and total destruction. In that context, Ecuador supports simultaneous and parallel efforts to address pending issues in the areas of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation alike.

Ecuador shares the concern of other States about the current situation in the Conference on Disarmament. That situation creates a dilemma, however, in that we must either continue to pursue improvised initiatives, which only add an element of uncertainty and mistrust to the process, or try to correct the problem as a whole once and for all. The proposal of transferring, on an ad hoc basis, some of the topics discussed in the Conference on Disarmament to other forums is the most significant improvised initiative. In such an approach, our actions would be based on a proposal that does not enjoy consensus, owing to the fact that it is incomplete, biased and lacking certainty in terms of achieving the goal of general and complete disarmament.

My delegation therefore believes that beginning negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty on the margins of the Conference on Disarmament is no panacea. In addition to the lack of consensus and the uncertainty surrounding ad hoc actions, the aspirations of States for the fulfilment of the obligations assumed under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons also continue to be postponed. To that end, we must also urgently address in tandem other pending issues within the Conference on Disarmament, namely, a convention on nuclear weapons, negative security assurances and the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

In that context, we should emphasize that any future treaty banning the production of fissile material should resolve all of the concerns of States with regard to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Only an instrument that includes provisions on current and future stockpiles of such materials would be able to meet that requirement.

For Ecuador, a treaty on the production of fissile material is as relevant as a convention on nuclear weapons or negative security assurances. Nevertheless, to date, my country has yet to see a legally binding instrument in which the nuclear-weapon States guarantee that they will refrain from using nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States while the process of nuclear disarmament is ongoing. On that basis, it is clear that the stalemate in the Conference on Disarmament is the result of a lack of will to give all of the issues on its agenda the importance they deserve, without subordinating or marginalizing them.

In that regard, the solution does not lie in the rules of procedure or in the working methods of the Conference, for States in any other forum would find themselves in the same situation under any new structure. Rather, the solution must come from bringing the positions closer together within the Conference on Disarmament so that the concerns of States can be addressed through transparent negotiations that encompass all pending issues.

In addition, my delegation believes that the proposal to transfer issues before the Conference to other forums in an ad hoc manner would not only sidestep many of the concerns of States in the area of disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, it would also run the risk of becoming a resounding failure for its lack of universality, which is a fundamental prerequisite for ensuring effectiveness in such an agreement. The only way to achieve universality is by promoting the confidence-building measures necessary to facilitate consensus.

Although it has already been pointed out, I should like to mention the fact that the Disarmament Commission has failed to produce a successful outcome for several years.

It is therefore logical and necessary that we undertake an overall analysis of the disarmament machinery of the United Nations. To that end, my delegation reiterates its support for the idea of convening the fourth special session of the General

Assembly devoted to disarmament in order to review all the components of the disarmament machinery and adopt the appropriate corrective measures.

Ecuador reiterates its call to all States that have yet to do so to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. We also urge all Member States to put into practice the steps set out in the conclusions and recommendations of the Final Document (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)) of the May 2010 Review Conference.

Likewise, in its capacity as a contracting party to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, Ecuador calls upon all States to make every effort to establish and consolidate nuclear-weapon-free zones in all regions of the world. In that regard, Ecuador firmly supports the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and calls for identifying pending issues as quickly as possible, so as to make it possible to hold a conference in 2012.

In the context of working towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, Ecuador would like to express its support for the rapid entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). We therefore urge States that have yet to do so to accede to and ratify this instrument without delay.

Furthermore, Ecuador advocates the inalienable and legitimate right of States to develop, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without any discrimination. In that regard, my delegation reaffirms its support for the regulatory framework provided by the International Atomic Energy Agency. We also emphasize that States that opt for this type of energy have an obligation to develop and implement the highest standards of security and nuclear protection.

Ecuador's Constitution, adopted in 2008, is the first of its kind to grant rights to nature. It also sets forth a series of principles that provide guidance for its conduct in the international arena. One of those principles proclaims Ecuador as a territory of peace. In that regard, Ecuador promotes peace and universal disarmament. It condemns the development and use of weapons of mass destruction and prohibits the development, production, possession, commercialization, import, transport, stockpiling and use of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons, in the context of unlimited and complete respect for human rights. Consequently, my delegation would like to once again express its complete commitment to the Convention on the Prohibition

of Chemical Weapons and the Convention on the Prohibition of Biological Weapons.

In the area of conventional weapons, Ecuador shares in the decisive support for the objectives of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. While we express our gratitude for the efforts of the Permanent Mission of New Zealand in holding a meeting of Government experts on the implementation of the Programme of Action, my delegation also wishes every success to the Review Conference to be held in 2012.

Ecuador welcomes the three meetings of the Preparatory Committee for an arms trade treaty held between July 2010 and July 2011. We would also like to express our appreciation for the work of Ambassador García Moritán. We are fully prepared to continue to participate actively on this issue, which is in our interests, until its final outcome.

Faithful to its commitment to disarmament and universal peace and strict respect for human rights and international humanitarian law, in 2010 Ecuador ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions. In that regard, Ecuador would like to express its willingness to share with the world its expertise and technical capacity for the destruction of arsenals and the clean-up of areas contaminated by this type of weapon. Similarly, as part of its goal to transform our borders into places of effective union and safe integration through clean development projects shared with neighbouring nations, Ecuador attaches singular importance to all humanitarian programmes for mine clearance on the border with Peru. Ecuador believes that civil society is the most impacted by the use of this type of weapon. We therefore express our commitment and support for the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

In conclusion, in addition to expressing the commitment of the Government of Ecuador to peace, universal disarmament and international security in the framework of full respect for international law, human rights and the Charter of the United Nations, my delegation would like to reiterate the willingness we expressed at the beginning of our statement to working in the First Committee to achieve those goals.

**Ms. Adamson** (United Kingdom) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to thank the Chair and the members of the Bureau for the great job they are doing.

(*spoke in English*)

The sixty-sixth session of the First Committee will be an important one for the disarmament and international security agenda. Having everyone gathered here in New York affords us with an excellent opportunity to make progress across a range of issues. In the plenary meetings and thematic debates, we have the chance to take stock of developments over the past year across the spectrum, recognizing the many successes as well as identifying areas where more work needs to be done. In addition, a number of meetings are taking place on the margins in which we hope to take tangible steps forward on a number of specific issues.

The year 2012 is going to be an important year, not least with the meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons that are to be held in April in Vienna, action on the zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, and the Arms Trade Treaty Diplomatic Conference. We need to work together in the First Committee over the coming weeks to create the necessary momentum to make all those things a success in 2012.

The United Kingdom plays a leading role across a range of disarmament and related international security issues that are the subject of our deliberations here in New York. Let me cite a few examples of the things we have been doing since we last met.

On nuclear disarmament, we have worked hard with a range of international partners to set the ball rolling on the implementation of the action plan for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), following the successful Review Conference in 2010. Just a few months into the new five-year cycle, the United Kingdom announced a number of significant disarmament measures in our Strategic Defence and Security Review. We met in Paris in June with the other nuclear-weapon States to discuss the recommendations in the action plan, and agreed on a number of follow-up initiatives on nuclear terminology and disarmament verification. We have also continued to take forward our groundbreaking initiative with Norway on research into the verification of warhead dismantlement, and we will host a workshop in London in December to share our

experiences with other interested non-nuclear-weapons States.

We have played a similar role at the forefront of efforts to make progress on some of the other issues to be addressed by the Committee. We remain fully committed, as a depositary State of the NPT, to the 2012 conference on the creation of a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery in the Middle East. We hope that all States in the region will fully engage with the host and facilitator once they are announced.

We have continued to be a driving force behind efforts to secure agreement on a strong and robust arms trade treaty, engaging fully in the substantive Preparatory Committee and taking this forward with all States to the Diplomatic Conference in 2012. We believe that this is an important instrument that all States should work towards. We will also be taking an active part in the seventh Review Conference of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, to be held in Geneva in December, at which we hope to achieve a revitalized and strengthened future process. We are also working diligently to promote the aims and goals of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction.

In addition, something that is rapidly becoming a priority on all of our agendas is the issue of cybersecurity. We will host an international conference on cyberspace in London in November, and hope that the results of these deliberations will enhance the engagement of the international community on this important issue.

Turning again to 2012, as the host of the 2012 Olympic Games, the United Kingdom has presented the draft Olympic Truce resolution (A/66/L.3), which encourages Member States to undertake action at the local, national, regional and international levels to promote and strengthen a culture of peace based on the spirit of the Olympic Truce. The United Kingdom will work with partners internationally to identify opportunities to promote the Olympic Truce ideals, prevent conflict and build peace. We call on all United Nations States Members to join with us and sponsor the draft resolution. I am happy to say that my colleague here has the sponsorship sheet with him. We would welcome it if all countries that have not yet signed up would sponsor the draft resolution. I understand that there are some small presents available. I have with me

an example of the Olympic beach towel, which we will give to representatives who sign up. This is the latest fashion item in New York, and I urge those who want one to sign up soon.

Back to serious issues: in this productive vein, we are seeking to use this year's session of the First Committee to make further progress. A number of important meetings are taking place this week — and I have just left one such meeting — that may define our future endeavours. Discussions are ongoing among key players on issues surrounding the NPT and the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone. We hope that the results of those discussions will further our collective goal of making the world a safer place.

The United Kingdom looks forward to going into more detail in some of the thematic debates next week, but for now it remains for me to wish you well, Sir, in your role as Acting Chair, as well as to the Chair himself and the Bureau. I reassure you that the United Kingdom will do everything possible to help make this sixty-sixth session a success.

**The Acting Chair:** I thank the representative of the United Kingdom for her statement and for the kind words addressed to the Chair and the Bureau. I particularly congratulate her on her Arabic skills.

**Mr. Wang Lei (China)** (*spoke in Chinese*): My delegation's statement at this general debate was to be delivered by Ambassador Wang Qun. However, due to other important commitments, he cannot be here and has authorized me to deliver the statement on his behalf.

I would like to begin by congratulating the Chair on his election to the Chair of the First Committee at this session. I am confident that, with his rich diplomatic experience and wisdom, he will steer the Committee successfully. I would like to assure him and other delegations of the Chinese delegation's full cooperation.

The first decade of the twenty-first century has witnessed major developments, transformations and adjustments. During this decade, profound and complex changes have taken place in the international security landscape. The global security issue has now become increasingly prominent. It extends not only to the fields of politics, economics and finance, as well as public health and energy, but it now also covers a wider spectrum, from outer space to such new frontiers as cyberspace and the polar regions. In the past decade, the international community has also witnessed ups

and downs in the cause of multilateral arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. While the notion of a nuclear-weapon-free world has gained momentum, its achievement remains a formidable task.

The first decade of the twenty-first century is now behind us. What we have seen is exceedingly thought-provoking. As the world moves towards multipolarity, through the accelerated economic globalization and rapid development of the information age, all of its members are in a state of virtually unprecedented mutual dependence, with their interests intertwined. The world is thereby becoming a community of shared destiny whose members are closely interconnected. Under current historical conditions, no country can be immune to our global challenges, nor can it meet such challenges alone. Working together to overcome our difficulties, seeking a situation that benefits all of us, should therefore be the cardinal guiding principle governing current international relations.

In the coming decade, the international community should, operating from this new perspective of a community of shared destiny, work together to meet the multiple security challenges confronting humankind, by sharing good and ill and pursuing a situation that benefits all of us. To that end, we should, first, support new thinking on security based on mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and coordination, and work to pursue a comprehensive, common and cooperative security policy. Secondly, we should foster a peaceful and stable international environment and build a safer world for all. Thirdly, we should fully respect the legitimate security concerns of all countries and seek proper solutions through enhanced mutual trust, dialogue and consultation on an equal footing. The notion of a zero-sum game should be done away with; pursuing a situation that benefits all of us is the only choice we have. Fourthly, we should adhere to the principle of multilateralism and maintain the collective security system, with the United Nations at its core.

The international arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation process, as part of humankind's endeavour in pursuing peace and development, is at a critical juncture, and calls for the united and unremitting efforts of the entire international community. We should further intensify international nuclear disarmament efforts and prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The complete and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons is the common goal of the international

community. In 2012, we will begin another round of the review process of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). States parties should implement in earnest the Final Document of the Eighth NPT Review Conference (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol.I)).

Nuclear disarmament should follow the principle of global strategic stability and undiminished security for all. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty should be brought into force at an early date. Negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT) should be activated at the Conference on Disarmament as early as possible. An international legal instrument on negative security assurances should be negotiated and concluded. In addition, to attain the ultimate goal of complete and thorough nuclear disarmament, the international community should develop, at an appropriate time, a viable long-term plan made up of phased actions, including the conclusion of a negotiated convention of the complete prohibition of nuclear weapons.

Nuclear non-proliferation constitutes an essential condition for the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons. China, for its part, wishes to see the early reactivation of the Six-Party Talks on the nuclear issue on the Korea peninsula, and the early resumption of the dialogue between Iran and the E3+3 Governments.

Earnestly strengthening nuclear security is crucial to the peaceful use of nuclear energy and non-proliferation. China welcomes the United Nations High-level Meeting on Nuclear Safety and Security held in September and hopes that all parties will continue to intensify international cooperation and carry out their peaceful uses of nuclear energy under the prerequisite of ensuring nuclear safety.

China consistently supports the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. We commend the long-term and unremitting efforts by all parties concerned. It is our hope that the international conference scheduled for next year on that issue will achieve a positive outcome.

We should work to push forward the multilateral disarmament negotiations with the participation of all parties concerned, through enhanced mutual trust, clear perception and appropriate methodology. While the Conference on Disarmament (CD) and other multilateral arms control and disarmament mechanisms are deadlocked, one may hear complaints from time to

time. Some believe that the Conference has already been paralysed and call for reform of that body. Others have simply pushed to set up so-called new kitchens and move the FMCT negotiations out of the CD.

China maintains that, to break the Conference deadlock, the crux of the matter must first be correctly identified. For prescriptions to be effective, they have to be based on correct diagnoses. To climb a tree will not help catch fish. To make matters worse, such an approach might only delay the process, making for even more precious time lost.

As has been pointed out, the CD deadlock is born of primarily political factors. For that reason, what are urgently called for are enhanced political trust and a willingness to put preconceived political views behind us; a correct perception and appropriate methodology; and an objective — and purpose-driven approach, before embarking on any exercise. For multilateral arms control negotiations to be meaningful and relevant, the participation of all concerned parties is indispensable.

That is even more true in the case of an FMCT. It is true that it might be easy to conclude such a treaty outside the CD. But what would be its relevance — especially in the matter of how to achieve disarmament and non-proliferation — in the absence of the participation of countries with the capability of producing fissile materials? That suggestion is an easy way out for those who like to wallow in complaints. Certainly it would not be difficult at all to move the FMCT negotiations out of the CD. However, such an approach could not possibly help solve the problem. This juncture calls for us to shoulder a historic responsibility. We cannot allow unjustified fear to lead us to paralyse our critical efforts to turn retreat into advance.

Looking back over the past year, while no extraordinary achievement has been registered, the CD has nevertheless engaged in its mundane task in a down-to-earth manner. All countries have translated their political will into the specific work of the Conference, and they have all approached the CD meetings, both formal and informal, in a serious and constructive manner. One cannot fail to see their tenacious efforts and enterprising spirit to advance in the face of difficulties. I believe that they have laid a solid foundation for the Conference to reactivate its substantive work next year. Such hard-fought progress is not easy to come by, and should therefore be valued.

After this year's thorough debate and discussion, more and more countries and people of vision and insight have come to realize that to negotiate an FMCT outside the Conference is pointless and will lead us nowhere. That is because such an approach would not be able to include all the necessary stakeholders, and still less to ensure the prospective treaty's universalization and effectiveness. The CD is therefore the only viable forum in which to negotiate and conclude an FMCT with the participation of all relevant parties. On the basis of this year's effective work, all parties should now focus on how to further strengthen the CD, with the goal of reactivating all of the Conference's substantive work, including the negotiation of an FMCT.

We should actively pursue preventive diplomacy to avert cyberspace and outer space being turned into new battlefields. The twenty-first century is an era of information. The ever wider application of information and cyberspace technologies has accelerated the pace of the development of human civilization. Meanwhile, the security threats on the information and cyberspace fronts constitute a grave challenge to the international community.

The pressing task before the international community now is how, through the formulation of international norms and rules, to encourage States to adopt responsible behaviour in information and cyberspace, effective management of cyberspace and proper maintenance of cyberspace security and order, as well as to engage in intensified international cooperation. China hopes that the international community will, by so doing, be able to effectively respond, in a concerted effort, to security threats in the political, economic and social fields brought about by the application of information and cyberspace technologies.

The United Nations, we believe, is the most appropriate forum for the deliberation and formulation of such international norms and rules on information and cyberspace security. It is against that backdrop that China has joined Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan as sponsors of a draft resolution on an international code of conduct on information security to the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly. It is our hope that, on the basis of that draft resolution, the international community will enter into open, transparent and democratic deliberations, within the framework of the United Nations, with the goal of reaching early consensus on the relevant code of conduct. That would safeguard the common interests of all parties in this

field and ensure that information and cyberspace are used to better promote international peace, security and stability as well as the well-being of humankind.

Given its global, common nature, outer space is the common wealth of humankind. It is therefore in the interest of all humankind to promote the peaceful use of outer space and the prevention of an arms race in outer space. China attaches importance to transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space and remains open to the relevant initiatives and their discussion. China believes that such measures are not at all at odds with efforts to prevent an arms race in outer space, and that they represent a useful supplement to the legal instrument on the prevention of the weaponization of, and an arms race in, outer space. China, for its part, stands ready to join all other parties in in-depth deliberation of the relevant initiatives and related issues with the group of governmental experts on outer space transparency and confidence-building measures, to be established next year.

We should advance the arms control process in the areas of biological and conventional weapons through a step-by-step approach. China attaches great importance to the seventh Review Conference of the Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), to be held in December. We will work together with all parties to further strengthen the authority, effectiveness and universality of the BWC.

China also attaches major importance to the humanitarian concerns caused by cluster munitions, and supports the Group of Governmental Experts of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons in reaching a negotiated protocol on cluster munitions that balances humanitarian concerns with legitimate security requirements. We appreciate the work of the Group of Experts, especially the enormous efforts made by its Chair to put into place the draft protocol. We hope that a protocol will be agreed on the basis of the Chair's latest text.

China, for its part, also aligns itself with international efforts to adopt proper measures to regulate the arms trade and to combat illicit arms trafficking. The negotiation of the arms trade treaty should proceed step by step and in an open, transparent and consensual manner.

The Chinese Government recently published its white paper on China's peaceful development. In it, China once again solemnly declares to the world that

it is committed to the path of peaceful development and that it endeavours to build a harmonious world of durable peace and common prosperity. It also states that to pursue peaceful development is a strategic choice that we have made in order to achieve modernization, make China strong and prosperous and further contribute to the progress of human civilization. That reflects not only China's earnest aspiration to a peaceful and stable international environment, but also its concrete action.

A more prosperous and harmonious world cannot be achieved without a peaceful and stable international environment. For its part, China will continue to work with all other members of the international community to further advance the international arms control and non-proliferation process and to play a greater role in promoting world peace and development.

**Ms. Rangel** (Timor-Leste): As this is the first time that my delegation takes the floor during this session, let me join other representatives in congratulating the Chair and the other members of the Bureau on their elections. I would like to assure them of the full cooperation of my delegation. We are fully confident that, under the Chair's able leadership, the First Committee will undoubtedly produce tangible results.

Timor-Leste associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Alignment Movement (see A/C.1/66/PV.3).

Having witnessed the tragic experience of devastating war and seen the resulting cost to human life, Timor-Leste is committed to the effective implementation and further strengthening 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. We also continue to support the conclusion of an arms trade treaty that regulates and controls conventional arms and their trade.

Timor-Leste is pleased to note the substantial positive achievements in the past year on disarmament and international security measures and policies, including on their implementation, in particular the development of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms.

With regard to our own region, Timor-Leste welcomes the heightened commitment of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to preserve South-East Asia

as a nuclear-weapon-free zone. We recognize the efforts of that organization in promoting and strengthening the implementation of the Treaty as the region's contribution to achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world.

As a new country that has been independent for only nine years, Timor-Leste has made efforts to contribute to the vision of a world free from the scourge and threat posed by armed conflict. We have therefore acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction; and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) Weapons and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction. In addition, Timor-Leste has concluded its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency, and is a signatory to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Timor-Leste continues to support the First Committee as a fundamental body in addressing international security and disarmament issues. Global peace and security are keystones for the construction of global economic prosperity. Local threats to peace and security become global threats in this increasingly interconnected world. They should therefore be managed by the international community in a prompt and effective manner through multilateral mechanisms in forums such as this.

The Fukushima Daiichi disaster, which is still fresh in our memories, is another crucial lesson exemplifying the overwhelming danger of nuclear power to human health and the environment. It exemplifies the need to look towards renewable energy and energy efficiency as the keys to ensuring the safety of people and protecting the environment for a sustainable future. Timor-Leste wishes to express our deepest sympathy to, and solidarity with, the people and the Government of Japan. We wish them an early recovery.

**Mr. Ziadeh** (Lebanon) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, on behalf of the delegation of Lebanon, allow me to warmly congratulate Mr. Viinanan on being elected Chair of the First Committee.

We align ourselves with the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (see A/C.1/66/PV.3).

“Together for a safer life” was Lebanon’s slogan at the second Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, held in Beirut from 12 to 16 September, with the participation of more than 100 States. The Meeting culminated in the adoption of the 2011 Beirut Declaration, which was a decisive turning point on the path towards the Convention’s implementation.

The convening of that Meeting in Lebanon, as an affected country, helped to focus attention on the tragic repercussions of the cluster munitions used by Israel during the aggression of July 2006. Such weapons still target citizens in their fields, and even children in playgrounds, throughout the territory of South Lebanon. We affirm that Lebanon will continue to call on Israel to provide compensation for the damage and losses caused in Lebanon. We also call for more financial and technical assistance from the international community in order to deal with that tragedy.

One year after the entry into force of the Convention, on 1 August 2010, we welcome the number of countries that have ratified and signed the Convention. We urge those countries that have not yet done so to accede to it as soon as possible, with a view to achieving a global commitment to implement the Convention. We also call on countries that still use cluster munitions and are involved in the development, production, acquisition and stockpiling of such weapons to cease their activities immediately and join those who seek to eliminate such weapons.

We should recall the progress made since the holding of the first Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions and during the efforts in Oslo. That progress was the outcome of successful partnership among States, civil society and international organizations.

With regard to an issue that is no less important and dangerous than that of cluster munitions, I wished to point out that, during its repeated aggression against Lebanon, Israel laid hundreds of thousands of mines in South Lebanon. Those mines have killed, maimed or injured many of our citizens. Despite the considerable progress made in demining activities, with the welcome support of United Nations specialized agencies and many friendly countries, huge challenges remain. They require the provision of assistance to victims and their families, as well as sustained efforts to acquire

advanced equipment needed to help detect, defuse and destroy mines.

With regard to the signing of a conventional arms trade treaty in 2012, Lebanon welcomes efforts undertaken to that end so long as they are characterized by fairness, non-discrimination, objectivity, transparency, inclusiveness and balance. The arms trade treaty must of course be in conformity with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including the legitimate right of States to self-defence and to acquire the means to do so.

We therefore welcome efforts aimed at achieving global disarmament within the framework of multilateral diplomacy. However, total nuclear disarmament and the elimination of weapons of mass destruction must remain the primary goal of those efforts. In that regard, we believe that the Conference on Disarmament is the only international multilateral body that can conduct such negotiations. We regret the inertia that has afflicted that body for more than a decade and we welcome efforts aimed at reinvigorating it. We call on States to step up their efforts and show the flexibility and political will necessary to adopt a comprehensive and balanced programme of work that provides for a way to negotiate a treaty that completely eliminates nuclear weapons within a clear timeline to be negotiated. In addition, a legally binding global instrument should be established, without conditions, on negative security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States, as well as a treaty prohibiting an arms race in outer space and a fissile material cut-off treaty.

Lebanon underscores the importance of the balanced implementation of the three main pillars of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), namely, non-proliferation, disarmament and the peaceful use of nuclear energy. We affirm the right of all States parties to the NPT to develop, research, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

The issue of nuclear non-proliferation in the Middle East should be part of a comprehensive and integrated vision, devoid of selectivity and double standards, aimed at establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. What today prevents us from achieving that goal is the fact that Israel is the only State in the Middle East yet to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Israel also refuses to place its nuclear facilities under the international verification and safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA),

thereby defying international law and jeopardizing the peace and security of the Middle East region.

We welcome the plan of action adopted within the framework of the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)), in particular the call for the holding of a conference in 2012 aimed at implementing the 1995 resolution establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Lebanon believes that the holding of that meeting will be a step in the right direction and an opportunity that should not be missed. Moreover, we call on the Secretary-General and the three States that submitted the 1995 resolution to take the necessary steps, in close consultation among the States of the region, to hold the conference at an opportune time.

In conclusion, Lebanon believes that nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction cannot be the means for ensuring security and stability anywhere in the world. On the contrary, their existence prompts other countries to acquire such weapons, leading to an unbridled arms race.

**Mrs. Ogwu** (Nigeria): On behalf of Nigeria, may I formally congratulate the Chair and the members of the Bureau on their elections. I assure them of our unalloyed support. I also wish to commend his predecessor, Mr. Miloš Koterec, for his indefatigable efforts, and Ambassador Sergio Duarte, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, for his relentless commitment to the cause of disarmament.

Nigeria associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (see A/C.1/66/PV.3).

Nigeria remains firmly committed to the promotion of international peace and security. Let me assure the Committee of my delegation's active engagement and full cooperation as we address the many tasks before us during this session.

The issues before us are daunting and challenging. Our world is at the threshold of either producing a model for addressing the effects of weapons proliferation or for engaging in empty platitudes that have no effect on the build-up of arms. Nigeria believes that, on the balance of variables, the United Nations remains the appropriate forum for addressing all issues of disarmament and arms control. It is therefore obvious that the First Committee will continue to play a very important role

in the negotiating process in order to bring stability to our world and engender global peace.

In that regard, Nigeria strongly supports nuclear disarmament, which ranks high among global priorities, as well as the related issue of nuclear non-proliferation. We continue to believe firmly that the ultimate aim of the disarmament process is general and complete disarmament, under strict and effective international control and based on the principle of undiminished and enhanced security for all States.

Nigeria also supports the fulfilment of the principles and objectives of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in consonance with the provisions of the Treaty and the commitments agreed to at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference. To that end, we welcome the resolution on the Middle East and the agreed 13 practical steps adopted at the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

We stress that it is in the interest of all States, in the region and beyond, to support the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, as well as the convening of a conference on that issue in 2012.

We firmly believe that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is best positioned to ensure nuclear safety and nuclear security within the framework of its architecture and safeguards mechanisms. It is for that reason that we urge all States to adhere to its statutes. While my delegation considers the work of the IAEA to be invaluable to the safety and security of nuclear energy standards, we also believe that nuclear safety and security considerations should not be used to hamper the utilization of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes in developing countries, as long as safeguard arrangements and agreements are undertaken in fulfilment of Treaty obligations.

In that context, Nigeria commends the High-level Meeting on Nuclear Safety and Security convened by the Secretary-General on 22 September to promote adherence to international standards of nuclear safety and security. My delegation believes that, while it is true that no State is immune to nuclear accidents, the view that multilateral norms, guidelines and rules for nuclear safety and security are better pursued within the framework of the IAEA, in an inclusive and transparent process, has become more compelling in the light of the recent unfortunate nuclear accident in Fukushima.

We are concerned about the unnecessary delay in the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). We urge the States that have not yet ratified the treaty, in particular annex 2 States, to do so without delay. Fifteen years after the Treaty was opened for signature, the world should ensure its entry into force. My delegation believes that the implementation of the CTBT protocols will contribute significantly to the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation process in all its aspects. We hereby call on the remaining States to take the necessary steps towards the realization of this systematic process for achieving nuclear disarmament.

My delegation strongly supports an international instrument dealing with negative security assurances. We reaffirm the call for establishing a legally binding international instrument under which nuclear-weapon States would undertake not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States. As was emphasized in the statement made on behalf of the African Group (see A/C.1/66/PV.3), we recognize the importance of ensuring that any nuclear disarmament process should be transparent, verifiable and irreversible in order to be meaningful and effective. That also extends to the call for the convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, in furtherance of the effective promotion of the nuclear disarmament process.

My delegation is committed to a more practical and effective approach to deliberations on specific disarmament issues at the Disarmament Commission, as well as to a clear programme of work for the Conference on Disarmament. We emphasize that calls for transparency on disarmament do not necessarily diminish the security of nation-States. We also note the promising highlights of the follow-up to the high-level meeting on the theme "Revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations", held on 27 July (see A/65/PV.113). We believe that a more robust and open approach to tackling the challenges of disarmament will reinforce, rather than diminish, transparency.

Nigeria acknowledges the entry into force, on 15 July 2009, of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty. We call on all States, in particular the nuclear-weapon States that have yet to ratify the relevant protocols of the Treaty, to do so without further delay. We believe that will ensure the Treaty's effectiveness.

My delegation notes the continued illicit proliferation of conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons, which are easily diverted to the illicit market. We commend the work done so far to ensure the effectiveness 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. We particularly note the promising outcome of the fourth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action. We believe that the full implementation of the Programme of Action should be vigorously pursued. Nigeria expresses its concern about the illicit transfer, manufacture and circulation of small arms and light weapons. We also recognize the efforts of New Zealand as Chair of the meeting of Governmental Experts held in May, as a robust exercise in articulating some of the key elements of the Programme of Action and in highlighting the issue of small arms as the most easily abused of all conventional weapons.

The perpetrators of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons inadvertently justify the huge resources committed to the production of armaments. It is the expectation of my delegation that the global community will make efforts to redirect such resources into serving immediate human needs. Those resources, if properly channelled, could boost the gains of the Millennium Development Goals as our service to humankind. It must be stressed that the beneficiaries of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons are not bound by any known code of conduct. In their view, the most important thing is either the profit that accrues from such illicit trade or, as an end product, the mayhem caused by such transactions. Nigeria therefore calls for a concerted effort to rid the world of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, including ammunition, none of which, ultimately, brings any substantial benefit to humankind.

In that regard, my delegation acknowledges Member States' support in allowing Nigeria to chair the Preparatory Committee and Review Conference on the Programme of Action in 2012. As Chair-designate, I will consult widely to address the concerns of all delegations. My delegation is prepared for a harmonious working relationship with all Member States towards an effective outcome of the Conference. Nigeria takes this opportunity to call for the support of Member States before and during the Review Conference.

The year 2012 also marks a time when we await the final session of the Preparatory Committee and the Conference on an arms trade treaty. We are hopeful that we will see an outcome that addresses the objectives of the past three sessions of the Preparatory Committee and those of the forthcoming session in February, as well as the final objective, that is, a legally binding international instrument for regulating the international trade in conventional weapons. Nigeria commends the tireless efforts of Ambassador Roberto García Moritán, Chair of the arms trade treaty Preparatory Committee, for his ability and skill in coordinating all the strands of opinion expressed by Member States and others. My delegation, and indeed the entire region of the Economic Community of West African States, affirms our readiness to support that process.

Nigeria is strongly committed to the principle of regulating the trade in arms and believes that the time has come for an arms trade treaty that takes due cognizance of the abuse inherent in the unregulated trade in conventional weapons, which purposely transfers arms to non-State actors. We also wish to see a universal, balanced and fair treaty that can enter into force with a minimal number of signatories. Nigeria calls on all delegations to demonstrate the requisite flexibility and political will at the negotiations during this session. We assure the Chair and the entire family of the First Committee of our readiness to participate and constructively engage with all.

*The meeting rose at 1 p.m.*