



General Assembly

Official Records

Disarmament Commission

322nd meeting

Wednesday, 4 April 2012, 10 a.m.

New York

Chair: Mr. Román-Morey (Peru)

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

Organization of work

The Chair (*spoke in Spanish*): As agreed yesterday, the Commission will immediately suspend for additional consultations. I believe that during that time we will see a rapprochement of the positions. I would like to thank all the various sectors represented in this room, and some countries in particular, for their commendable flexibility. My aim is to provide an opportunity for that flexibility — which I see as resembling two flexible bamboo sticks that can grow towards rather than away from each other, thus moving closer together. I trust that the pause for reflection will provide an opportunity to develop an agenda.

The meeting was suspended at 10.30 a.m. and resumed at 12.15 p.m.

General debate (*continued*)

Mr. Khan (Indonesia): The statement of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) should be delivered by my Ambassador, but as he is at another meeting, he instructed me to read it out in his place.

“I am honoured to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. NAM congratulates you, Sir, on your election to chair this year’s important substantive session of the Disarmament Commission. The Movement also congratulates the

members of the Bureau on their election and the Chairs of the Working Groups on the assumption of their posts. The Movement is confident that, under your able stewardship, this session will undertake concrete work to further the globally agreed agenda on disarmament and non-proliferation. For its part, the Movement assures you, Sir, the members of the Bureau and all Member States of its determination to work actively and constructively in order to contribute to the success of this cycle of the Disarmament Commission.

“NAM congratulates Ms. Angela Kane on her recent appointment as High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, and expresses the Movement’s appreciation for her statement at the opening of this session.

“NAM reiterates its long-standing position regarding the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, and expresses its determination to promote multilateralism as the core principle of negotiations in the areas of disarmament and non-proliferation. In that regard, the Movement reaffirms the relevance and centrality of the Disarmament Commission in providing for in-depth deliberation on specific disarmament issues with the submission of concrete recommendations before the General Assembly.

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“NAM reaffirms the importance and the relevance of the Disarmament Commission as the sole deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery. NAM continues to fully support the work of the Commission, and expresses regret that it was unable to reach agreement on recommendations on its two agenda items during the substantive sessions of its two previous cycles, ending in April 2008 and April 2011, due to the lack of political will and inflexible positions, in particular of certain nuclear-weapon States, despite NAM’s constructive role and concrete proposals throughout the deliberations, especially in Working Group I on recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

“While recalling the proposals submitted by the Movement during the previous substantive sessions, NAM member States stand ready to work constructively with other States towards the success of the present cycle of the Disarmament Commission. NAM calls upon United Nations Member States to display the necessary political will and flexibility in order to achieve agreement on its recommendations in the Commission’s 2012 session.

“In the past, the Disarmament Commission has contributed to the fields of disarmament and arms control, including when it was able to reach consensus on guidelines for establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones and for conventional arms control. The work of the Commission should therefore be intensified through reinvigorated political will to enable the body to fulfil its role as mandated by the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (SSOD-I). NAM believes that the Disarmament Commission can and should contribute substantively to advancing the multilateral disarmament agenda, as well as the work of the disarmament machinery, especially in the field of nuclear disarmament. NAM calls for a more results-oriented session of the Disarmament Commission in 2012, and urges greater political will, flexibility and cooperation by all countries during the new cycle.

“NAM reaffirms its principled positions on nuclear disarmament, which remains its highest priority, and on the related issue of nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects, and stresses the importance that efforts seeking nuclear

non-proliferation should be parallel to simultaneous efforts for nuclear disarmament. NAM also underlines that nuclear disarmament, as the highest priority established by SSOD-I and as a multilateral legal obligation, should not be made conditional on confidence-building measures or other disarmament efforts.

“NAM reiterates that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, vigorous efforts should be pursued as a matter of priority for the conclusion of a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on security assurances by all nuclear-weapon States to all non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

“In that context, the Movement emphasizes the necessity to start negotiations without further delay on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified framework of time, including a nuclear-weapons convention to prohibit the development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use and to provide for the destruction of all nuclear weapons. The Movement therefore once again calls for an international conference at the earliest possible date to identify ways and means of eliminating nuclear dangers.

“The Movement underlines that improvements in existing nuclear weapons and the development of new types of nuclear weapons violate the commitments undertaken by nuclear-weapon States. NAM reiterates its deep concern over the slow pace of progress towards nuclear disarmament and the lack of progress by nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, in accordance with their relevant multilateral legal obligations and commitments. In that regard, NAM underscores the need for nuclear-weapon States to implement the unequivocal undertaking that they provided in 2000, and further reiterated in 2010, so as to accomplish the total elimination of nuclear weapons, and emphasizes the urgent need to commence negotiations on comprehensive and complete nuclear disarmament without delay. NAM emphasizes that progress on nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects is essential to strengthening international peace and security.

“NAM stresses the significance of achieving universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, including by all nuclear-weapon States, which, inter alia, should contribute to the process of nuclear disarmament. NAM reiterates that if the objectives of the Treaty are to be fully realized, the continued commitment of all States signatories, especially the nuclear-weapon States, to nuclear disarmament would be essential.

“NAM reaffirms the importance of the application of the principles of transparency, irreversibility and verifiability by nuclear-weapon States in all measures related to the fulfilment of their nuclear disarmament obligations.

“NAM reaffirms the inalienable right of developing countries to develop, research, produce and use nuclear energy, including the right to the nuclear fuel cycle, for peaceful purposes without discrimination. The Movement continues to note with concern that undue restrictions on exports to developing countries of material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes persist. NAM emphasizes that proliferation concerns are best addressed through multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory agreements. In this connection, we confirm that each country’s choices and decisions in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be respected without jeopardizing its policies or international cooperation agreements and arrangements for peaceful uses of nuclear energy and its fuel-cycle policies.

“NAM States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) are concerned over the lack of concrete progress by the nuclear-weapon States in implementing their obligations under the Treaty, and their unequivocal undertakings to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, leading to complete nuclear disarmament. NAM States parties to the NPT call on nuclear-weapon States to implement their obligations under the Treaty and undertakings, as reaffirmed by successive review Conferences of the Parties to the NPT, including the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

“The Movement reiterates its support for the establishment in the Middle East of a nuclear-weapon-free zone, in accordance with Security Council resolution 487 (1981), paragraph 14 of

Security Council resolution 687 (1991) and the relevant General Assembly resolutions adopted by consensus. The unsafeguarded nuclear capabilities of Israel are a matter of serious concern for regional and international peace and security. Pending the establishment of such a zone, NAM demands that Israel, the only country in the region that has neither joined the NPT nor declared its intention to do so, renounce possession of nuclear weapons, to accede to the NPT without delay, and to place promptly all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards.

“Welcoming the adoption by consensus of the detailed plan of action on the Middle East, particularly concerning the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, in the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, NAM States parties to the NPT strongly urge the Secretary-General and sponsors of the 1995 resolution, in close consultation and coordination with the States of the region, to exert all efforts towards the successful convening of the conference in 2012, to be attended by all States of the Middle East, on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

“NAM States parties to the Treaty are convinced that it is vital that the action plans adopted by the 2010 NPT Review Conference on nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East be implemented.

“While emphasizing the vital role of strong and genuine political will in multilateral negotiations on disarmament, NAM hopes that our deliberations will contribute to enhancing political will in support of the United Nations disarmament machinery and the multilateral disarmament negotiations within the United Nations.

“In conclusion, the Movement underscores the significance for all Member States to work together and display the necessary political will to tangibly implement the globally agreed agenda on disarmament and non-proliferation, thereby yielding peace and security for all.”

Mr. Onemola (Nigeria): The African Group wishes to congratulate you, Sir, on your election as

Chair of the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) at this year's session. In view of your rich pool of experience, we are positive that constructive deliberations on disarmament and non-proliferation will be achieved under your leadership at this session.

The Group seizes this opportunity to congratulate the other members of the Bureau on their election and assure them of its full cooperation. The Group wishes to express our appreciation to the previous Chair, Ambassador Al-Bayati, as well as chairpersons of the working groups for the last cycle for their contributions to advancing the work of the Disarmament Commission.

The African Group congratulates Ms. Angela Kane on her recent appointment as the new United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs. We welcome her earlier remarks on the need to move deliberations on global disarmament forward.

The African Group aligns itself with the statement of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) delivered by the representative of Indonesia. We would like to underscore the important role of the UNDC as the sole specialized deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery.

In that regard, we reiterate at the outset that the African Group is committed to the principle of nuclear disarmament as the highest global priority on disarmament, as well as to the related issue of nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects. In particular, we wish to stress that efforts aimed at nuclear non-proliferation should be parallel to simultaneous efforts aimed at nuclear disarmament. We believe that it is through such determination that the world could truly address the threat of nuclear weapons and achieve the end goal of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). In this respect, we wish to reaffirm the application of the principles of transparency, irreversibility and verifiability by nuclear-weapon States in relation to nuclear disarmament measures.

Africa has proudly remained a nuclear-weapon-free zone since the entry into force of the Treaty of Pelindaba and will continue to observe and honour this noble status. We therefore seize this opportunity to encourage remaining States, particularly nuclear-weapon States, that have not yet ratified the protocols to do so. This will further enhance the status of the Treaty and boost efforts to replicate these measures in remaining parts of the world.

The Group reiterates its deep concern over the slow pace of progress towards nuclear disarmament and what appears to be a lack of real progress by the nuclear-weapon States towards accomplishing the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals. This step will promote the fulfilment of their obligations under article VI of the NPT, in consonance with their relevant multilateral legal obligations. We therefore call for more flexibility in order to achieve agreement on recommendations at this session of our work.

We welcome the adoption by consensus of the detailed plan of action on the Middle East, particularly the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and the conclusions and recommendations for the follow-on actions of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT. The African Group solemnly urges the Secretary-General, the sponsors of the 1995 resolution and the appointed facilitator, in close consultation and coordination with States of the region, to exert all efforts towards the successful convening of the conference in 2012, to be attended by all States of the Middle East, on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

The African Group reaffirms that multilateral diplomatic negotiation, consistent with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, remains the most effective approach for achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We are therefore hopeful that this year's substantive session of the UNDC will come up with outcomes and recommendations to advance the work of multilateral disarmament.

The Group stresses the need for progress in nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects. We consider that to be an essential ingredient of real development, as well as of strengthening international peace and security. In view of that, there is a compelling need to work on building a consensus for accomplishing the total elimination of nuclear weapons. We emphasize, in that regard, the urgent need to commence negotiations on comprehensive and complete nuclear disarmament without delay.

The work of the UNDC has been significant in the field of disarmament and arms control. We have seen at close quarters the consensus reached on guidelines for the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones and for conventional arms control. Those are demonstrations that the UNDC can be effective, especially in the field of nuclear disarmament. We wish therefore to call for more

flexibility without overstepping the national interests of all States.

The African Group reiterates the importance of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) as the sole multilateral negotiating body on disarmament. We owe it to the CD to agree, as a matter of priority, on a balanced and comprehensive programme of work to fulfil its mandate.

The Group also emphasizes that the work of the UNDC should be intensified through reinvigorated political will to enable that body to fulfil its role, as mandated by the tenth special session of the General Assembly. The African Group stresses the significance of achieving universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), in particular by all nuclear-weapon States. We welcome the recent ratification by some States of the Treaty and remain convinced that the early entry into force of the CTBT to enforce a comprehensive ban on all forms of nuclear test explosions would serve as a concrete contribution to achieving nuclear disarmament.

There is no doubt that the UNDC has contributed to promoting multilateral disarmament. In that regard, we wish to stress the need to sustain efforts while strengthening the debates within the Commission, including on conventional weapons.

We must focus our deliberations on the importance and centrality of the existing structures in the framework of the United Nations, including in particular the framework represented by the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects as a politically binding document that deals with illicit small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. We also note the recently concluded Preparatory Committee of the second Conference to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action. Furthermore, any discussion on the issue of conventional weapons must recognize the rights and relevant principles of the Charter of the United Nations, especially the rights of Member States to manufacture, import and retain conventional arms for the purposes of self-defence and to prevent the undermining of those rights in any context.

The African Group wishes to highlight the efforts of the United Nations Regional Centres for peace and disarmament in terms of contributions to disarmament and future challenges. We welcome the efforts of

the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, particularly the Centre's provision of capacity-building and technical assistance and in giving advisory services to many States within the continent. We wish to stress the need for the Regional Centres for disarmament so that they may fully discharge their mandates.

The Group appeals for a sustained and meaningful dialogue as we begin debates on major issues, and looks forward to fruitful discussions towards achieving peace and security for all.

Mrs. Dunlop (Brazil): I wish to congratulate you, Sir, on your election as Chair of the 2012 substantive session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC). It is a pleasure to see a member of our region presiding over such an important body. You may be assured of my delegation's support to you, Sir, and to the other members of the Bureau in discharging your duties.

I take this opportunity to thank the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms. Angela Kane, for her opening remarks. I wish to congratulate her on her recent appointment and express our support for the work that lies ahead on the disarmament agenda. I also take this opportunity to thank the former High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ambassador Sergio Duarte, and commend his excellent work during his five-year tenure.

Brazil fully associates itself with the views expressed by the representative of Chile on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States.

The Disarmament Commission has a fundamental role to play in the disarmament machinery. It has the duty to produce guidelines and adopt recommendations on the main issues of the disarmament agenda. In 1999, the Commission adopted a report with guidelines on the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones and on conventional arms control, limitation and disarmament. Unfortunately, that was the last time that the Commission was able to agree on substantive recommendations.

We must refrain from entering into blame games about who has caused this state of affairs. Instead, the international community must engage in constructive discussions to find again the common ground needed to produce substantive and effective results in the area of disarmament. As the UNDC enters a new three-year cycle, it is important that discussions be focused and concentrated on delimited areas of work. We believe

that, during the last cycle of the Commission, the debate was excessively general and ambitious, making it more difficult to achieve concrete results.

Nuclear disarmament must be our utmost priority. The total elimination of nuclear weapons must be a clear and unconditional goal. The unjust and unsustainable divide between haves and have-nots must end. The role of nuclear weapons in military doctrines is no longer justifiable, if it ever was.

While we recognize the importance of unilateral and bilateral initiatives, we believe that it is only through a concerted multilateral effort that nuclear weapons will be eliminated in an irreversible, transparent and verifiable manner, according to an agreed legal framework and specified timelines. Brazil believes that the time is ripe for the beginning of discussions on the principles and elements of a nuclear-weapons convention, and we believe that the UNDC could help in this endeavour.

In addition to supporting full negotiations of a nuclear-weapons convention, Brazil favours some intermediate actions. Negative security assurances must be given to non-nuclear States. Unilateral declarations do not suffice. Instead, we need to negotiate a multilateral agreement on negative security assurances. The necessity of such a comprehensive agreement arises, among other things, from the fact that several protocols of nuclear-weapon-free zones were signed by nuclear-weapon States with reservations.

Brazil also welcomes the decision of the eighth NPT Review Conference to encourage the establishment of new nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of freely negotiated agreements among the States of each region concerned. We would also like to draw attention to the important decision to hold a conference in 2012 for the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

Another step towards nuclear disarmament would be the negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament of a verifiable treaty to ban the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices, which must take into consideration existing stocks and prohibit future production. It is important that the Disarmament Commission support such measures.

Brazil has been a steadfast supporter of United Nations efforts in the area of conventional weapons. We participate actively in the discussions and send our reports regularly to the Register of Conventional

Arms, the Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures and the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. Such confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons seek to correct misperceptions and to avoid misunderstandings about military actions and policies that might otherwise lead to conflict. They can gradually foster stable political and diplomatic relations and transform parties' ideas about their security needs.

In conclusion, I wish to reassure you, Sir, of the readiness of my delegation to work with you and with the members of the Bureau for a successful outcome of this session.

Mr. Zinsou (Benin) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I would like to join previous speakers who have extended to you, Sir, their sincere and warm congratulations on your election as Chair of the Disarmament Commission's 2012 substantive session. My delegation's support will be unstinting. It will do all it can to help towards the success of the session's work. My congratulations also go to all members of the Bureau.

I express my deep gratitude to Ambassador Al-Bayati, who, with tact and proven professionalism, conducted the work of the previous session with the invaluable support of the Secretariat and the Office for Disarmament Affairs. There is no need to recall that Benin held the post of Rapporteur for that session. It is a true pleasure for me to offer my sincere congratulations to Ms. Angela Kane on her excellent appointment to the post of High Representative for Disarmament Affairs. I would also like to convey my great appreciation to her predecessor to the post, Ambassador Sergio Duarte, for all the work that he did in the name of disarmament during his mandate, which he fully discharged.

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

Everyone agrees on the importance of the Disarmament Commission and its role as the sole deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral machinery. That role has rightly been reaffirmed at each of the Commission's sessions, given that this forum remains one of the most appropriate for in-depth deliberation on specific disarmament issues and the

pursuit of consensual solutions, for which all nations wholeheartedly call.

However, it must be noted that the Commission's sessions have been disappointing, to say the least, given its inability to bring to fruition the outcomes of its deliberations, thus failing to produce the expected substantive results. That has been the case for some 12 years. Such a situation certainly threatens the Commission's existence, which nevertheless remains an absolute necessity. Indeed, the establishment of the Disarmament Commission, need I recall, met the crucial need of providing Member States with a forum for exchanging ideas and deliberating on the major challenges of humankind in the area of disarmament with a view to a safer world.

The threats that the status quo poses to all States, inevitably leading to the continued existence of a world in which the arms race persists and continues to exhaust huge resources to the detriment of the current requirement for economic and social development, are more than a reality. We must do our utmost to move the disarmament agenda forward, if need be through the adoption of a small-steps policy consisting of achieving feasible developments without waiting for agreement on all agenda items.

Benin truly hopes that the Disarmament Commission can play its due role in moving disarmament forward with the clear political will of Member States. To that end, Benin believes that the issue of the Commission's working methods should be reconsidered with all necessary attention. In Benin's view, the Commission should focus more on its goals and set a limited number of priorities on which this session should concentrate. In short, we need to define specific areas on which the Commission can deliberate conclusively in order to move the disarmament agenda forward.

That is why my delegation welcomes the consultations that you have conducted, Mr. Chair, and that have paved the way for a possible agreement on essential matters. You conducted those consultations excellently, with the full cooperation of States. That will enable the Commission to agree on an agenda comprising specific objectives, with not too many items, all of which will support in-depth work for productive deliberations.

My delegation continues to support keeping the two main long-standing areas, with themes provided for by the texts governing the Commission, namely, nuclear

disarmament and conventional weapons. We advocate that the Nuclear Security Summit, which also supports disarmament developments, become more inclusive.

Benin strongly supports the convening of the conference on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East in 2012. We believe that the success of those deliberations, in which all States of the region are expected to participate, will unquestionably be another great step towards achieving a denuclearized world. In any case, Africa is firmly committed to working towards achieving a world free of nuclear weapons, as evidenced by the signing and entry into force of the Pelindaba Treaty.

The African continent, which suffers from the consequences of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, supports resolute action against the scourge. It hopes that the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty leads to the conclusion of a robust and truly binding treaty that enables us to more effectively combat that scourge, which is destroying the development goals of African States.

Mr. Tilegen (Kazakhstan): I will deliver a statement on behalf of my Ambassador.

"I would like to express my warmest appreciation to you, Mr. Chair, for your stewardship of the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) with vision, transparency and openness in the weeks ahead. Your letter of 27 March is illuminating and sets a different tone for the new cycle of the Disarmament Commission, and we endorse both items, as proposed by you. Our thanks are also due to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and her Office for its support to our deliberations.

"As we begin a new cycle for the next three years, it is crucial that the recommendations emerging from our deliberations make the Commission an effective entity of the disarmament machinery. We need to seize the opportunity for a decisive and firm outcome so that the 12-year failure gives way to new strides forward.

"At the outset, we fully support you, Mr. Chair, and other Member States in revitalizing the UNDC and in joining the multilateral action to strengthen its role and functioning. We are also committed not only to the discussions on improving the working methods, but also to ensuring that the recommendations made in the past cycle are

implemented so that new wheels are not reinvented. As a first step, we need to review the past resolutions of the General Assembly and other disarmament forums that spell out how the UNDC working methods can be strengthened. The Chair would be in the best position to prepare a short note on some of the salient past recommendations as a guideline for us.

“Secondly, related to the first theme of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, we support an equal focus on both aspects. Likewise, the second item should cover conventional weapons and small arms and light weapons and confidence-building measures. Since the range of issues in each of those topics is so vast, a deeper focus within them would yield better results. We are aware that other delegations would opt for a more general forum. We therefore hope that a middle way that satisfies all, including the item on pursuing a disarmament decade, can be found.

“As the first step in disarmament and non-proliferation, Kazakhstan calls for the universalization of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the strengthening of the verification mechanism of that agreement and the additional Protocol. The effective implementation of nuclear-weapon-free zones is imperative.

“Kazakhstan emphasizes the critical urgency of granting negative security assurances to nuclear-weapon-free zones, and is committed to working with others in the region to guarantee the physical security of nuclear materials and equipment to prevent nuclear proliferation and terrorism. With the approval and supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency, my country will host a nuclear fuel bank. We particularly support the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East despite the turbulence and threats currently presented by the region, and fully support the 2012 conference. As part of the goal of

disarmament, President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan has proposed a universal declaration for a nuclear-weapon-free world as the first step towards such a convention, aimed at the elimination of nuclear weapons.

“An effective Conference on Disarmament is a *sine qua non*, with every effort to agree on its substantive work programme. Failing that, the General Assembly should consider reorganizing the disarmament machinery. We should not delay commencing work on implementing the key action points arising from the 2010 NPT Review Conference and drafting the fissile material cut-off treaty and a convention against nuclear weapons, as well as other key issues. The five-point plan of the Secretary-General should also be an integral aspect of that action.

“Regarding conventional weapons, the international community has no option but to work towards the adoption of the treaty text at the forthcoming United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty in July. A registry of all weapons, with proper marking and classification, would provide for transparency, which will go a long way in building mutual trust and confidence. The regulation of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons should be included either in the arms trade treaty or in a set of legally binding instruments. Confidence-building measures are of crucial value. Therefore, the recommendations proposed by the Disarmament Commission’s most recent cycle need to be given full consideration in the next three years with a fresh perspective, steering clear of the stalemate.

“Kazakhstan therefore calls for committed political will and support for improved working methods so that the UNDC can break its deadlock and become a truly viable entity in the disarmament machinery. Then, together, we can all promote human advancement, as well as peace, justice and human rights.”

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.