



General Assembly

Seventieth session

First Committee

7th meeting

Thursday, 15 October 2015, 3 p.m.

New York

Official Records

Chair: Mr. Van Oosterom (Netherlands)

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Statement by the President of the General Assembly

The Chair: I would like to warmly welcome the President of the General Assembly, His Excellency Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, who is here today to share some thoughts with us on the work of the First Committee.

The President of the General Assembly is an accomplished politician, economist and diplomat of his country, whose many achievements include remarkable contributions to global efforts to advance a multilateral agenda on disarmament and international peace and security, especially when he served as Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark between 2000 and 2001. As we also know, the President of the General Assembly has been an active member of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), which is a non-partisan forum for parliamentarians at the national and international levels. It was founded to share ideas and cooperate on addressing disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation issues.

One of the many initiatives in which PNND participates is the UNFOLD ZERO project, which was established in partnership with a number of other organizations as a platform for United Nations efforts to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world. It was not surprising, therefore, that the President of the General Assembly, in his statement to the General Assembly following his election (see A/69/PV.94), described as one of his priorities an effective United Nations contribution to international peace and security, particularly with regard to addressing challenges

relating to armed conflict, terrorism, violent extremism, nuclear proliferation and the increasing risk of further tensions among nations. I believe that the commitment of the President of the General Assembly to such issues will encourage the disarmament community to further energize our deliberations in the First Committee.

On behalf of all delegations, it is an honour to welcome the President of the General Assembly to this meeting of the First Committee, and I now invite him to address the Committee.

Mr. Lykketoft (President of the General Assembly): I thank you, Sir, for your kind introduction and for this opportunity to address the First Committee. To begin with, I would like to congratulate you, Ambassador van Oosterom, on your election and to commend you for your leadership and efficiency, as well as the admirable time management that you have demonstrated thus far. I wish you, the Bureau and all of the member of this Committee every success in this coming session.

Since the very beginning of the United Nations, great emphasis has been put on arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation as the key elements for the maintenance of international peace and security. We must recognize that during the past 70 years, we, the international community, have made many strides forward in that area. We have agreed on treaties banning biological and chemical weapons. We have seen progress in the area of banning nuclear testing and reducing or prohibiting nuclear weapons on bilateral and regional levels. We have also made great progress in the area of conventional weapons, banning certain weapons with indiscriminate or inhuman effects, curbing cluster

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org>).

15-31583 (E)



Accessible document

Please recycle



munitions and mines, taking action on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and setting global rules for governing the trade in conventional weapons through the recent Arms Trade Treaty.

All these achievements demonstrate that the work of disarmament, the work of this Committee, is not only necessary, but can and does deliver results. The endless meetings, discussions and negotiations can and do result in new treaties and the strengthening of existing ones, which in their totality contribute to greater peace in our world. But sadly, a quick look around our world today also demonstrates very clearly that there remain simply far too many weapons in circulation, weapons that are fuelling deadly conflicts and incredible instability and humanitarian suffering. Furthermore, instead of the elimination of conventional or nuclear arsenals, modernization is taking place, and more lethal weapons are being invented and put into operation. We are confronted also with an increased threat from non-State actors, including their ability to acquire heavy conventional weapons and materials related to weapons of mass destruction. We must also keep track of the developments brought about by technological advancements relating to, for example, artificial intelligence, lethal autonomous weapons systems and new discoveries in life sciences. We must respond to those achievements and continue to address evolving threats.

Thanks to the existing multilateral disarmament machinery, we have unique treaties as well as consensus principles, guidelines and recommendations on a number of subjects. But like many representatives here, I too am very concerned about the lack of substantial progress being made by the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission in recent years. We must never forget the devastating humanitarian consequences of the use of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, whether it happens by intent or by accident, and the need to proceed urgently with nuclear disarmament in particular. It is obvious, however, that achieving agreement on sensitive issues across the entire spectrum of disarmament is exceptionally difficult and requires complex negotiations. But as the recent Iranian nuclear agreement demonstrates, concerted diplomatic efforts combined with renewed political will can overcome major differences.

I therefore appeal to representatives here and to the experts in Geneva, New York and capitals to

work even closer together and think about how we can make the system that proved effective in the past, even during the Cold War era, effective again today. There is in my view — and I think it is a generally held view — a significant need to build confidence, establish trust and generate a spirit of understanding and compromise. Only by doing so can we realistically expect to make progress in the existentially important area of disarmament once again.

I came here today not just out of courtesy to the Chair of this important Committee and all participants engaged in this exceptionally challenging area. I came because here I have my deep personal interest in disarmament and to convey my support and encouragement. Rest assured that during this session I will be following the deliberations closely and, together with my team, I stand ready to support members in achieving progress and consensus. I really hope we can make new steps forward.

The Chair: On behalf of the Committee, I thank the President of the General Assembly once again for his presence among us today and for his insightful statement, for his kind words addressed to the Chair and the members of the Bureau and also for his personal commitment and conviction about the work we do as a Committee.

Agenda items 88 to 105 (continued)

General debate on all disarmament and international security agenda items

The Chair: I wish once again to remind all delegations taking the floor to kindly limit their interventions to 10 minutes when speaking in their national capacity.

Ms. Janjua (Pakistan): As I am taking the floor for the first time in this Committee, I wish, on behalf of the Pakistan delegation, to extend congratulations to you, Sir, and the other members of the Bureau on the assumption of your offices. We are confident that with your experience and diplomatic skills, we will be able to achieve our objectives within the given time. I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation. I would also like to thank the President of the General Assembly for his presence here today and for his statement.

The contemporary global security architecture is fraying. Widespread hopes for the “peace dividend”

generated by the end of the cold war are increasingly giving way to the advent of a new cold war. Perhaps the only bright spot in an otherwise terribly turbulent international security environment is the recent nuclear agreement between Iran and the P5+1. Pakistan considers that agreement to be a positive development and has welcomed it. The agreement demonstrates what diplomatic engagement and cooperative multilateralism can achieve. It augurs well for the peace and security of our region and beyond.

The disarmament regime and architecture are not immune from the larger trend. There are clear differences of perspective, approaches and modalities for pursuing an agreed agenda on disarmament and non-proliferation. Progress on multilateral nuclear disarmament remains stalled. Some nuclear-weapon States are willing to give up neither their large inventories of nuclear weapons nor their modernization programmes, even as they claim to pursue non-proliferation with messianic zeal. The rhetoric of a world free of nuclear weapons does not match the practical actions on the ground. And some 30 non-nuclear-weapon States — members of nuclear-armed alliances — continue to rely robustly on nuclear weapons, while advocating restraint by other States facing real security threats. As such, those States indirectly and implicitly encourage the possession or even the use of nuclear weapons as part of the strategic doctrines of their alliances.

The discriminatory nuclear cooperation agreements and waivers from long-held non-proliferation principles, coupled with growing transfers of conventional armaments, are eroding strategic stability and fuelling instability in our region. The policy of dual standards towards South Asia, which is based on narrow security, political and commercial considerations, continues. Alongside those existing challenges, new threats have arisen in areas such as the hostile use of outer space, offensive cybercapabilities, and the development and use of lethal autonomous weapon systems and armed drones, as well as the development of advanced conventional hypersonic systems of global reach.

Pakistan is a responsible nuclear Power. Our nuclear policy is shaped by the evolving security dynamics of South Asia. Our nuclear capability is geared towards ensuring our security and self-defence. Last month, the Prime Minister of Pakistan underscored at the General Assembly that

“Pakistan neither wants, nor is it engaged in, an arms race in South Asia. However, we cannot remain oblivious to the evolving security dynamics and arms build-up in our region, which obliges us to take essential steps to maintain our security” (*A/70/PV.19, p.41*).

The Prime Minister further underscored that

“South Asia needs strategic stability and this requires serious dialogue to achieve nuclear restraint, conventional balance and conflict resolution” (*ibid.*).

Naturally, such goals must be promoted on the basis of reciprocity and non-discrimination.

With Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif presiding, Pakistan’s National Command Authority (NCA), our highest decision-making body on strategic matters, met on 9 September and reviewed the fast-paced strategic and conventional capability developments taking place in our neighbourhood and underscored that Pakistan will take all measures to safeguard its national security. In view of the growing conventional asymmetry, the NCA reiterated the national resolve to maintain full-spectrum deterrence capability in line with the dictates of credible minimum deterrence to deter all forms of aggression, while adhering to the policy of avoiding an arms race. NCA has also categorically stated that Pakistan will remain actively engaged with the international community on nuclear stability and security issues.

Pakistan has consistently supported the goals of nuclear disarmament and a nuclear-weapon-free world. Those objectives need to be pursued through the conclusion of a universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear-weapons convention in the Conference on Disarmament (CD). Pakistan supports General Assembly resolutions 68/32 and 69/58, in particular the call for the urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on the conclusion of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons.

In our view, progress towards nuclear disarmament is being delayed by diverting the Conference on Disarmament’s focus towards partial non-proliferation measures like the fissile material cut-off treaty. A fissile material cut-off treaty that does not address the existing stockpiles of fissile materials would make no contribution towards nuclear disarmament. The

establishment of a Group of Governmental Experts on a fissile material cut-off treaty was an ill-conceived experiment that failed to produce any consensus recommendations worth any substance. Fundamental differences continue to exist on the very objectives and scope of the treaty. The Group of Governmental Experts simply duplicated the CD's work in a non-inclusive body, without bringing any added value to the issue. Pakistan does not favour a dilution of the CD's role through General Assembly-led non-universal processes that are divisive and not agreed by consensus.

The discussion mandate assigned to the Group of Governmental Experts could easily have been fulfilled in the CD. That fact was amply proved and demonstrated during the informal discussions on the issue of a ban on the production of fissile materials in the CD, held under the schedule of activities for 2014-2015. Those informal discussions were substantive and held in a representative body with the participation of all stakeholders and therefore had greater relevance and legitimacy. Pakistan is therefore not in a position to accept any conclusion or recommendation produced by the Group of Governmental Experts, including the assertion that the report could form the basis for further consideration of the fissile material cut-off issue by the CD. The Group of Governmental Experts did not function under a mandate of the CD. The members of the Group, individually or collectively, cannot arrogate to themselves the right to decide how the CD should consider the issue of fissile material.

We need to evolve a consensus-based mandate for the commencement of negotiations on a fissile material treaty in the CD. Such a mandate should respond to the call of the vast majority of the CD members to negotiate a treaty that genuinely advances nuclear disarmament and contributes to regional and international stability and security and purposes not served by the Shannon mandate. Pakistan has presented a working paper in the CD that reflects the required balance between the disarmament and non-proliferation goals of such a treaty. The international consensus that the General Assembly reached 37 years ago to pursue the disarmament agenda has eroded. The failure of this year's Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the continued deadlock in the CD on all its core issues are illustrative of that negative trend.

The existing and emerging challenges to arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament need to

be addressed collectively on the basis of cooperative multilateralism. Pakistan has therefore consistently called for the development of a renewed global consensus on disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects. We recognize that consensus-building will not be an easy task, but as a first step the fundamental prerequisites for global security need to be ascertained. Elements of such a consensus are contained in our statement here, which is being circulated in full. I will not read out all of them because of the time constraints.

Pakistan considers itself to be a mainstream partner in the international non-proliferation regime, as well as in the global efforts to strengthen nuclear security and safety. We have instituted a stringent national export-control system and a robust nuclear security regime that are on a par with international standards and practices. The safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear energy, without discrimination, is essential for economic development. Pakistan meets the criteria for gaining full access to the civil nuclear technology it needs to meet its growing energy needs and for continued economic growth.

Through a series of actions in diverse areas, we have demonstrated our credentials to join the multilateral export control regime, including the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Missile Technology Control Regime. In that context, Pakistan's National Command Authority, at its latest meeting, expressed satisfaction with our enhanced outreach with multilateral export control regimes and renewed our interest in joining those regimes on a non-discriminatory basis.

At the end, I would like to reiterate our support for the long-standing call of the countries of the Non-Aligned Movement, which constitute almost two thirds of the United Nations membership, to convene the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament in order to revive the eroding global consensus on disarmament and non-proliferation in an integrated, balanced and non-discriminatory manner.

Mr. Bodini (San Marino): I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to you, Sir, and to the Netherlands on your election as Chair of the First Committee. I am sure that under your guidance we will have a very fruitful session, and I wish you every success in this important and challenging task. I would like to acknowledge the presence of the President of the General Assembly and thank him for his presence.

While celebrating the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations, we should never forget the tragedy that destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki, a tragedy that San Marino, a country with a centuries-old history of peace, would never wish to see happen again. After 70 years, complete nuclear disarmament remains our primary goal. We congratulate the United States of America on its nuclear arsenal reduction from 30,000 devices in 1967 to about 4,000 in 2014. We appreciate President Obama's willingness to seek further reduction of that number. We also commend the Russian Federation on reducing its nuclear deterrent force from 4,000 in 2010 to approximately 1,600 nuclear weapons. Both countries are moving in the right direction, and we hope that all other countries with nuclear capabilities will follow their example.

However, that is not enough. San Marino hopes that that effort will continue and will provide renewed momentum for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. We do not believe that keeping a nuclear arsenal is the ultimate deterrent. On the contrary, I am afraid that countries with nuclear capability have a much greater chance of being struck first by a nuclear attack. Owing to worldwide political and social instability, the first attack could be launched not only by a rogue State, but also by non-State actors. In such an unfortunate circumstance, the reaction to a nuclear attack would be chaotic, unpredictable and devastating.

Every day, the probability that such a tragic event might occur increases dramatically. That is why San Marino shares the concerns raised by a large number of States on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, and we welcome the renewed efforts on the part of the many countries that have subscribed to the Humanitarian Pledge for the prohibition and elimination of such weapons. We believe that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Weapons (NPT) and its implementation remain the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime, and we, like many others, regret that the 2015 NPT Review Conference was not able to adopt a consensus outcome document. That should not, however, prevent us from working together for the strengthening of the NPT regime.

The Republic of San Marino commends the agreement reached between the E3+3 and Iran on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on the Iranian nuclear programme. That agreement clearly shows that diplomacy can deliver.

We commend last year's successful results achieved by the international mission to remove and destroy Syria's chemical arsenal. However, we condemn the continuing use of chlorine, and we therefore welcome Security Council resolution 2235 (2015) establishing the Joint Investigative Mechanism to determine responsibility for chemical attacks in Syria.

Despite our efforts in the field of conventional arms, millions of illegal weapons continue to cause deaths and casualties every day, every hour, every minute. Conventional arms are becoming the weapons of mass destruction. We cannot continue on that path. Everybody has to embrace and implement the Arms Trade Treaty. It is a powerful instrument for our Governments and for civil society in our fight against the illegal flows of weapons used by transnational criminal organizations, terrorists and marginalized individuals that create chaos and instability throughout the world.

In conclusion, we have achieved important goals in the field of disarmament, but still so much needs to be done. In order to fight the old and new challenges, we must continue to work together on the path of constructive dialogue. By reaffirming the common ideals and principles that are the foundations of the United Nations Charter, we will be able to obtain positive results. The United Nations, with the strength of its international law, remains the main line of defence, not only for a small and unarmed country like San Marino, but for most Member States, if not all.

Mr. Mana (Cameroon) (*spoke in French*): As this is the first time that my delegation takes the floor since the beginning of our work, I should like to begin by joining my voice to those who spoke before me to congratulate you, Mr. Chair, and through you the other members of the Bureau, on your election to head our Committee. Your personal qualities, which have been unanimously commended, and the excellent way in which you have been conducting our work since the beginning are the measure of the successful outcome of our deliberations. I would like to assure you of the support and cooperation of my delegation in carrying out your work.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the Group of

African States (A/C.1/70/PV.2). I would like to add some additional remarks in my national capacity.

One of the main goals of the work of our Committee is to be able to identify and take up the major disarmament challenges and those affecting international security, whose importance for the international community has been extensively commented on by the delegations that have taken the floor before me. This is why my delegation commends the nearly unanimous position on the need for general and comprehensive disarmament, even if we need to keep in mind the differences of views on how to achieve that goal. It should be said that even today nuclear weapons remain an existential threat for humankind, and the system established to control them is insufficient. The failure of the recent Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is an example of the current state of affairs. The Comprehensive-Test-Ban Treaty still has not entered into force. Negotiations on fissile materials have not even begun. That is just on the nuclear-weapons side.

Regarding the category of conventional weapons, small arms and light weapons, anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions and the explosive remnants of war continue to kill, mutilate and fuel armed violence. The instruments established to deal with the challenges posed by those types of weapons still need to be strengthened, made universal and implemented in an effective manner.

While the challenges in the area of security relating to disarmament are many and continue to give rise to serious concerns around the world as long as they are not adequately resolved, we believe that the relative successes in the past three years in that area demonstrate that it is possible to make progress on the disarmament agenda and the non-proliferation agenda, when there is a constructive spirit and a pragmatic approach is adopted. That dynamic shows that the search for a safer world needs to be addressed in a holistic way, and efforts should be undertaken in all areas: nuclear, chemical, biological, conventional, ballistic missile proliferation and disarmament in space.

The temptation is significant among non-nuclear-weapon States to wonder what the benefits of nuclear disarmament are for them and for countries that do not have the technological capacity to develop such weapons. The reality is that we have to go back to the dawn of the invention of nuclear weapons or their

use in 1945 in Hiroshima and Nagasaki to recall that humankind became aware of its common fate in the face of that threat — not just recently when humankind became aware of the risks associated with climate change. For developing countries, the need to harness and control conventional weapons and the new challenges related to terrorism are the main challenges that are their top priority.

Regarding conventional weapons, there are grounds for satisfaction and hope that, with the entry into force on 24 December 2014 of the Arms Trade Treaty and the holding of the first Conference of States Parties to the Treaty, that new and legally binding instrument would make it possible for the international community to effectively combat the illicit trade in weapons and prevent them from being diverted and thus threatening international peace and security. It will also make it possible to avoid useless human suffering, promote cooperation and transparency, and invoke the responsibility of States parties to the Treaty.

Regarding terrorism, Cameroon, like other countries of the Lake Chad basin, has been confronted for some time, as is known, with repeated terrorist attacks by the Islamic sect Boko Haram. Like other countries that are confronting that threat around the world, Cameroon has undertaken a number of actions aimed at preventing its national territory from becoming a battlefield or a fallback territory for such terrorists. The Cameroon authorities have decided, in addition to bolstering their military operations and implementing development projects in affected regions, to increase the level of security readiness and to strengthen the operational capacity deployed on the ground so as to secure the areas affected by the violence, to mount intense awareness-raising campaigns among the local populations, and to establish new security measures in cities around the country.

There is no doubt about the global aspect of the terrorist phenomenon. It is therefore essential to deal with that transnational and global threat in a multinational and global way. In that context, the countries of the Lake Chad Basin Commission have set up, under the auspices of the African Union, a joint multinational force with its headquarters in N'djamena, Chad. In that regard, my country knows that it can count on the international community to support it in its just fight against the forces of evil. My delegation would like to take this opportunity to reiterate to all friendly countries and United Nations agencies on the ground our

gratitude for their contributions of all kinds to the fight against Boko Haram and to managing the consequences of the attacks. Those contributions have mainly taken the form of assisting refugees and internally displaced persons, combating radicalization and reducing the socioeconomic impact of the massive flows of refugees and displaced persons on host populations.

Mr. Oumar (Niger) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Sir, on your election to the chairmanship of our work and assure you of the cooperation of my delegation. I would also like to congratulate the other members of the Bureau.

My statement will be made in my national capacity and is aligned with the statements made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, and by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the Group of African States (see A/C.1/70/PV.2).

This meeting is taking place at a time when humankind has just adopted a universal 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1), which had never previously been established by the United Nations. The 2030 Agenda is in line with the main conclusions of the 2005 World Summit held at the margins of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly. We hope that the same spirit that enabled us to reach a common development agenda for all States, despite the different levels of development and different social, economic, political and cultural systems, will enable us to achieve concrete results on disarmament, in accordance with the same will expressed by the world leaders at that summit.

We also hope that we will be able to celebrate in our way this symbolically important session, because it marks the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations, whose ultimate aim has been to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war and the suffering linked to the use of weapons in all their forms, and whose collective conscience has the sad memory bequeathed by the Second World War. In fact, in the view of my delegation, humankind today does not need weapons of mass destruction, because the challenges that threaten it cannot be defeated by arms. The most concrete threats to international peace and security are rather factors such as the persistence of poverty, the emergence of new diseases, climate change, the rise of violent extremism and terrorism and the resulting humanitarian crises. We must also recognize that the

availability of arms and their uncontrolled movement contribute a great deal to development disorders, namely, violent extremism and terrorism, as well as the absence of concrete disarmament measures, which are necessary for mutual confidence among States and for reducing distrust and the fear of war, which are recognized as the main reasons for militancy.

At a time when we seek new sources of financing to confront the enormous financial needs for the implementation of the new development Agenda, my delegation believes that it is much easier to implement the reduction of military expenses by 10 per cent, which was requested by this body more than 40 years ago, in 1973, in order to release the additional necessary resources to combat poverty and thus ward off the crisis to society. In the area of illegal arms trafficking, we note with appreciation the contribution 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 to the interruption of their flow and the recent adoption in 2013 of the Arms Trade Treaty, for which the first Conference of States Parties was recently held in Cancún, Mexico.

My delegation recognizes the cooperation that has taken place between the United Nations Programme of Action and our National Commission for the Collection and Control of Illicit Arms, created after 1994 to halt the traffic in illicit weapons that followed the armed rebellions of the 1990s. It contributed greatly to the collection, seizure and destruction of large quantities of weapons. Other support was also obtained in the stockpiling of weapons and the safeguarding of arms depots.

However, despite those encouraging results, the challenge remains, the reason being the huge gap between the effectiveness of the control and tracing of arms and the rapid progress in science and technology and electronics in the production and circulation of arms. In that respect, we welcome the consideration that was given to such issues at the various statutory meetings held within the context of the Programme of Action, and we hope that cooperation and international assistance will be more dynamic and increasingly focused on the transfer of the technology of the control and monitoring of borders, ports and airports of interested States and the training of related service personnel.

Support for regional and subregional initiatives, such as the 2000 Convention of the Economic

Community of West African States on Small Arms and Light Weapons, which plays a leading role in the area of monitoring the traffic in light weapons, is also of clear interest to my delegation. Along the same lines, an increased role should be recognized for women, civil society, and local and customary authorities, because of their local outreach skills.

In the area of disarmament and the creation of a climate of confidence at all levels, this year we once again missed the opportunity to make progress, because we were unable to reach consensus, either at the substantive session of the Conference on Disarmament, which was held from 6 to 24 April in New York, or at the ninth Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which was held from 27 April to 22 May in New York.

Even worse, there were setbacks on certain crucial issues. The question about our real political will to achieve the goals of general disarmament for humanity persists, despite the new initiatives, the most important of which are being pursued in the cycle of Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, organized successively in Oslo in 2013, in Nayarit, Mexico, in February 2014, and in Vienna in December 2014, and whose message — that the world must be totally rid of nuclear weapons, because they represent a threat to the survival of humankind — was clear.

As the world's fourth-largest producer of uranium, the main material needed for the production of nuclear reactions and our main source of export income, the Niger supports that message, because we believe that no humanitarian effort is perfect or infallible and nothing guarantees humanity, therefore, against an explosion or the accidental use of a nuclear weapon. That belief is redoubled by a greater fear, namely, the risk of piracy or the infiltration of the nuclear security system of a nuclear-weapon State by non-State actors, which could provoke accidents or the use of such weapons. Therefore, the best guarantee for humankind would be the total absence of nuclear weapons in the world. That is why we agree with positions favouring an international convention on the non-use of nuclear weapons and on nuclear disarmament, as well as the conclusion of a fissile material cut-off treaty.

My country also firmly supports the principle of universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the preservation of and full respect for the right of every State to develop nuclear

applications for peaceful purposes. With that in mind, in 2014 the Niger created a High Authority for Atomic Energy that reports to the President of the Republic and is responsible for the effective implementation of all treaties and international agreements on nuclear issues, as well as the utilization of the particular advantages they may offer, namely, civilian nuclear applications.

With regard to safeguards, my country has concluded all of the agreements and protocols with the International Atomic Energy Agency and has developed cooperation with that Agency to attain the prescribed goals. We must welcome the agreement reached in July between the five permanent members of the Security Council plus Germany and Iran on its civil nuclear programme, and we request that States with the appropriate technology assist other States to benefit from all advantages linked to the promotion of that source of energy.

The entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty must not be delayed. The effectiveness of all our demands for nuclear disarmament and for protecting the world from nuclear disasters depend on it. We welcome the holding on 29 September of the ninth ministerial conference on the acceleration of the entry into force of that treaty and hope that it will be followed up with concrete actions towards that end.

Finally, the conclusion of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East is another question that the Niger considers to be an indispensable factor in the establishment of a climate of confidence and the conditions for lasting peace in the subregion, while constituting a non-negligible contribution to the aim of achieving a world without nuclear weapons, which we sincerely desire.

Mr. Haque (Bangladesh): At the outset, I would like to congratulate Ambassador Van Oosterom on his election as Chair of the First Committee. The Bangladesh delegation has no doubts about his ability to successfully shepherd the work of this Committee. I also wish to assure the Chair and the members of the Bureau of the fullest cooperation of the delegation of Bangladesh in discharging their responsibilities.

Bangladesh aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (see A/C.1/70/PV.2). However, I would like to highlight a few points on the entire range of disarmament and international security issues in my national capacity.

As a signatory to all major multilateral disarmament treaties, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention, 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 as amended on 21 December 2001, the Comprehensive-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), Bangladesh is committed to general and complete disarmament, a commitment that flows from its constitutional obligation to promote disarmament.

Attaining global nuclear disarmament has been one of the key goals of the United Nations since its creation. Even after 70 years, the horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki still strongly shake our conscience. Let me point out that the very first resolution that the General Assembly adopted envisioned a world free of nuclear weapons (resolution 1/1). Nuclear disarmament has been on the General Assembly's agenda since 1959 and has been supported by every Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The time has now come to conclude a comprehensive convention that will ensure the objective of a world free of nuclear weapons. Many world leaders expressed that view during the first-ever high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, held on 26 September 2013. Bangladesh's position on nuclear disarmament has been consistent, straightforward and unambiguous. Convinced that nuclear weapons cannot guarantee security or peace to humanity, we have unequivocally reaffirmed our commitment to a world free of nuclear weapons.

Bangladesh welcomes the successful conclusion of the nuclear negotiation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and E3+3, resulting in the finalization of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on 14 July. That agreement underlines the fact that dialogue and diplomacy are the most appropriate means to resolve such issues. Bangladesh also welcomes the decision taken in resolution 68/32 to commemorate 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

Bangladesh, as a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, welcomes the accession of the State of Palestine to the Treaty as its 191st State party. Bangladesh regrets the failure of the

ninth NPT Review Conference, held in 2015, to reach consensus on a final document.

Following five decades of struggle against nuclear testing, the CTBT was humankind's first ray of hope towards a comprehensive, globally verifiable non-proliferation regime banning any and all nuclear explosions. Thirty days after its adoption, Bangladesh, an annex 2 State, demonstrated its full faith in the CTBT and was the first country from South Asia to sign the Treaty in 1996 and ratify it in 2000. After 19 years, 183 signatures and 164 ratifications, it is a great disappointment to us that the Treaty has yet to enter into force. We call upon the remaining eight annex 2 States, whose ratifications are necessary for the Treaty to come into force, to ratify the Treaty without further delay. Bangladesh believes the entry into force of the CTBT would mark a vital step towards the reduction and eventual elimination of nuclear weapons by constraining their development and qualitative improvement. Bangladesh welcomes the recent ratification of the CTBT by Angola.

The Conference on Disarmament (CD) has remained deadlocked for decades now, wasting valuable resources and time. The last time the Conference agreed to negotiate was in 1996, for the Comprehensive-Test-Ban Treaty. The CD has remained stagnant ever since and is unable to undertake substantive work. We call on the CD to agree on a balanced and comprehensive programme of work. We urge all States to demonstrate the necessary political will to enable the CD to fulfil its negotiating mandate.

Although the nuclear danger remains ever daunting, it is conventional weapons that are turning out to be the real weapons of mass destruction in many parts of the world. The horrific consequences of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons have devastated many societies, killing and maiming millions of civilians. The limitation, reduction and regulation of conventional arms are therefore a matter of cardinal importance. It is indeed an encouraging development that the Arms Trade Treaty came into force in December 2014. As a signatory to the Treaty, we hope that the Treaty will put an end to the illegal trade in and illegitimate use of conventional weapons, which have caused and are causing untold suffering to mankind. Bangladesh welcomes the outcome document of the first Conference of States parties to the Treaty held in Cancún, Mexico, in August.

Bangladesh considers outer space to be the common heritage of humankind. We support the strengthening of the international legal regime and the development of a code of conduct for outer space activities in order to protect and preserve access to space for all and to prevent the weaponization of outer space.

This year we are celebrating the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations as it strives to build a safer and more prosperous world. Member States have laid the foundations for future generations through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1). Promoting peace and justice is one of the global goals that make up the Agenda for Sustainable Development. The challenges of disarmament and international security have become increasingly complex and intertwined and detrimental to the development of a country, a region and the world as a whole. We must learn to make multilateralism work to create a more secure world to ensure development by ensuring the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It is our sincere hope that our collective endeavour here in the First Committee will contribute to revitalizing the United Nations disarmament machinery and securing international peace and security through effective arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament.

Mr. Bouah-Kamon (Côte d'Ivoire) (*spoke in French*): I would like, on behalf of the delegation of Côte d'Ivoire, to extend my congratulations to you, Sir, on your outstanding election to the chairmanship of the Committee. I am convinced that your leadership will provide an invaluable contribution to our work. I also wish to express my great appreciation to your predecessor and his team, whose spirit of openness during the sixty-ninth session enabled us bring our work to a successful conclusion.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Movement for Non-Aligned Countries, and by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the Group of African States (see A/C.1/70/PV.2).

Ms. Stoeva (Bulgaria), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

This seventieth session of the United Nations is marked by our new post-2015 development agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1), which is aimed at consolidating the basis of inclusive development and a better world by 2030, based on the following priorities: development, the environment, peace and security. However, the

arms race, the proliferation of nuclear weapons, the proliferation of and illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, whose consequences have resulted in conflicts of all types, as well as terrorism, are real threats to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals for the advancement of humankind. That is why the role of our Organization is essential and the programme of reforms of the United Nations, now under way for many years, should contribute to shaping the outline of an international community that is more just and resolutely aimed at progress and at fighting effectively against the threat posed by weapons.

The phenomenon of terrorism, one of whose devastating consequences is the overwhelming presence of weapons in our subregion, calls for greater vigilance and cooperation at the subregional, regional and global levels. In fact, the actions of Boko Haram, which has become the Islamic State in Western Africa, seriously undermine development in our area and could, in the long term, compromise the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Given the threats of terrorist groups operating in Mali, the Ivorian authorities have adopted measures aimed at strengthening security in the border area. On 3 June, the Government enacted a law aimed at effectively fighting terrorism. In that respect, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire intends to cooperate closely with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee and INTERPOL in order to effectively check the flow of foreign terrorist fighters.

Disarmament in all its aspects must be a priority for our States. Nuclear disarmament must continue to be pursued. That is why the lack of agreement in the Conference on Disarmament is of concern to my Government. We also believe that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, already ratified by 164 States, should be allowed to enter into force. The failure of the ninth Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), held in 2015, demands from all greater flexibility in defending our interests.

Côte d'Ivoire believes that the United Nations must ensure the strict implementation of the three dimensions of the NPT: nuclear disarmament, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. In that regard, we encourage the conclusion of a general convention on disarmament, as well as the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, like that in Africa, which was

established at the request of the African countries, which opted in 2009 for a denuclearized zone. On that last point, my delegation urges the States of the Middle East region to continue negotiations. Furthermore, my country hopes that the advantages linked to the civilian use of nuclear energy can be made profitable to a greater number of countries, particularly in the areas of agriculture and health. To that end, Côte d'Ivoire intends to increase its cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Côte d'Ivoire also agrees with the Austria pledge, which calls everyone's attention to the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons and favours any initiative that could lead to the conclusion of a fissile material cut-off treaty.

The use of new technologies in the manufacture of small arms and light weapons, such as polymer and 3D technology, requires greater vigilance by States, especially with regard to marking and tracing in the arms production process. In order to obtain a more secure environment, my country has undertaken, with the aid of development partners, particularly Japan and the United Nations Development Programme, to ensure the marking of all of the weapons held by its defence and security forces. We also favour the transfer of the technology and equipment needed for the marking and tracing arms in order to meet the demands posed by the new technologies in weapons manufacture. In that regard, Côte d'Ivoire has increased its cooperation with Liberia, United Nations peacekeeping forces and the French forces in order to prevent trafficking in small arms and light weapons along its western border. The importance that my country attaches to that matter resulted this year in the ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty, which is an indispensable legal instrument in that area.

While we agree that the main aim of the United Nations, whose seventieth anniversary we are commemorating this year, is to maintain international peace and security, it is necessary not to disappoint our peoples, whose hopes lie in the constructive character of our discussions and whose sole aim is to save this world, where the culture of peace and security and development should be our sole credo.

Mr. Jiménez (Nicaragua) (*spoke in Spanish*): The delegation of Nicaragua wishes to congratulate the Chair and the other members of the Bureau on their

election, and we wish them every success in guiding the work of the Committee.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Movement for Non-Aligned Countries (see A/C.1/70/PV.2) and by the representative of Ecuador on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (see A/C.1/70/PV.4).

This debate coincides with the seventieth anniversary of the nuclear eclipse, one of the darkest days of humankind, when nuclear bombs were used against Japan. That should never be repeated. The victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki demonstrated the humanitarian impact that they suffered and continue to suffer owing to those inhuman attacks. Nicaragua condemns the use of such weapons of mass destruction. It is the duty of the disarmament machinery to avoid another humanitarian catastrophe.

Nicaragua has conveyed to the international community the importance it attaches to moving towards a complete and total disarmament that includes not only nuclear weapons, but also other conventional weapons of mass destruction, whose use contravenes the fundamental principles of general international law and international humanitarian law. It is unjustifiable and unacceptable that, with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1), the new agenda for development for the next 15 years recently agreed to by our Heads of State, we continue to live in a world where more is spent on developing, modernizing and testing all kinds of weapons, and less to promote life and the development of human beings. While millions of people suffer from the effects of economic crises, poverty, hunger or disease, world military expenditures are increasing in a vertiginous way. If we want to achieve the goals of sustainable development together, we must end that disastrous trend and direct our efforts towards the development of our peoples.

Our urgency and priority is to have a world free of nuclear weapons. In that context, we applaud and celebrate 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and all the initiatives of all Governments, civil society and other actors that have contributed to that end. We welcome resolution 69/58, entitled "Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament", which gives us a road map that can lead to the goal of the elimination of nuclear

weapons. It is necessary that we take concrete steps and start negotiations on a convention on nuclear weapons that will lead us to the complete prohibition of those weapons.

We support efforts to give priority to humanitarian concerns in the debate on nuclear weapons. In that context, we welcome the three International Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, held in Oslo, Nayarit and Vienna, respectively. We strongly support the appeal of the Vienna Conference on that topic to adopt an international legally binding instrument on the prohibition of nuclear weapons. We applaud and welcome the agreement between E3+3 and Iran, which contributes to peace and international security. Nicaragua, as a State party to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), regrets that some countries blocked the consensus on a final document of the ninth NPT Review Conference in 2015. Even though the document did not fully meet our expectations, we were ready to adopt it by consensus. The failure of the Conference undermined the efforts of multilateralism and the disarmament machinery, which seek to create a world free of nuclear weapons, and damaged their credibility.

Nicaragua strongly believes that, through the establishment of zones free of nuclear weapons, the non-proliferation regime and international peace and security can be strengthened, making an important contribution to the achievement of nuclear disarmament. In that regard, my country regrets non-compliance with the agreement on the holding in 2012 of the international conference for the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. We reiterate that the holding of that conference is an important and integral part of the outcome of the 2010 NPT Review Conference. Hence, we urge the parties to hold the conference as soon as possible.

Nicaragua respects the inalienable right of all States to conduct research into and engage in the production and peaceful use of nuclear energy without discrimination, in keeping with the NPT. The international community needs to take concrete measures, especially regarding the immediate implementation by nuclear States of their commitments under article VI of the NPT. We reiterate the aspiration of many for negotiations that will lead to an unconditional, legally binding, universal instrument on security guarantees for all non-nuclear States in

order to achieve the complete elimination of that type of weapon, regardless of its category or geographical location. The instrument should take into account the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 1996 that the use or the threat of use of nuclear weapons is a crime against humanity and a violation of international law and the United Nations Charter. We also support negotiations on a treaty that prohibits an arms race in outer space.

Our country is part of the first regional initiative that declared an entire, densely populated area of the world as a zone free of nuclear weapons through the Tlatelolco Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America. We also welcome the historic proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a zone of peace, which took place on 29 January 2014 at the second summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, held in Cuba, whose goal is the full elimination of the threat or use of force in our region. It includes the strong commitment of the States of the region to nuclear disarmament as a priority goal.

In that regard, we have advocated the approval, assessment and consideration of resolutions and declarations on that topic in order to make progress in limiting the arms race and in the search for measures that will lead to the total elimination of nuclear weapons under a transparent and effective system of control. We would like to reiterate that the immediate end of nuclear tests is the most effective way to achieve nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The terrible consequences for human beings and the environment caused by the 2,000 or so nuclear tests carried out since 1945 continue to be experienced by people in various parts of the world.

We condemn all use of chemical weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and we are strongly committed to the Chemical Weapons Convention and to strict compliance with its provisions. We acknowledge the political will shown by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to adhere to the Chemical Weapons Convention and its cooperation with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, which made it possible to successfully destroy all the chemical weapons of that country and to comply with a work plan in an extraordinary manner and in exceptional circumstances.

My country has committed itself and has taken the relevant measures to prevent, combat and eradicate

the illicit traffic in weapons. We have incorporated international legislation, the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, through special law No. 510 on the control and regulation of firearms, munitions, explosives and other related materials. With it begins a new phase that includes a rigorous and strict plan for the control and registration of firearms possessed by civilians, as well as the confiscation of weapons of war. Those elements have allowed us to strengthen the security level in our country, thereby achieving positive results in combating organized crime and drug trafficking.

That is why, according to various United Nations studies, Nicaragua is one of the top six countries with the best indicators for civilian security in Latin America and the Caribbean and the safest in Central America. Those studies highlight the fact that the homicide rate is 8.7 per 100,000. We reiterate that, for the successful implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action, international assistance and cooperation are essential. Nicaragua also welcomes the establishment of Central America as a zone free of mines and cluster munitions, which demonstrates the commitment of our region to disarmament.

Nicaragua believes that the use of new information and communications technologies must be fully compatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international humanitarian law. For that reason, we express profound concern over and fully reject the concealment and illegal use by individuals, organizations and States of information systems of other nations in order to attack third countries and developing countries.

In conclusion, much has been said about the impasse in the Conference on Disarmament. However, we have not been able to resolve the true problem, which is the lack of political will on the part of certain States to make real progress, particularly in disarmament.

Mr. Saikal (Afghanistan): Allow me to congratulate the Chair and the Bureau on their election to guide our work during this session. My delegation is fully committed to the successful fulfilment of the work of the Committee and assures members of our full support and cooperation.

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan aligns itself fully with the statement delivered on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (see A/C.1/70/PV.2). However, I would like to draw attention to a few specific points in my national capacity.

As history has repeatedly shown, political decisions incur the worst consequences when made unilaterally, without consultations or consideration of the needs of all of the actors involved. For that reason, Afghanistan wishes to reiterate its commitment to multilateral diplomacy as a crucial principle for advancing the global disarmament agenda. Only with all sides demonstrating political will can we achieve the goals of arms control, arms reduction, disarmament and the total elimination of all types of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. In that context, we welcome the successful conclusion of the agreement between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the P5+1, which will strengthen security and stability in our wider region. Going forward, it will be imperative that the parties concerned fulfil their commitments to implement the agreement. Only through strong collective political will can we reach our collective desired goal of a nuclear-free world.

Afghanistan strongly and consistently supports all initiatives in the sphere of nuclear disarmament. As such, Afghanistan is party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, among many other treaties calling for the total elimination of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction. We are of the firm belief that the full utilization of those existing international mechanisms is the only guarantee for the security of our world, and full utilization requires universal adherence. Afghanistan is not alone in urging all States to fulfil their international responsibilities in signing, ratifying and actively supporting all efforts to promote the goals of all of the multilateral treaties relating to disarmament and non-proliferation.

The failure to agree on an outcome document at the 2015 NPT Review Conference reflects the increasingly grave need for more effective action and leadership on the part of NPT member States. The divisions among those States exist on a number of urgent issues that have, in our opinion, otherwise clear-cut solutions. That worrisome reality should serve as a wake-up call for the international community to renew its commitments and turn words into action. In the same manner, we would like to express our strong disappointment at

the persistent failure to convene a conference on the establishment of the Middle East as a zone free of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction. As the political turmoil in the Middle East threatens to spill over into the neighbouring regions, Afghanistan wishes to highlight the need for immediate action to be taken by the international community to prevent the looming humanitarian and political catastrophe and overcome diplomatic stalemates.

Afghanistan is extremely disturbed by the humanitarian threat posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and the possibility of their use, intentionally or accidentally. It is for that reason that we welcome the outcome of the latest International Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons in 2015, which recognizes that the total elimination of all nuclear weapons is the only definite safeguard against a nuclear explosion. Despite that collective understanding, there has been inadequate progress on the part of nuclear-weapon States in fulfilling their commitments to eliminate their nuclear stockpiles, and we echo the calls for those States to abolish their dangerous nuclear doctrines, which include the practice of refurbishing or modernizing existing nuclear stockpiles and related facilities and using the global existence of nuclear weapons as an excuse for maintaining or proliferating one's own stockpiles.

Enduring conflict has facilitated one of the most destructive developments in Afghanistan. The massive illicit traffic in arms, mainly small arms and light weapons, along our southern and eastern frontier, the Durand Line, which has enabled terrorists and extremists to cause the Afghan people tremendous suffering for decades, must be put to an end in order for Afghanistan's enduring conflict to be resolved. We embrace the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, but we believe that it must be accompanied by a deeper understanding of the complex realities on the ground and closer follow-up of its implementation and integration into the mandate of the Arms Trade Treaty. We are also grateful for the recommendations made by the 2015 Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts on small arms, and the experts' thoughtful insights into developments and emerging needs for the Programme of Action, including the need for new considerations in the light of the evolving modern technologies and the importance of marking weapons for tracing purposes.

Subsequent brutal wars over the past few decades have left Afghanistan heavily mined, which has claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of our civilians. We remain one of the most heavily mined countries in the world, despite the fact that over 80 per cent of minefields have been cleared, thanks to international efforts. In 2014, an average of 38 civilians were killed or injured each month, and nearly 1 million Afghans still live within 500 metres of landmines. The continued existence of minefields also poses a threat to the development process in Afghanistan, as that delays the construction of national infrastructure projects until the minefields are cleared.

Anti-personnel landmines in Afghanistan have been used freely to the benefit of brutal terrorists, who have no regard for the children they maim, the lives they destroy or the country they devastate. It is for that reason that the work of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in Afghanistan, which transferred full responsibility for mine action to the Afghan Government in 2012, is critical. While Afghanistan's Mine Action Programme has produced excellent results, funding cuts threaten the goal that we set in line with the Ottawa Treaty for fully ridding Afghanistan of mines by 2023. However, we thank Member States for the generous donations made to UNMAS, aid that is invaluable to achieving our goals but, regrettably, still far from what is needed. We look forward to the successful completion of the fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine-Ban Convention. We are committed to the full realization of the goals adopted at the third Review Conference of the Convention, held in Maputo.

Finally, Afghanistan is gravely concerned about the continued existence of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) around the globe. IEDs are responsible for thousands of civilian casualties every year; they have become the primary weapon for non-State armed groups across many conflicts. Their impact on the security and stability of States is profound, as they not only damage the political, social and economic development of a country, but also prevent the necessary humanitarian aid from reaching afflicted areas. Owing to the lack of a comprehensive, systematic approach to countering the use of IEDs, which are relatively simple weapons in terms of their manufacturing, acquisition and transfer, we call for an international mechanism to be established that seeks to eradicate the creation and proliferation of IEDs. My delegation is therefore

submitting a draft resolution at this session of the First Committee. The draft resolution includes, *inter alia*, the consistent collection of data, awareness-raising, the regulation of components, international technical assistance and cooperation and victim assistance. In that regard, we held our first informal consultations with Member States, and my delegation seeks the further full cooperation and support of the Committee so that the draft resolution can be adopted by consensus.

In conclusion, I would like to state that this year we share a special responsibility to commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the atomic attack on Nagasaki and Hiroshima that took many lives and killed hopes across generations. Remembering that catastrophe provides ample opportunity to remind ourselves of the dire humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. In that context, my delegation supported the Austrian initiative on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons at this year's NPT Review Conference.

My delegation sadly notes that, despite the many positive developments in the work of international diplomacy for the disarmament of nuclear weapons, we still face threats to human security and sustainability of a scale similar to what the generation before us faced. The global and regional climate of terrorism has made the call for nuclear disarmament, as well as for arms control, including small arms and light weapons, all the more urgent.

Mr. De Aguiar Patriota (Brazil): Congratulations to the Chair and Bureau of the First Committee on their election.

Brazil associates itself with the statements made by the representative of South Africa on behalf of the New Agenda Coalition and by the representative of Ecuador on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (see A/C.1/70/PV.2).

The first General Assembly resolution ever adopted sought the elimination of nuclear weapons (resolution 1/1). Then, as now, the existence of weapons of mass destruction, with their catastrophic and indiscriminate effects, was seen as sitting ill with the principles of the United Nations Charter. Seventy years on, thousands of nuclear weapons fill the arsenals of several countries. They remain a constant threat to life on the planet.

Recently that unacceptable situation was once again highlighted. The International Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons have

shed new light on the gap that needs to be filled for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons. My country, Brazil, supports the Humanitarian Pledge, in line with its long-standing position that progress in nuclear disarmament is urgent and necessary.

The nuclear and non-proliferation regime, of which the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is the cornerstone, is under growing strain, compounded by the failure of the 2015 NPT Review Conference to adopt an outcome document. States that possess nuclear weapons or are members of nuclear alliances seem intent on relying on those weapons indefinitely. That undermines the credibility of the Treaty and of agreements struck at previous Review Conferences.

The key to the sustainability of the NPT regime lies in reducing motivations and incentives to proliferate. To focus solely on non-proliferation — as if that could be detached from progress in nuclear disarmament — is not only unbalanced, but also ineffective.

The correct answer to such challenges is the urgent start of negotiations on nuclear disarmament, as mandated by article VI of the NPT. That would also start to give concrete expression to the unequivocal commitment to the elimination of nuclear weapons made by nuclear-weapon States at the 2000 NPT Review Conference.

The lasting stalemate in the Conference on Disarmament (CD) is regrettable. We hail the work of the Group of Governmental Experts convened by the Secretary-General to make recommendations on aspects of a treaty on fissile materials (A/70/81) and hope that its conclusions will help the CD approve a programme of work that covers its four core issues. Failing that, however, negotiations on nuclear disarmament can and should be taken to other multilateral forums, such as the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Brazil supports the efforts of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to promote more efficient and effective safeguards, in strict accordance with the relevant legal instruments entered into by Member States with the Agency. The General Conference of the IAEA, both in 2014 and again this year, reiterated important assurances to guide the implementation of the so-called State-level concept. We look forward to seeing how the secretariat of the Agency will coordinate with member States in developing and implementing individual State-level approaches.

Brazil has always maintained that there is no alternative to a diplomatic, negotiated solution to the issues related to Iran's nuclear programme. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action agreed last July by the E3+3 was a vindication for diplomacy. Brazil once again commends the parties for their efforts. The political will demonstrated by all parties throughout the negotiations will now be critical for the implementation of the agreement.

We also believe the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action may have a positive impact on the broader security environment of the Middle East. Alongside the successful treatment of the Syrian chemical portfolio, it provides much needed momentum for the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the region.

The failure of the NPT States parties to reach an agreement on that matter and to comply with the commitments agreed to in the 2010 Review Conference is most unfortunate. That issue cannot be left in a state of limbo. The 1995 Resolution on the Middle East remains valid and cannot be dissociated from the Treaty. Brazil urges all stakeholders to intensify their efforts towards fulfilling the commitments made. The destruction of the chemical weapons declared by Syria is a welcome development that has, however, been overshadowed by the repeated use of chemical substances, such as chlorine, as a weapon in the Middle East. Regardless of who their perpetrators may be, such actions are deplorable and a matter of serious concern that warrants a unified position on the part of the international community. The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons is exemplary in reflecting the continuous efforts of the international community to achieve a world free of weapons of mass destruction. The positive achievements of the chemical weapons regime have yet to be attained with respect to other classes of weapons of mass destruction. In the case of the Biological Weapons Convention, Brazil favours the resumption of negotiations on an effective and legally binding verification regime.

The weaponization of outer space is incompatible with the long-term sustainability of outer-space activities. Brazil is committed to the enhancement of the multilateral legal framework concerning the preservation of a peaceful, safe and secure environment in outer space, and, in 2014, co-authored resolution 69/32, entitled "No first placement of weapons in outer space".

While political commitments and voluntary arrangements are welcome, they cannot be a substitute for legally binding measures imposing firm and long-term obligations on all States. The revised proposal on a treaty on the prohibition of the placement of weapons in outer space presented by Russia and China represents a positive development with a view to getting negotiations started.

Brazil favours the strengthening of multilateral norms and principles applicable to the conduct of States in the field of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in the context of international security. However, that cannot take place at the expense of the free flow of information and respect for human rights, in particular the right to privacy.

International law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations must guide State behaviour in the use of ICTs. Confidence-building measures and increased international assistance and cooperation constitute important steps towards achieving an open, secure, peaceful and accessible ICT environment.

After four sessions of comprehensive, in-depth exchanges of views on developments in that field, the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security, established under resolution 68/243, adopted a consensus report (see A/70/174), which advanced the discussion on important aspects related to activities in cyberspace. Brazil was honoured to chair the Group and looks forward to continued discussion on the matter.

The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) has marked a ground-breaking moment for the international community. Brazil signed the ATT on the very first day it was opened for signature. Although a few changes in internal legislation will be necessary after ratification, Brazil has already adopted a national export-control system that complies, to a large extent, with ATT obligations. The universalization of the ATT remains one of the greatest priorities. The accession of countries, especially the major arms-exporting countries, is important so as to avoid the continuing negative effects of the unregulated international arms trade. The success of the Arms Trade Treaty negotiations demonstrates how the General Assembly, with its universal membership and rules of procedure, can take the leading role in unlocking processes otherwise seen as intractable.

With that in mind, Brazil supports proposals for an enhanced role to be played by the First Committee in pushing forward nuclear-disarmament negotiations, particularly through the establishment of an open-ended working group to develop effective measures related to nuclear disarmament. Such a group should have as its ultimate objective the adoption of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons with agreed time frames for the transparent, verifiable and irreversible elimination of all nuclear arsenals.

A few weeks ago, in the General Assembly Hall, His Holiness Pope Francis stated,

“A system of ethics and laws based on the threat of mutual destruction, and possibly the destruction of all humankind, is a contradiction in terms and an affront to the entire edifice of the United Nations, which would become a group of nations united by fear and distrust.” (*A/70/PV.3, p. 7*)

The resounding ovation that followed that phrase was telling. It showed that, irrespective of religious affiliation, Pope Francis had rightly interpreted the general will of States Members of the United Nations. Let us take action towards a world without nuclear weapons without further delay.

Mr. Phansourivong (Lao People’s Democratic Republic): At the outset, on behalf of the delegation of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, I wish to extend our warmest congratulations to the Chair and the Bureau of the Committee on their election to office during this session. I wish to assure you, Madam Acting Chair, of our full support and cooperation in the discharge of your duty.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made earlier by the representative of the Republic of Indonesia on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and by the representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (see *A/C.1/70/PV.2*). However, I would like to make a few remarks in my national capacity.

This year marks the seventieth anniversary of the creation of the United Nations, after the end of the Second World War. Its main objectives are to promote international peace and security and development cooperation, aiming at ensuring that all humankind lives in peace and achieves social progress. Disarmament and non-proliferation are at the top of the

United Nations agenda, which all Member States must support in order to maintain and promote international peace and security. In the light of that, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic attaches great importance to the work of the First Committee.

The existence of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, remains a matter of serious concern to all people and countries. The Lao People’s Democratic Republic has consistently held the view that only through the total elimination of nuclear weapons will the international community be able to ensure an absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of such weapons. Therefore, we welcome the General Assembly’s meeting to commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September and the ninth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), on 29 September 2015, which aim at enhancing public awareness of and promoting education on the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons.

We are all well aware that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) has played a significant role in the field of nuclear disarmament. The NPT’s three pillars of nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, which are well articulated, should serve the best interests of the international community. Those three pillars are meant to be implemented equally. Yet, a discrepancy remains, as nuclear disarmament is lagging behind. The Lao People’s Democratic Republic deeply regrets that the ninth NPT Review Conference, held in 2015, could not reach consensus on the very important outcome document, which sets concrete and time-bound actions for nuclear disarmament.

The Lao People’s Democratic Republic welcomes the successful conclusion of nuclear negotiations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the P5+1, resulting in the finalization of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on 14 July 2015. We hope that the agreement will be implemented in full and in good faith.

The Lao People’s Democratic Republic welcomes the convening of the International Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons in Oslo, Nayarit and Vienna and the ninth Regional Roundtable on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons and the Prospects for a Ban Treaty, held in Bangkok.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic stresses the importance of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which aims at promoting nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. However, 19 years after it was opened for signature, the CTBT remains ineffective. That does not bode well for humankind. It is therefore the duty of the international community to ensure the entry into force of the Treaty as soon as possible, and we hope that those countries that have not done so will sign and ratify the CTBT at the earliest date, in particular the remaining eight annex 2 States.

The creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones has significantly contributed to the strengthening of the global nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation regime, as well as the enhancement of regional and global peace and security. The Lao People's Democratic Republic wishes to reiterate that it is essential that the nuclear-weapon States recognize those zones and provide unconditional assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons to all States of the zones. We also wish to re-emphasize the importance of the full operation of the Bangkok Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone and encourage the nuclear-weapon States to accede to its Protocol.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic recognizes the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in nuclear non-proliferation and the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear technology, nuclear safety and nuclear safeguards. The Lao People's Democratic Republic has completed the internal process and signed the IAEA Additional Protocol in November 2014.

Although the Indochina war ended four decades ago, the legacy of war continues to pose serious obstacles to our national development, especially to agricultural production, people's livelihoods and the development of infrastructure, as well as other investment projects in unexploded-ordnance-contaminated areas in most of the provinces of the country. The clearance of unexploded ordnance will take a long time and requires huge amounts of resources. To address the very serious impact that arises from unexploded ordnance, the Lao People's Democratic Republic has been actively promoting the Oslo Convention on Cluster Munitions in order to prevent the further victimization of humankind. The first Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions took place in Croatia in early September 2015, with a view to assessing the

progress and shortcomings in the implementation of the Convention. The Lao People's Democratic Republic takes this opportunity to call upon those countries that are not yet parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions to accede to that universal Convention. At the same time, we also encourage friendly countries and international organizations to continue to provide funding and technical support to our efforts to clear unexploded ordnance in the contaminated areas. We look forward to the sixth Meeting of State Parties to the Convention, to be held in Geneva in 2016.

To date, nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation have progressed at a very slow pace. Expenditures on armaments have skyrocketed, while people are struggling in extreme poverty. In that regard, the Lao People's Democratic Republic stresses the need for strong political will and collective efforts to overcome the current difficult impasse and to re-emphasize the multilateral approach to realizing the ultimate goal of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. Although it is a small country with limited resources, the Lao People's Democratic Republic is a State party to a number of international instruments on disarmament and is committed to the fulfilment of its international obligations under those treaties. The Lao People's Democratic Republic strongly believes that the political will and flexibility of Member States are essential in order to make progress in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as to overcome the challenges posed to the international community by nuclear weapons. It requires more effort from each and every country to work together to achieve the common goals so that the world will be free from fear and the threats posed by all kinds of weapons. My delegation therefore will continue to contribute constructively to the work of the First Committee.

Mr. Toro-Carnevali (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): Allow me to congratulate you, Madam Acting Chair, on your election and to wish you every success in your work. We also wish to express our congratulations to Ambassador Courtney Rattray of Jamaica for his excellent work as Chair of the Committee at the previous session.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Movement for Non-Aligned Countries and by the representative of Ecuador on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (see A/C.1/70/PV.2).

Venezuela reaffirms its call for the implementation of the three pillars of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), namely, nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination or double standards. Venezuela attaches great importance to the efforts of the international community to promote disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We wish to express our full commitment to strengthening the international regime in those areas, while complying with the obligations stemming from those legally binding instruments. Although the NPT Review Conference held in May 2015 did not adopt a final document, because of the refusal of three States to move forward in the process of establishing a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, we are convinced that the international community should remain unwavering in promoting the denuclearization of the Middle East on the basis of agreements freely concluded among States. Convening a conference on a zone free of nuclear weapons in the Middle East, in line with the package of agreements arrived at during the 1995 NPT Review Conference, would be a highly positive step towards contributing to peace and stability. In that regard, we urge all Member States to focus their political and diplomatic efforts to make that conference a reality without delay.

In our country's view, weapons of mass destruction are a threat to international peace and security. That is why their elimination is a priority goal for humankind. Venezuela reaffirms its deep concern about the humanitarian impact and global consequences over the long term of any accidental or intentional use of nuclear weapons. We welcome the International Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons held in Oslo, Nayarit in Mexico, and Vienna for their contribution to the global debate on a world free of nuclear weapons. We recall that all countries of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, gathered in Belen, Costa Rica, in 2015, subscribed to the humanitarian pledge for a world free of nuclear weapons.

Venezuela defends the inalienable right of States to conduct research into and produce nuclear energy and to use it for peaceful purposes without discrimination, in accordance with articles I, II, III and IV of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. In that regard, we welcome the agreement reached between

Iran and the P5+1. We support the full implementation of that historic agreement, which will lead, in the short term, to the full lifting of the sanctions regime applied against that country, as well as other coercive, unilateral and illegal measures that were imposed on other States in their relations of cooperation with that nation. We call on all Member States to respect and fulfil the provisions adopted in that broad agreement. The results obtained underscore the importance of political and diplomatic efforts to find a peaceful solution to that impasse and demonstrate the triumph of diplomacy against war and show that, when there is commitment among parties, peace and dialogue prevail over belligerent discourse, which only fuels mistrust and confrontation.

Venezuela reiterates its condemnation of the use of chemical and biological weapons, regardless of who uses them or where they are used, and expresses its firm commitment to the total elimination of those weapons. In that regard, it emphasizes the need for all States to accede to and ratify the conventions on the prohibition of chemical and biological weapons.

Venezuela reaffirms the importance of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects for multilateral, regional and national efforts in the effective fight against the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, which have a negative impact in various regions of the world. We strongly condemn the transfer of small arms and light weapons by certain Powers to non-State actors as a way of overthrowing Governments and destabilizing regions around the world.

It is estimated that by 2020 more than \$11 billion will have been invested in the drone industry. More than 90 countries have acquired military drones. Their indiscriminate use against civilian and defenceless populations undermines the credibility of the international community in upholding the principles of international humanitarian law and human rights. Venezuela condemns the use of armed drones to carry out extrajudicial killings. We call for the implementation of international law standards and full transparency in the use of those murderous weapons. We should move towards the establishment of an international legal regime that regulates the use of armed drones, especially given the speed and ease with which the increasing production and distribution of those weapons makes them available to non-State

actors and terrorist groups, such as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Sham.

Finally, we emphasize the need for the United Nations disarmament machinery to address, as soon as possible and with full political will, such priority issues as the negotiation of a fissile material cut-off treaty, the prevention of an arms race in outer space, negative security guarantees for non-nuclear-weapon States and a convention on nuclear disarmament.

Ms. Haile (Eritrea): At the outset, let me congratulate you, Madam Acting Chair, and the other members of the Bureau on your elections to steer the work of this important Committee. I assure you, Sir, of my delegation's full support.

My delegation fully aligns itself with the statements made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the Group of African States (see A/C.1/70/PV.2).

Eritrea's foreign and national security policy is anchored in ensuring economic growth and inclusive development and establishing a peaceful and cooperative neighbourhood. Eritrea believes that international peace and security can be guaranteed only through stable and inclusive global economic and social development and full respect for the Charter of the United Nations, international law and treaty obligations.

Peace and security is a shared global responsibility, and no country acting alone can secure its borders from all forms of threats. Regional and international security and issues of disarmament are best addressed through multilaterally negotiated, transparent, comprehensive and non-discriminatory instruments. Eritrea reiterates its commitment to multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament and international security. Our shared future should compel us to demonstrate the necessary political will to move disarmament issues forward substantively.

The problem of the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons continues to plague our region, the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea area, and indeed many other parts of the world. The volume of weapons diverted to the illicit trade and non-State actors is fuelling instability, transnational crime and terrorism to an alarming level. Eritrea believes that combating that phenomenon requires, more than anything else, efforts to enable States to enhance their capacities to

protect their sovereign territories. Undue restrictions on State defence capabilities, such as unjustified arms embargoes, undermines regional and international peace and security. It creates opportunities for extremists and terrorists.

Strengthening the institutional capacities of regional arrangements would meaningfully advance the objective of regulating small arms and light weapons, thereby contributing to regional peace and security. Eritrea will continue to work closely with sisterly countries to advance the 2000 Nairobi Declaration on the Problem of the Proliferation of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa and the work of the Nairobi Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons to eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons from the Horn of Africa.

Nuclear weapons continue to pose a great danger to humankind. Eritrea believes that the sole guarantee against the use, the threat of use and the proliferation of nuclear weapons is their total elimination. Eritrea believes that legally binding negative assurances, the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones and the universalization and early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty are critical steps towards general and complete nuclear disarmament. Eritrea supports the stigmatization of nuclear weapons through the highlighting of their humanitarian consequences and expresses concern that the 2015 Review Conference on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons failed to accommodate that positive development.

In conclusion, let me stress that experience has shown that weapons only fuel insecurity. Disarmament is therefore the only viable tool for attaining a more secure planet. Eritrea believes that international and regional security can be realized only through the pacific settlements of disputes, adherence to the rule of law and global economic cooperation. In that regard, we must go beyond regulation and disarmament to address factors that contribute to and exacerbate conflicts, such as underdevelopment, insecurity, weak States and external intervention and occupation.

Mr. AlAjmi (Kuwait) (*spoke in Arabic*): My delegation wishes, at the outset, to extend to you, Madam Acting Chair, and to the other members of the Bureau our warmest congratulations on your elections to guide the work of the First Committee. We

are confident that your experience and expertise will contribute to its success.

My delegation wishes to express its support for the statements made by the representative of Oman on behalf of the Group of Arab States and the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (see A/C.1/70/PV.2).

The State of Kuwait reiterates its permanent and inalienable positions on issues of international peace and security and disarmament, which are in keeping with the principles of the United Nations and its lofty goal of maintaining international peace and security. That goal cannot be met in the presence of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, the minimum use of which could lead to the elimination of all traces of life on Earth. In that connection, the State of Kuwait hastened to sign and ratify the relevant international treaties and conventions relating to disarmament, such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, as well as other disarmament conventions. We emphasize the importance of those treaties and conventions in efforts to curb the dangers of such weapons, particularly the NPT, which is considered a basis for multilateral work in the areas of international peace and security and disarmament. We also emphasize the need to deal in a balanced manner with the three pillars of the NPT, particularly with regard to the inalienable rights of States to develop research into and use nuclear energy for peaceful uses in accordance with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards regime.

The State of Kuwait would like to state that solutions agreed to within multilateral frameworks in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations provide the sole sustainable method for making progress on disarmament issues. We emphasize the pivotal role of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) and the Disarmament Commission as multilateral frameworks for disarmament negotiations. In that regard, we would like to note the state of stagnation that plagues the international disarmament machinery such as the CD and the Disarmament Commission, which have failed to achieve progress on the matters on their agendas for years, owing to the absence of the political will on the part of some States. That makes it necessary for all

Member States to find ways and means to deal with the growing challenges.

The establishment of zones free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the world constitutes a pre-emptive endeavour aimed at achieving the sublime goal of the United Nations to achieve a world free of such lethal weapons. Some regions, such as the Middle East, are still far from achieving that goal as a result of Israel's position on nuclear weapons and its full disregard of the resolutions of international legitimacy on the need for its accession to the NPT and for it to subject its nuclear facilities to the IAEA safeguards regime. In that connection, Israel continues to evade its obligations emanating from the resolutions of the 1995 and 2010 NPT Review Conferences, which emphasized the need to hold a conference on establishing a Middle East nuclear-weapon-free zone by the end of 2012, which has not been convened as a result of flimsy justifications and false pretexts on the part of Israel, which has rejected the international will and insisted on not acceding to the NPT. In that connection, we would like to express our regret over the failure of the 2015 NPT Review Conference. We call on all States to demonstrate political will and redouble their collective efforts with a view to eliminating nuclear weapons.

With regard to the regional context, we welcome Security Council resolution 2231 (2015), in which the Council endorses the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action concluded by the P5+1 and the Islamic Republic of Iran; that agreement resulted from international diplomatic efforts. The State of Kuwait hopes that Iran will continue its cooperation and full implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, will abide by its obligations under the NPT and Security Council resolutions and will respond to the efforts of the States of the region to establish relations based on cooperation, mutual respect, good-neighbourliness and non-interference in internal affairs. That will help to entrench security and stability in the region.

Despite the growing challenges in the field of disarmament, the progress achieved in some areas gives rise to hope for the use of continued international and regional efforts to create governing legal frameworks to address the adverse effects of the proliferation of weapons. In that regard, we welcome the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 62/32, entitled "Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament". We also emphasize the need to deploy all efforts to hold a high-

level conference on nuclear disarmament no later than in 2018 and to commemorate 26 September every year as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

In conclusion, we hope that our consultations will continue to be characterized by flexibility and transparency and will lead to a consensus that will give rise to achieving the aspirations of all Member States for peace and security.

Ms. Lobo Juarez (Honduras) (*spoke in Spanish*): Allow me to congratulate the members of the Bureau on their elections, as well as the High Representative for Disarmament, Mr. Kim Won-su, for his briefing to the First Committee.

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Ecuador on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (see A/C.1/70/PV.4) and the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (see A/C.1/70/PV.2).

This year, the United Nations is celebrating the seventieth anniversary of its founding and, as a founding Member, we have followed its work, particularly in the First Committee, since its beginning. Unfortunately, we still see massive displacements of people and populations because of highly violent conflicts, despite all that has been accomplished to prevent conflicts. Major conventional wars seem to have been left behind, and that is good. But political instability, extremism, terrorism in its various manifestations and other forms of violence promoted by organized transnational crime afflict our societies on a daily basis and test our Government institutions and our democracy. We therefore consider that the work of the Committee on disarmament constitutes a direct way of contributing to international peace and security. In that regard, we wish to note several points that our delegation considers important.

We recall that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), which opened for signature on 24 September 1996, is a universal treaty that allows for the verification of nuclear tests. That Treaty can be considered a fundamental instrument in the area of disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. Honduras is pleased to report that it is party to the Treaty, having signed and ratified it in October 2003. That is why we regret the fact that, 19 years after its establishment, it is not yet fully in force. In that regard, my delegation

welcomes the fact that to date 183 States have signed it and 164 States have ratified it, including 36 of the 44 whose ratifications are necessary for it to enter fully into force. Honduras urges the countries that have not yet signed or ratified the CTBT to do so without delay and without conditions, with a view to ensuring its immediate entry into force and thereby establishing the basis for a definitive and reliable solution that will help to ensure international peace and security.

The 1967 Tlatelolco Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean established the first nuclear-weapon-free zone in the world in Latin America and the Caribbean and contributes to the work of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean. It also supports the establishment of such zones throughout the world to safeguard humanity, spurring the creation of a stable world in a climate of peace leading to general and complete disarmament.

With regard to small arms and light weapons, Honduras believes that general and complete disarmament under effective international control is a vital issue and represents the wish of the majority of the world population. Therefore, our country welcomes the Arms Trade Treaty as the first legally binding instrument on that subject. Honduras signed the Treaty in 2013 and participated in the first Conference of the State Parties, held in Cancún, Mexico. Our country is convinced that the adoption of the Treaty is in itself a confidence-building measure that will result in greater cooperation among States. The Government of Honduras believes that the illicit traffic in weapons is a cross-cutting scourge that is linked to other global problems, such as the illicit traffic in drugs, terrorism and transnational organized crime, whose devastating consequences continue to cause suffering in our region. We reiterate our intention to comply with the Arms Trade Treaty as a signatory State, and we intend to ratify it in the near future.

The Chair returned to the Chair.

Disarmament can constitute one more tool to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. We believe that the confidence-building measures that are promoted by international disarmament and security would free up many of the resources that developing countries now have to devote to their security and defence and which could instead be devoted to the social and economic development of their people. Honduras welcomes the

humanitarian pledge and invites countries that still have not yet adhered to that initiative to support it; that initiative acts in complement to the legal framework on the nuclear issue.

We conclude by reiterating our commitment to peace and development and human rights, which are the pillars of the United Nations system and the foundation of universal collective security.

Mr. Wai (Myanmar): My delegation joins the previous speakers in congratulating you, Mr. Chair, and the other members of the Bureau on your assumption of the leadership of the First Committee. We can assure you of our full support and cooperation.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and with the joint statement of the Association of Southeast Asia Nations delivered by my own delegation (see A/C.1/70/PV.2).

Myanmar welcomes the establishment and commemoration of 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. Even though it cannot be an instant game-changer, the International Day undoubtedly serves as a gentle nudge to incrementally build up public awareness and support on a global scale with a view achieving the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons. My delegation welcomes the declaration of the States members of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean on the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, inviting the international community to commemorate that International Day as part of the global efforts towards achieving the common goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Myanmar had the honour and pleasure of attending the three International Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of nuclear weapons held in Oslo, Nayarit and Vienna. The strong showing at those conferences demonstrate that the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons are a truly legitimate global concern. In that connection, the humanitarian pledge initiative is gaining prominence and momentum these days. As far as my delegation can recall, it first began with a joint statement, in this Committee, on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. The joint statement came into being with the initiative of Austria and several other like-minded countries, and

the initiative spread like wildfire. The number of supporters of the statement grew year after year. Then, at the 2015 NPT Review Conference at Headquarters in New York, the joint statement came up again, that time endorsed by 160 countries. Credit is due to Austria for having started the humanitarian pledge initiative. While it first emerged as the Austrian pledge, it has now officially become the humanitarian pledge, with 119 States on board. My delegation is closely studying the pledge, with a view to joining it eventually.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is a cornerstone of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In that context, we would like to reiterate the call for all nuclear-weapon States, particularly those with the largest nuclear arsenals, to take, fully and immediately, the 13 practical steps for nuclear disarmament as set out in the final document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference, as well as the 22-point Action Plan on nuclear disarmament in the final document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

Nuclear weapons have the greatest destructive capacity of all weapons. As was affirmed at the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, in 1978, nuclear weapons pose the greatest danger to humankind and to the survival of civilization. For that reason, nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation is accorded the highest priority among my country's international arms-control and disarmament objectives.

We regret the failure of the 2015 NPT Review Conference to adopt an outcome document. However, rather than taking that as a hopeless situation, my delegation believes that we need to focus on other follow-on actions from the final document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference that still require full and effective implementation, including the 22-point Action Plan on nuclear disarmament.

My delegation strongly believes that the internationally recognized treaties on the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions of the world contribute meaningfully to the strengthening of global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regimes. Continued efforts are needed to establish such zones where they still do not exist, including in the Middle East. While we welcome the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, my delegation is of the view that they should not be a substitute mechanism for the total and complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

Pending the achievement of the complete and total elimination of nuclear weapons, it is necessary that nuclear-weapon States credibly provide assurances to all non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. In that context, securing an agreement on a universal, unconditional, irrevocable and legally binding instrument on negative security assurances will be very important.

My delegation continues to maintain its trust and confidence in the relevancy and validity of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) as the sole multilateral negotiating forum for disarmament. During this year, Myanmar had the honour and privilege of taking up the CD presidency from 8 June to 5 July. The lesson we learned from our CD presidency is that the stagnation in the CD is due mainly to the lack of political will on the part of some CD member States. My delegation would therefore like to urge the member States concerned to demonstrate the necessary political will in the deliberations at the Conference on Disarmament.

Like many others, my delegation welcomes the conclusion of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the EU3+3 in Vienna on 14 July. We wish all of the parties concerned great success in the implementation of the JCPOA.

During the tenure of the present Government, Myanmar has raised its profile by taking progressive steps in the field of disarmament. It started with the signature of the Additional Protocol to our International Atomic Energy Agency Safeguards Agreement in 2013. That was followed successively by the ratifications of the Biological Weapons Convention in 2014 and the Chemical Weapons Convention this year. Needless to say, those progressive actions clearly demonstrate our strong commitment and dedication to the cause of disarmament.

Myanmar is a State party to the four Geneva Conventions, and we follow the basic principles of the law of armed conflict. Our armed forces exercise restraint in their military operations. Cluster munitions have never been used in those operations. With the nationwide ceasefire agreement, signed earlier today, there will be a greater prevalence of peace in the country. Myanmar's ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions will possibly be considered, taking into consideration the political, economic and

social circumstances in the aftermath of a nationwide peace agreement.

Mr. Milanović (Serbia): At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chair, and the other members of the Bureau on your elections to guide the work of the First Committee during the current session and to assure you of the full support of the Serbian delegation in the discharge of your important duties. On behalf of my delegation, I wish you every success.

Serbia has aligned itself with the statement made by the observer of the European Union (see A/C.1/70/PV.2). Nonetheless, I shall address some of the priorities from Serbia's point of view and some activities that it has pursued in connection with various topics on our agenda.

The new millennium has brought many changes in the international security arena, which, in addition to traditional threats, is fraught with multiple and complex non-traditional security challenges that seriously affect, not only individual countries, but the international community as a whole. Serbia believes that productive multilateralism has played an indispensable role in addressing those challenges in an effective and sustainable manner. We are convinced that such a vigorous approach in the areas of arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament is needed and is possible, if a spirit of cooperation, compromise and flexibility, as well as a common vision and strategic foresight, are exercised by all. In our view, there is no alternative in a world of increasing interdependence and complexity in which common challenges require common solutions.

Serbia supports all efforts aimed at strengthening global security and promoting international stability. It has acceded to all the major international agreements in the areas of non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control and is committed to the full and systematic implementation of the obligations it has assumed.

Although no consensus was reached on a final document at the 2015 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), we reiterate our strong support for all three pillars of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which is the essential vehicle for preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and for promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy in a nuclear weapon-free world. As such, the NPT should be further strengthened through full compliance with its provisions by all State parties.

Serbia supported and participated actively in the International Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons from their inception, and we reiterate our support for the humanitarian pledge launched by Austria.

My country has taken extensive legislative, regulatory and other measures in order to strengthen nuclear safety. Such measures include our active cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on the Vinča Nuclear Decommissioning Programme, regarding the repatriation of the spent nuclear fuel from the Vinča Institute of Nuclear Science to the Russian Federation. It is one of the biggest technical projects of cooperation in the history of the IAEA and is being carried out with the assistance of our international partners.

Serbia is a staunch advocate of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty as another fundamental pillar of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. It continues to attach great importance to the fulfilment of its obligations under Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). We also call for the opening of negotiations on the fissile material cut-off treaty as soon as possible.

In the context of Serbia's current chairmanship-in-office of the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), I would like to add a few words on the OSCE's engagement in the field of non-proliferation. The OSCE's activities are based on the 1994 Principles Governing Non-Proliferation, which provide, inter alia, a framework for universal adherence to the NPT, the full implementation of existing commitments and the adoption of a common stance in the event of a withdrawal by an NPT party. Particular attention is accorded to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in the OSCE area. In 2011 the OSCE secretariat and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs concluded a memorandum of understanding on a project dealing with the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. The close cooperation of the OSCE secretariat with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and its Group of Experts has resulted in a number of successful national round tables and the adoption of national action plans in Serbia, Croatia, Belarus, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Uzbekistan and Armenia.

Serbia is committed to the full and effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Cooperation with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons continues to develop in many directions, especially in the field of training and the organization of international seminars on assistance, decontamination, detection and protection in the regional CERN Centre in the Serbian town of Kruševac.

Serbia has also acceded to all major international instruments in the field of combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, including the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition, and the International Tracing Instrument.

Serbia ratified the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in October 2014, before it entered into force on 24 December 2014, and actively participated in the first Conference of States Parties to the ATT in Cancún, Mexico, in August this year. We think that the Conference succeeded in creating the necessary framework for reaching the objectives established under the ATT, and we welcome its important substantial and operational decisions.

After the ratification of the ATT last year, we adopted a new national law on the export and import of arms and military equipment and a law on the export and import of dual-use goods, which are in accordance with the criteria and principles of the ATT. Another draft law on the implementation of international restrictive measures is currently in process in our national parliament, and we expect that it will be adopted very soon. In February of this year, the Assembly of the Republic of Serbia adopted a new law on arms and ammunition, which entered into force shortly thereafter and contributed to the legalization of a range of arms and ammunition in Serbia.

Although we have witnessed some important developments in the field of conventional weapons, much remains to be done if we are to address the challenges that we face in a comprehensive and effective way. It is Serbia's strong conviction that international cooperation is the key to progress in resolving the issues relating to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, which can be found in all parts of the globe and sparks and fuels armed conflicts, violence and organized crime, causes most civilian casualties and hinders rebuilding

and development. In that context, we welcome recently adopted target 4 under Sustainable Development Goal 16, which seeks to reduce illicit arms flows by 2030.

I would like to use this opportunity to inform the Committee briefly about the main OSCE activities in the area of conventional arms. The OSCE has promoted a number of specific measures and projects, including norms and principles concerning transfers of conventional arms. In particular, the OSCE was one of the first organizations that, on 25 November 1993, adopted a document entitled “Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers”. The criteria established were a starting point for the documents that other organizations have adopted. The OSCE has adopted a number of other documents, particularly some dealing with export procedures for small arms and light weapons, and participating States are required to submit answers to the OSCE questionnaire on export control every year. The OSCE also adopted a handbook of best practice guidelines on various issues. The majority of OSCE participating States have ratified the ATT, and the OSCE fully supports and will continue to support all activities and goals defined under the ATT.

We hope that the member States of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) will finally consider another essential issue that is of particular interest to my country, namely, the enlargement of the Conference. Every one of us should be given an opportunity to participate in future talks on the revitalization of the multilateral disarmament machinery and take our share of responsibility. We all must demonstrate clear political will to overcome the ongoing stalemate and engage seriously and without delay in substantive discussions on core issues on the CD agenda in order to make a credible contribution to international peace and security. Serbia stands ready to play a very active role in that regard.

Organization of work

The Chair: Before adjourning, as announced at the beginning of this meeting, allow me to touch on the matter of the indicative timetable for thematic discussions. As I stated at the outset of the proceedings of the First Committee, I am committed, as Chair, to the principles of transparency, inclusiveness and neutrality. With regard to chairing the Committee, I have been, I am and I will be guided by statutory requirements, consensus reached in the past and established practice. I would like to stress that I do not consider it in the

remit of the Chair to deviate from that by moving forward with changes to existing arrangements and established practice of the Committee without consensus. That would not be beneficial to the work of the First Committee, and it would be to the detriment of the universal nature of the Committee. It would also hold the risk that the Committee would take time to discuss procedural issues, rather than substantive issues. Any changes, as well as longer-term solutions, to improve the work of the Committee need to be carefully considered by all Member States in order to guarantee transparency and inclusiveness. That is why I engaged in informal consultations, and I will come back to that shortly.

That brings me to the indicative timetable for next week. As I recall from the organizational meeting on 7 October and the informal meeting on 8 October, document A/C.1/70/CRP.2 was issued on 18 September, after completing a silence procedure through the Bureau members. Subsequently, a number of proposals were made with regard to that document. Those proposals had to be carefully considered. I therefore decided to consult Member States on them and, during extensive and very useful consultations and intensive dialogue, maximum efforts were made to reach consensus, and delegations engaged constructively. We all realize that such consultations cannot go on indefinitely. We are under severe time constraints, as, starting from Monday, we will have to start the thematic session and, while not all of the original wishes of all Member States could be accommodated, I believe that there is sufficient common ground to proceed on the basis of document A/C.1/70/CRP.2, with the following understanding.

First, as this year is the concluding year of the review cycle of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the President of the NPT Review Conference will deliver a statement from the floor on the results of the 2015 NPT Review Conference at the beginning of the nuclear-weapons cluster immediately after the high-level exchange on 19 October. That is in line with the established practice of having Presidents of Review Conferences deliver statements in the Committee. That will not prevent the designated delegation from delivering a separate national statement.

Secondly, immediately following the statement by the President of the NPT Review Conference, a national delegation will deliver a statement on behalf of the humanitarian initiative from the floor. That will

not prevent the designated delegation from delivering a separate national statement.

Thirdly, the Chair of the Group of Governmental Experts on the fissile material cut-off treaty, established pursuant to resolution 67/53, will brief the Committee on 20 October, in accordance with the established practice for briefings by Chairs of Groups of Governmental Experts on their final reports. The briefing will take place via videolink.

Fourthly, I acknowledge that there are differences of view with regard to the organization of panels and their participants. The length of our consultations and the depth of our discussions attest to those differences. On the basis of our consultations, I am convinced that those aspects merit careful consideration and should not be left unresolved. Given the current lack of consensus and the time constraints, I believe that those issues would best be addressed in an informal meeting of the Committee on working methods. The date of such a meeting should give delegations ample time to prepare for such a discussion. To help provide a solid base for those informal consultations, the Secretariat and the Office for Disarmament Affairs will provide us with a non-paper outlining past practices, the results of earlier consultations and possible options for improving the working methods of the Committee.

It is clear that several delegations see merit in organizing a panel on the nuclear-weapons cluster, for example. But others expressed concern that adding additional panels to the timetable would be to the detriment of national statements. I believe that it would be beneficial to all Member States if clear criteria were developed with regard to the organization of the panels and their participants. The informal meeting should also discuss ways to include regional organizations in panels at future sessions, in the light of the strong wish of several Member States that the Secretary-General of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean be given a more prominent role in the proceedings of the Committee, and representatives of other regional organizations might have similar wishes. I intend to convene such an informal meeting on working methods of the Committee in November or December. That is the way the Chair intends to proceed.

Ms. Janjua (Pakistan): I thank you very much, Mr. Chair, for all your efforts and the efforts of your delegation in trying to find consensus on the issue

that you have raised. We believe that there is a need for more time. We still have tomorrow, and we would request the Chair to take the discussions forward then. All delegations need the time to consider the specific proposal that has been made by you now. We would request that this matter be postponed until tomorrow, so that we can have further time and opportunity to look into the matter, discuss it with other delegations, and other delegations would also have an opportunity to find a way to achieve consensus.

The Chair: In response to the points raised by the representative of Pakistan, I would say the following. First, we have invited speakers for next week. Secondly, we have already held extensive consultations. Thirdly, I do not see the time available tomorrow. I suggest, therefore, that we proceed now in order to ensure proper procedure and to allow for all decision-making procedures to be completed in the hallway.

Ms. Janjua (Pakistan): I think that the best way out is to have further consultations. I have already indicated our point of view on that. I think all delegations need the time and the opportunity to discuss this matter further and to ensure that we can come to some kind of consensus in a manner that is most suitable to the work of this Committee.

The Chair: I have taken note of the statement just made, which will be fully reflected in the official records. In the meantime, the thematic discussions will proceed as I described earlier.

Ms. Janjua (Pakistan): We do not agree with this method of work, and we will have to proceed accordingly. Kindly take this as an objection, Sir. We cannot accept this ruling.

The meeting was suspended at 5.40 p.m. and resumed at 6 p.m.

The Chair: I now give the floor to the Permanent Representative of Pakistan.

Ms. Janjua (Pakistan): We have just seen this paper, a copy of which you, Sir, kindly handed over to us just now. It is the first time we have seen it and, obviously, we need to consult on it. When we looked at it after seeing it in writing, I can say that we completely agree with your proposal to organize an informal meeting on the working methods of the First Committee. That is an important proposal, because the working methods were last looked at a decade ago. It is now an opportunity and

it is important for us to look at the working methods of the Committee. We strongly support this proposal.

With regard to the other elements in the paper, as you know, we had clearly indicated opposition on one of the matters. As we have now seen the paper, we will communicate it to our capital and we will be back with our point of view on one of the issues being discussed in this paper. We appreciate this possibility for more time and for a possibility to discuss with other delegations and with the capital the specific matter of concern for us that we have been repeatedly raising within your discussions on the conference room paper. I thank you, Sir, for the possibility to have more time and to get back to you on this matter tomorrow.

The Chair: I take note of the request of the Permanent Representative of Pakistan.

First, the discussion takes place on the basis of what I said during this meeting. I want to be very clear about this, not on a non-paper. I conclude that on all issues, except the one mentioned by Pakistan — and let us be explicit, the briefing by the Group of Governmental Experts on the fissile material cut-off treaty — we will proceed as described. I will revisit the one issue mentioned by Pakistan now, and I would respectfully ask the representative of Pakistan to inform the Chair as early as possible tomorrow morning after consultations with the Chair, and then we will revisit that one issue tomorrow at the beginning of the meeting, and for the rest we will proceed as was discussed. I thank the representative of Pakistan for her understanding.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.