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General and complete disarmament

Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/64/50.



I. Introduction

1. On 2 December 2008, the General Assembly adopted resolution 63/50, entitled “Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation”. In paragraph 8 of the resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the issue of the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation and to submit a report thereon to it at its sixty-fourth session.

2. Pursuant to that request, on 24 February 2009, a note verbale was sent to Member States inviting them to provide information on the subject. The replies received are reproduced in section II below. Additional replies received will be issued as addenda to the present report.

II. Replies received from Governments

Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]
[9 April 2009]

Lebanon is in favour of effective measures being taken to oppose risks that threaten international peace and security which arise from the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It also supports agreements related to disarmament and arms regulation that are based on multilateral negotiations in which a large number of countries participate, regardless of their size or power. The aim is to achieve complete disarmament by dint of rigorous international monitoring. Lebanon believes that increased multilateralism is a major way of advancing negotiations on that matter and devising more comprehensive global measures, and renews its commitment to multilateral cooperation, considering such cooperation an important way of achieving common aims in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. At the same time, Israel’s continued maintenance of a huge arsenal of weapons of mass destruction constitutes a direct threat, not only to Lebanon, but to all the countries of the region, and imperils international security and peace.

Qatar

[Original: Arabic]
[9 April 2009]

The State of Qatar supports multilateralism in the area of disarmament and believes that multilateral agreements should be concluded under the aegis of the United Nations or its specialized agencies, thereby achieving United Nations goals in respect of the harmonization of Member State efforts to maintain international peace and security.

United Arab Emirates

[Original: Arabic]

[29 May 2009]

Introduction

1. In its resolutions 63/50 and 63/51, the General Assembly addresses the observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control and the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, and invites Member States to communicate information on measures they have adopted in these areas.

2. Measures adopted by the United Arab Emirates to implement the two resolutions include:

(a) Accession to international agreements and treaties:

(i) The United Arab Emirates has acceded to the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

(ii) The United Arab Emirates has acceded to the 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the Protocol thereto;

(iii) In 2003, in accordance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the United Arab Emirates concluded a safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency;

(iv) The United Arab Emirates has acceded to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material;

(v) The United Arab Emirates has acceded to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade;

(vi) The United Arab Emirates has acceded to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction;

(vii) The United Arab Emirates has acceded to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction;

(b) Enactment of legislation on monitoring radioactive materials and limiting environmental damage caused by them:

(i) Federal Law No. 1 of 2002 on the regulation and monitoring of radioactive sources and protection against their dangers, as amended by Federal Law No. 20 of 2006;

(ii) Federal Law No. 55 of 2004 on basic regulatory guidelines for handling ionizing radiation in the United Arab Emirates;

(iii) Federal Law No. 56 on regulatory guidelines for the secure transport of radioactive material in the United Arab Emirates;

(iv) Federal Law No. 57 of 2004 on regulatory laws for managing radioactive waste in the United Arab Emirates;

(c) The United Arab Emirates has taken part in international conferences, forums and workshops on disarmament and non-proliferation, and held forums on issues related to arms limitation and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Conclusion

3. The United Arab Emirates believes in the settlement of differences among nations through peaceful means and follows the principles of dialogue and negotiation to resolve conflicts between States. The United Arab Emirates calls for the resolution of its dispute with Iran over the return of its occupied islands Abu Musa, the Greater Tunb and the Lesser Tunb on the basis of dialogue and reason through international mediation or the International Court of Justice, in keeping with its commitment to the application of the principles of international law in such matters. The United Arab Emirates calls for the establishment of a Middle East zone free of all weapons of mass destruction (biological, chemical and nuclear).
