



General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 July 2019
English
Original: Arabic/English/Spanish

Seventy-fourth session

Items 100 (b), (l) and (p) of the preliminary list*

General and complete disarmament

Nuclear disarmament; follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons; reducing nuclear danger

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present annual report refers to the efforts undertaken to facilitate the implementation of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation agreements and contains a compilation of views submitted by Member States.

* [A/74/50](#).



Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	3
II. Observations	3
III. Information received from Governments	6
Austria	6
Cuba	7
Honduras	9
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	9
Iraq	10
Mexico	11
Spain	12
Ukraine	13

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to requests contained in General Assembly resolutions [73/50](#), [73/56](#) and [73/64](#).
2. In paragraph 3 of resolution [73/64](#), the General Assembly requested all States to inform the Secretary-General of the efforts and measures which they have taken with respect to the implementation of that resolution and nuclear disarmament, and requested the Secretary-General to apprise the Assembly of that information at its seventy-fourth session.
3. In paragraph 22 of resolution [73/50](#), the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its seventy-fourth session a report on the implementation of that resolution.
4. In paragraph 5 of resolution [73/56](#), the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to intensify efforts and support initiatives that would contribute to the full implementation of the seven recommendations identified in the report of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters that would significantly reduce the risk of nuclear war ([A/56/400](#), para. 3.), and also to continue to encourage Member States to consider the convening of an international conference, as proposed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration (resolution [55/2](#)), to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its seventy-fourth session.
5. By note verbale dated 31 January 2019, Member States were invited to communicate their views on the issue. Replies received from Member States are included in section III below; any replies received after 15 May 2019 will be posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs¹, in the language of submission only. No addenda will be issued.

II. Observations

6. Since the previous report ([A/73/116](#)), States have undertaken various efforts to facilitate the implementation of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation agreements. In particular:
 - (a) A high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate and promote the International Day against Nuclear Tests was held on 6 September 2018 at United Nations Headquarters. Opening statements were made by the President of the seventy-second session of the Assembly, Miroslav Lajčák (Slovakia) and by the Secretary-General. The Executive Secretary of the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the Honorary Ambassador of the ATOM Project also delivered statements. Following the opening ceremony, a plenary debate was held to highlight the importance of achieving the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty to put a legal and verifiable end to the testing of nuclear weapons and other nuclear devices;
 - (b) Pursuant to the declaration, by the General Assembly, of 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (resolution [68/32](#)), the meeting to commemorate that day was held on 26 September 2018. It was chaired by the President of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly, María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés (Ecuador). The Secretary-General marked the occasion with a message in which he highlighted that the only way to eliminate the threat posed by nuclear weapons was to eliminate the weapons themselves. As was the case in

¹ www.un.org/disarmament.

2017, civil society also made an important contribution to the commemoration and promotion of the International Day. Statements were delivered by representatives of non-governmental organizations;

(c) The Disarmament Commission was unable to convene its substantive session in 2019. Several attempts to convene organizational meetings were inconclusive. It became clear that the Commission would not be able, this year, to fulfil the mandate given to it by the General Assembly in resolution [73/82](#). However, the willingness of delegations to engage informally, as demonstrated by good attendance at informal consultations on the substantive agenda items facilitated by the chairs of the two working groups, suggests that next year, the Commission will be able to return to the normal format of its deliberations on the most pressing issues of the global disarmament agenda;

(d) As at 5 July, the Conference on Disarmament had not adopted a programme of work for its 2019 session, despite the efforts of successive Presidents and continuous work on several draft programmes. Substantive discussions were, however, held under each item on the Conference's agenda, under the guidance of its successive Presidents for the 2019 session;

(e) The two nuclear-weapon States with the largest arsenals continued to implement the reductions agreed to in the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms. According to information provided by the parties, the United States and the Russian Federation met the central limits on strategic arms of the Treaty. As at 1 March 2019, according to the data provided by the parties on their aggregate holdings of strategic offensive arms, the Russian Federation possessed 524 deployed intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine-launched ballistic missiles and heavy bombers and 1,461 warheads on those systems, and the United States possessed 656 deployed intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine-launched ballistic missiles and heavy bombers and 1,365 warheads on those systems. The Treaty will remain in force until 5 February 2021 unless it is superseded earlier by a subsequent agreement on the reduction and limitation of strategic offensive arms or the parties decide to extend it by no more than five years.

7. In addition to the efforts discussed above, the following other multilateral initiatives have been pursued that could contribute to the achievement of a world without nuclear weapons:

(a) At the ninth ministerial meeting of the Friends of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in New York on 27 September 2018, ministers for foreign affairs and other high-level representatives of States adopted a joint ministerial statement, in which they recognized the Treaty's contribution to international peace and security and reaffirmed their determination to pursue its entry into force;

(b) The third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was held in New York from 29 April to 10 May 2019. Syed Md Hasrin Syed Hussin (Malaysia) was elected to chair the meeting. The session achieved several procedural outcomes to facilitate the 2020 Review Conference, which will be held in New York from 27 April to 22 May 2020, such as the adoption of the provisional agenda and the rules of procedure, as well as the endorsement of the President-designate of the Review Conference. The session was unable to produce a report containing substantive recommendations to the Review Conference. The Chair chose to convey the draft recommendations to the Review Conference in the form of a working paper under his own responsibility ([NPT/CONF.2020/PC.III/WP.49](#)). The Chair also produced a document entitled "Reflections of the Chair of the 2019 session of the Preparatory Committee" ([NPT/CONF.2020/PC.III/14](#)), in which he sought to

highlight common ground among States parties and urged them to seek compromise. On key disarmament matters, States parties underlined the necessity of fully and effectively implementing the decisions and the resolution adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference, and the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions of the 2010 Review Conference, including the action plan. With respect to other regional issues, two joint statements were delivered. One, entitled “Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons: Noncompliance by the Syrian Arab Republic” (NPT/CONF.2020/PC.III/12/Rev.1) was supported by 52 States parties. The second, entitled “Addressing the North Korean nuclear challenge” (NPT/CONF.2020/PC.III/13) was supported by 70 States parties;

(c) The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (A/CONF.229/2017/8) will enter into force 90 days following the deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification. As at 5 July 2019, 70 States had signed the Treaty and 23 had ratified it;

(d) The report of the high-level fissile material cut-off treaty expert preparatory group, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/259, was transmitted by the Secretary-General to the Assembly at its seventy-third session (A/73/159) and to the Conference on Disarmament prior to its 2019 session (CD/2152). With funding from Canada, the Office for Disarmament Affairs implemented a project in support of the consultative process of the preparatory group to facilitate the involvement of Member States in discussions on fissile material and possible future negotiations. Three regional workshops for African, Asian and Pacific, and Latin American and Caribbean Member States were held in early 2018. Also in 2018, the Office for Disarmament Affairs commenced a multi-year project financed by the European Union, pursuant to Council Decision (EU) 2017/2284, to provide support to States in the African, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and Caribbean regions to participate in the preparatory group’s consultative process;

(e) At the meetings of the First Committee during the seventy-third session of the General Assembly, in October 2017, the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the League of Arab States introduced a draft decision entrusting to the Secretary-General the convening, no later than 2019, of a conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. The draft decision was subsequently adopted as General Assembly decision 73/546. Subsequent to the adoption of the decision by the Assembly and following consultations with States of the region, it was decided that the conference would be held from 18 to 22 November 2019 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The participating States of the region endorsed Jordan as President-designate of the conference.

8. Despite some progress in implementing nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation agreements and pursuing new initiatives to support those goals, setbacks and growing impatience with the slow pace of progress have persisted. In particular:

(a) Despite substantive discussions at the 2019 session, the Conference on Disarmament has not resumed negotiations;

(b) While efforts towards reducing existing stockpiles are acknowledged, the estimated total number of nuclear weapons, deployed and non-deployed, still amounts to several thousand. Moreover, States continue to rely on nuclear weapons in defence and security policies and undertake programmes to modernize their weapons, delivery systems and related infrastructure;

(c) The Democratic People's Republic of Korea maintained its announced moratoriums on nuclear explosive tests and launches of long-range ballistic missiles. The diplomatic efforts that began in 2018 have continued in 2019, including through meetings between the Head of State of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Heads of State of China, the Republic of Korea and the United States. The key parties concerned remained unable, however, to reach an agreement on how to advance the objectives of complete and verifiable denuclearization and sustainable peace on the Korean Peninsula.

9. Pursuant to the Secretary-General's agenda for disarmament, entitled "Securing our Common Future", launched on 24 May 2018 in Geneva, the Secretary-General and the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs will continue strengthening their efforts to facilitate dialogue among Member States, through engagement in formal and informal settings, in order to help Member States to return to a common vision and path leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

III. Information received from Governments

Austria

[Original: English]
[15 May 2019]

Against the background of consistent Austrian support for nuclear disarmament efforts and its constitutional law (No. 149/1999) on a nuclear-free Austria, Austria strongly supports the conclusion and recommendations for follow-on actions agreed upon at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and is also particularly engaged in overcoming the current lack of effectiveness of the United Nations disarmament machinery, in particular that of the Conference on Disarmament, and the resulting absence of substantive multilateral disarmament negotiations. Additionally, Austria is confronted with a potential falling apart of crucial elements of the disarmament architecture, a development that could be considered even more concerning than 20 years of stalemate within the Conference on Disarmament.

Building notably on the 1996 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, Austria is convinced of the need to fundamentally change the discourse on nuclear weapons and to foster the understanding that any use of nuclear weapons would be morally repugnant and devastating in its effects for the whole world and all of humankind. Consequently, it is difficult to envisage how any use of nuclear weapons could be compatible with international law, in particular with the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law. Austria considers the mere existence of nuclear weapons to be unacceptable, given the risks of their use, either intentionally or by accident or mistake, and the resulting unacceptable humanitarian consequences.

The humanitarian initiative has re-emphasized the important fact that nuclear weapons concern not only the security of the few States possessing them, but also that of all States of the world. This is true not only with regard to the spread of nuclear weapons to additional States, but also with regard to those already in existence. As reflected in the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the devastation caused by a nuclear war would be visited upon all mankind, not only upon the States immediately involved militarily. The final document of the 2010 Review Conference acknowledges that by referring explicitly to the principle of undiminished security for all. In view of the humanitarian consequences and risks of nuclear weapons, undiminished security for all will only be attained by the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Austria has therefore vigorously supported nuclear disarmament efforts, which it considers an obligation for all States. The humanitarian considerations have become a decisive factor for the negotiations for a legal instrument prohibiting nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination, which took place within the United Nations framework in March, June and July 2017 in New York. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted in July 2017 by 122 States. Together with 50 other States, Austria signed the Treaty in September 2017, on the margins of the General Assembly. On 8 May 2018, Austria ratified the Treaty.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons represents the first concrete result of multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations since the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in 1996. It contributes, in particular, to the implementation of article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, thereby strengthening the latter as a whole. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons constitutes an impressive manifestation of the view of the vast majority of States that nuclear weapons, far from providing security, are actually an existential threat for humanity, owing to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of their use. Austria submitted a working paper on the security implications of nuclear weapons to the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, held in Geneva from 23 April to 4 May 2018. In addition, based on its stance on nuclear disarmament as a foreign policy priority, Austria submitted several papers to the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference, held in New York from 29 April to 10 May 2019.

Furthermore, Austria would like to refer to the importance of recognizing, within the Non-Proliferation Treaty and its review cycle, the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and the need to comply at all times with international law and international humanitarian law. Since the previous Review Conference in 2015, the progress of international discussions on the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons proceeding from the outcome of the 2010 Review Conference has been a momentous development in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Those discussions have led to accumulated evidence on how any use of a nuclear weapon would have a disastrous, far-reaching and long-term impact. In order to underline the urgency of nuclear disarmament, help fundamentally change the discourse on nuclear weapons and foster the understanding that any use of nuclear weapons would be morally repugnant and devastating in its global effects, Austria submitted a working paper on that issue, jointly with 29 other States, to the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference. Austria remains committed to engaging in multilateral negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects, under strict and effective international control, including under the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[25 April 2019]

Twenty-three years after the International Court of Justice unanimously concluded that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control, the existence of nuclear weapons continues to pose a serious threat to the survival of humankind.

Cuba attaches great importance to the promotion of multilateralism as a basic principle in disarmament and non-proliferation negotiations. In that regard, Cuba has participated actively in the major multilateral forums, emphasizing its strong

commitment to nuclear disarmament as the highest priority and to non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects.

The State of Cuba, pursuant to the Constitution of the Republic of Cuba of 2019, promotes general and complete disarmament and rejects the existence, proliferation or use of nuclear weapons, weapons of mass destruction or other weapons with similar effects.

Cuba is honoured to have become, on 30 January 2018, the fifth State to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, demonstrating the deep-seated pacifist and multilateral stance of the Cuban Government and people, and the country's commitment to a world free of nuclear weapons.

We call for the early entry into force of the Treaty, which, in addition to declaring nuclear weapons and the so-called nuclear-deterrence doctrine to be illegal and providing a framework for the total and complete elimination of such weapons, prohibits any type of tests.

On the occasion of the commemoration of the International Day against Nuclear Tests, on 6 September 2018, Cuba reaffirmed its position against all types of nuclear weapons tests – not only explosion tests but also subcritical tests and others that employ sophisticated methods. We support their full and effective prohibition as well as the closure and dismantling of all facilities and associated infrastructure used for such purposes.

Since the General Assembly declared 26 September as International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (resolution [68/32](#)), Cuba has participated in the commemorative meetings held every 26 September. In 2018, in his address during the general debate at the seventy-third session of the General Assembly, the President of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers of Cuba, Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, confirmed the country's commitment to multilateralism and nuclear disarmament.

As a State party to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean that created the first nuclear-weapon-free zone in a densely populated area and part of a region formally proclaimed as a zone of peace, Cuba has called upon nuclear-weapon States and others protected by the so-called nuclear umbrella to fulfil their unequivocal obligations under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

At the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in Geneva from 23 April to 4 May 2018, Cuba reiterated its principled position against military doctrines based on the possession of nuclear weapons, which it considers to be unsustainable and unacceptable.

Furthermore, both in the Disarmament Commission in New York and in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, Cuba has expressed its concern about the ongoing modernization of nuclear weapons and the political manipulation based on double standards of some nuclear powers, which fail to comply with their legal obligations in the area of non-proliferation. Of even greater concern is the fact that some States envisage the use of nuclear weapons against States that do not possess them, in response to attacks using non-nuclear weapons.

Honduras

[Original: Spanish]
[8 May 2019]

Honduras, as a State party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, confirms that it is not an adherent, nor does it possess nuclear facilities or nuclear weapons, nor did it participate in the development, production, testing, deployment or storage of equipment under this category in 2018. Accordingly, Honduras submits a nil report in respect of nuclear disarmament. The State of Honduras is in compliance with the international agreements and rules to which it adheres.

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

[Original: English]
[8 March 2019]

The nuclear holocaust committed by the United States of America in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 proved that nuclear weapons constitute the most serious threat for the survival of humankind and that any use of nuclear weapons would have catastrophic humanitarian consequences. The only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is their total elimination and assuring that they will never be produced again.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is firmly committed to pursuing the realization of the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world through the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Accordingly, Iran has consistently strived to promote the nuclear disarmament objective in relevant multilateral forums. Iran has continued to support the General Assembly resolutions on nuclear disarmament.

In the context of the review process of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Iran has persistently called for the implementation of nuclear disarmament obligations undertaken under article VI of the Treaty. Iran has also expressed its deep concern over the continuing non-compliance of nuclear-weapon States with their nuclear disarmament obligations.

The current lack of progress in the field of nuclear disarmament is largely a consequence of the aggressive nuclear posture of the United States, coupled with its clear non-compliance with bilateral and multilateral obligations on nuclear disarmament. It is a policy that stresses the utility of retaining nuclear weapons indefinitely; threatens to strike non-nuclear-weapon States and in response to non-nuclear threats; pursues the development and deployment of new low-yield nuclear weapons; and plans to spend \$1.2 trillion in 30 years on a tremendous build-up and modernization of its nuclear arsenal. This poses the gravest threat to the objective of nuclear disarmament and the future of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Iran has called upon the nuclear-weapon States to commit to refraining from pursuing policies that are inconsistent with their obligations under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Iran has proposed that the Final Document of the 2020 Review Conference should include a clear commitment by all nuclear-weapon States to cease completely and immediately all plans aimed at upgrading and refurbishing their existing nuclear weapons and their means of delivery, and developing new types of nuclear weapon systems.

Iran has underlined that the implementation of the obligation, under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to pursue negotiations in

good faith on effective measures relating to nuclear disarmament is absolutely unconditional. As unanimously concluded by the International Court of Justice in its advisory opinion of 8 July 1996, “the legal import of that obligation goes beyond that of a mere obligation of conduct; the obligation involved here is an obligation to achieve a precise result – nuclear disarmament in all its aspects – by adopting a particular course of conduct, namely, the pursuit of negotiations on the matter in good faith.”

Iran has consistently advocated in the Conference on Disarmament the commencement of negotiations on and the early conclusion of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use and to provide for their destruction.

Iran has supported the early convening of the United Nations high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament. Such a conference provides the international community of States with a valuable opportunity to review the progress made regarding nuclear disarmament. This conference can be utilized to advance the objective of a nuclear-weapon-free world, including by making concrete decisions, such as identifying a deadline for the total elimination of nuclear weapons worldwide.

Iran has underlined that any use or threat of use of any type of nuclear weapon, under any circumstances, would be contrary to Article 2, paragraph 4, of the Charter of the United Nations, the general principles of international law and the rules and regulations of international humanitarian law, and would constitute a crime against humanity. Iran asserts that even resorting to Article 51 of the Charter cannot, in any way and under any condition, justify the use or threat of use of these inhumane weapons.

Iraq

[Original: Arabic]
[26 March 2019]

The Government of Iraq attaches great importance to the issue of disarmament. Consequently, it has acceded to all the main disarmament treaties and reaffirms its full commitment to the implementation of all their provisions and the fulfilment of its obligations under those instruments, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which Iraq ratified in 1969, and the model additional protocol of the comprehensive safeguards regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Iraq has also acceded to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

The Government of Iraq adheres to conventions and treaties on disarmament and non-proliferation because it believes that universal accession to and compliance with international conventions on weapons of mass destruction, without discrimination, and the total elimination of such weapons provide the international community with the only genuine guarantee against the use or threat of use of such weapons, in addition to helping to achieve international peace and security.

Nuclear disarmament is one of the fundamental elements and priorities of the foreign policy of Iraq, in accordance with the special role defined in the final document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament held in 1978, and the conclusion reached by the International Court of Justice in its 1996 advisory opinion that the devastating nature of such weapons makes their total elimination essential to the survival of the human race, and that their continued existence remains a threat to international peace and security. Iraq therefore voted to adopt the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons ([A/CONF.229/2017/8](#)),

adopted on 7 July 2017 by the States Members of the United Nations by an approximate two-thirds majority.

Iraq calls for negotiations to begin on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified time frame.

The Government of Iraq affirms that the only guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is the total elimination of nuclear weapons, in a gradual manner that will help to build confidence among States parties to the Treaty. It is necessary to reach agreement on the need for a binding international instrument under which nuclear-weapon States will provide assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Identifying the means by which significant progress towards this goal can be made would give States outside the Non-Proliferation Treaty incentives to accede to it.

The Government of Iraq underscores the need to comply with the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996, in which the Court affirms that the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is contrary to the provisions of international law on armed conflict, and that States have an obligation to pursue negotiations leading to disarmament in all its aspects under strict international control.

The Government of Iraq stresses that nuclear terrorism is one of the greatest and most serious threats to international security. Stringent nuclear security measures are needed in order to prevent nuclear material from falling into the hands of terrorists and other unauthorized parties. That is why the demand to rid the world of nuclear weapons is a legitimate one that will deliver the world from the threat of nuclear terrorism.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[15 May 2019]

Mexico believes that the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons constitutes a violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, contravenes the principles of international humanitarian law and would constitute a war crime.

Mexico strives to build a more peaceful and secure world, based on international law, and the peaceful settlement of disputes over weapons, or over the use or threat of use of force.

Mexico attaches great importance to the 1996 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, in which the Court notes the obligation to pursue in good faith, and to bring to a conclusion, negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control. Mexico therefore considers that striving for disarmament means defending and strengthening the purposes and principles of the United Nations as well as complying with the constitutional principles that govern its foreign policy.

As a country, Mexico is committed to multilateralism and believes that only through multilateral approaches and solutions is it possible to reach agreements and forge strategies to address global challenges in areas as diverse as international security, development policy, climate change, human rights and the progressive development of international law.

Mexico encouraged States that support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to sign and/or ratify it with a view to its early entry into force, with the result that the instrument had 60 signatories and 19 States parties in 2018.

The negotiation of that Treaty is consistent with the obligation set out in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and contributes to its implementation.

Mexico participated in the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which was held from 29 April to 10 May 2019 in New York.

In the context of the First Committee of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly, in 2018, Mexico was a co-author or main sponsor of the following resolutions on disarmament issues:

- (a) 73/48, Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons;
- (b) 73/59, United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education;
- (c) 73/68, Ethical imperatives for a nuclear-weapon-free world;
- (d) 73/70, Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments;
- (e) 73/79, United Nations Disarmament Information Programme;
- (f) 73/86, Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty;
- (g) 73/514, Nuclear disarmament verification.

Spain

[Original: Spanish]
[15 May 2019]

Spain promotes international security and stability and is sensitive to the humanitarian aspect of conflicts. It supports the steps taken towards achieving a world without nuclear weapons, which must be gradual and realistic and in keeping with the strategic stability of all States.

Spain is a non-nuclear country and is a State party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Spain recognizes the fundamental pillars, including non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, of that valuable treaty, and the crucial importance of its verification tool, overseen by the International Atomic Energy Agency, for fostering and maintaining confidence and transparency among States.

Spain agrees with the conclusion of the International Court of Justice that negotiations should be conducted between the nuclear-weapon States, especially those with the largest arsenals, as called for in article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, with a view to advancing the reduction of their arsenals and achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world. Spain also supports nuclear verification as a means to enhance confidence and transparency. In this regard, it is important for the United States and the Russian Federation to implement the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms Treaty, which is of great importance to the entire international community and should be preserved and ambitiously expanded. Similarly, consideration should be given to the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, whose implementation must be ensured. Both bilateral commitments should serve as a benchmark for other nuclear countries. Regarding multilateral negotiations, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action reached between Iran, the United States, the Russian Federation, China, the United Kingdom, France and Germany is notable and should also serve as a benchmark for new initiatives.

In order to achieve stability and promote peace in the Middle East, the conference to establish a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems in the Middle East must be held. In that regard, countries in the region should make further efforts to ensure the conference is held as soon as possible and is inclusive.

Spain believes in multilateral mechanisms as a means to preserve international peace and security. In this regard, Spain is convinced as to the effectiveness of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which constitutes the key to nuclear disarmament, supported and reinforced by other independent instruments, such as the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which Spain signed on 24 September 1996 and ratified on 31 July 1998, the control of exports and the fight against illicit trafficking, to which Spain contributes through its participation in other international projects, such as the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and the Proliferation Security Initiative.

Ukraine

[Original: English]
[15 May 2019]

Ukraine is fully committed to the pursuit of nuclear disarmament in accordance with article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Ukraine recognizes the continued need for concrete progress towards the full implementation of article VI, especially through negotiations on effective measures aimed at terminating the nuclear arms race and making progress on nuclear disarmament in the near future.

Ukraine supports the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones worldwide, including in the Middle East.

Ukraine, as a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and as a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Zangger Committee, has been exercising control over international transfers of goods that could be used for the creation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. Ukraine has also taken measures for the establishment of responsibility and penalties for violations of national legislation in this area in order to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices.

In 2004, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted Decree No. 86, which sets out the procedures for international transfers of dual-use goods, including nuclear goods. The lists of the dual-use goods that are subject to the above-mentioned procedures are attached as annexes 1–5 to the Decree. The structure and content of the lists correspond to the control lists of the international export control regimes, such as the Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies, the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Australia Group.

In order to ensure transparency in transfers, and pursuant to its national legislation, Ukraine submits reports to IAEA on international transfers of specified equipment and non-nuclear material listed in annex II to the Protocol Additional to the Agreement between Ukraine and IAEA for the Application of Safeguards in Connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Pursuant to paragraph 7.8 of the Understandings of the Zangger Committee, Ukraine submits reports to the Secretariat every year on the licenses issued for the transfer, to non-nuclear-weapon States that are not parties to the Treaty, of goods specified in the trigger list and intended for peaceful purposes.

Ukraine follows the view that the IAEA safeguards system is a fundamental component of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and plays an extremely valuable role in the implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.