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General and complete disarmament**Confidence-building measures in the regional and
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* [A/74/50](#).



I. Introduction

1. In its resolution [73/35](#), the General Assembly reaffirmed the ways and means regarding confidence- and security-building measures set out in the report of the Disarmament Commission on its 1993 session, and it called upon Member States to pursue these ways and means through sustained consultations and dialogue, while at the same time avoiding actions that may hinder or impair such a dialogue. Furthermore, the Assembly urged States to comply strictly with all bilateral, regional and international agreements, including arms control and disarmament agreements, to which they are party. The Assembly also emphasized that the objective of confidence-building measures should be to help to strengthen international peace and security and to be consistent with the principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments, and it encouraged the promotion of bilateral and regional confidence-building measures, with the consent and participation of the parties concerned, to avoid conflict and prevent the unintended and accidental outbreak of hostilities. It requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at its seventy-fourth session containing the views of Member States on confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request and on the basis of information received from Member States.

2. In that connection, a note verbale was sent to all Member States on 4 February 2019, requesting their views. To date, replies from the Governments of Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Greece, Kyrgyzstan, Poland and Qatar have been received and are reproduced in section II below. Any views received after 15 May 2019 will be posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs in the language of submission. No addenda will be issued.

II. Replies received from Governments

Bahrain

[Original: Arabic]
[25 April 2019]

The Kingdom of Bahrain welcomes the resolution on confidence-building measures at the bilateral, subregional and regional levels in the political and military fields, including arms control and disarmament. It also welcomes the commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes under Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means; as well as the call upon States to refrain from the use or threat of use of force and to comply with all bilateral, regional and international agreements, including arms control and disarmament agreements to which they are party, thereby helping to strengthen international peace and security.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

[Original: English]
[20 March 2019]

The Agreement on Sub-regional Arms Control was negotiated on the basis of article IV of annex 1-B of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Annexes thereto (the Dayton Peace Accord), under the auspices

of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and was signed in June 1996.

It is an international agreement regulating the possession of conventional weapons with the aim of establishing and sustaining a military balance, as well as building trust and enhancing security in the territories of the States parties. It establishes a system of measures and procedures for reducing the number of armaments to the mutually agreed level. Rights and obligations that derive from the Agreement are legally binding.

Therefore, it uses elements from the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and contains clearly defined limits in the following five categories of conventional arms: battle tanks, armoured combat vehicles, artillery, combat aircraft and attack helicopters.

The main goal of the adopted measures is to rebuild peace and stability in the region and at the same time maintain a balance by limiting certain categories of conventional arms.

During more than 22 years of implementation of the Agreement, 10,000 pieces of heavy weapons that were limited under the Agreement have been destroyed; more than 700 inspections of declared sites and 130 inspections of reductions have been conducted; and all parties have continued with the reductions of armaments on a voluntary basis and have brought their holdings to below the threshold of the agreed numerical limitation. The process of downsizing the number of personnel in defence forces has also continued.

The most important outcome of more than two decades of implementation of this important Agreement is the sense of transparency that now exists among the four States parties, as well as a strong will to cooperate and keep the Agreement viable and relevant.

Over the course of 22 years, the parties have accumulated a very valuable volume of expertise and practical experience on the application of the Agreement. The parties are willing to share it with everyone, wherever the need exists for such a mechanism of post-conflict rehabilitation and the establishment of lasting peace and confidence.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[25 April 2019]

The Latin American and Caribbean region has contributed to the establishment of a favourable environment for the development of confidence-building measures in the region, and, along with extraregional actors, to the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace at the second Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, held in Havana, Cuba. That Proclamation represents the region's commitment to preventing war and resolving regional conflicts by peaceful means. The Proclamation and its message of peace must be heeded and respected by both regional and extraregional actors.

If used appropriately, confidence-building measures contribute to maintaining international peace and security. They should therefore be preserved and improved in order to prevent and avoid international conflicts. The following confidence-building measures should be considered:

(a) Notification of and invitation to observe military activities and manoeuvres, whenever possible, in order to demonstrate that there is no hostile intent;

- (b) Limitation of military manoeuvres;
- (c) Transparency in military matters;
- (d) Cooperation between military forces in order to address incidents, risks and crises.

Appropriate implementation of confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels can help to promote regional and subregional stability and prevent the outbreak of armed conflict. In that regard, and in order to be effective, confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels should:

- (a) Enhance understanding, transparency and cooperation among States;
- (b) Abide by the norms and principles of international law, including respect for sovereignty and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, the renunciation of the use or threat of use of force, cooperation among States and the fulfilment in good faith of provisions assumed under international law;
- (c) Promote the peaceful settlement of disputes;
- (d) Remain voluntary in nature and be conducted with the consent and participation of all parties involved;
- (e) Take into account the interests, needs and characteristics of each country, region or subregion.

Cuba supports the Guidelines for Confidence-building Measures adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations and the Disarmament Commission and considers them a necessary step towards achieving security and maintaining subregional, regional and international peace.

Dominican Republic

[Original: Spanish]
[12 March 2019]

The Ministry of the Interior and Police of the Dominican Republic considers the content of the resolution to be very positive and accurate, given that disputes must be settled by non-violent means in order to achieve peaceful coexistence in a globalized world. To that end, it is vital to promote national, regional and global dialogue and integration in order to prevent armed conflict.

Cooperation among States, mediation and the use of scenarios that take into account the region's intrinsic characteristics, which should be considered when seeking an alternative mechanism for conflict resolution, also play key roles.

The promotion of a culture of peace and compliance with international norms and their inclusion in domestic legislation, respecting the frameworks and the right to self-determination of each State; compliance with bilateral, regional and international agreements; and the exchange of information, good practices and experiences should be regarded as valuable tools for building confidence at the regional and subregional levels.

Our country is firmly committed to integration into the international community and to cooperation. This commitment is expressly stated in article 26, paragraphs 1 and 2, of our Constitution, according to which the Dominican Republic is a State open to cooperation and attached to the norms of international law. Consequently, our country recognizes and applies the norms of international, general and American law, to the extent that its public authorities have adopted those norms and that the norms

in force under international conventions that have been ratified will apply domestically, once they have been officially published.

We also have a domestic and international legal framework that welcomes, promotes and fosters measures for dialogue and peaceful settlement of conflicts (there is no armed conflict or violence in our country per se, apart from incidents that occur in the context of common crimes, such as theft, murder, domestic violence and drug trafficking).

Through the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in particular, our country has hosted events and meetings to promote dialogue and seek solutions by consensus for various political, social, economic, security and other regional and international issues.

Moreover, with regard to citizen security, the Ministry of the Interior and Police has hosted and participated in a number of events aimed at addressing arms control, peaceful coexistence and citizen security, training and institutional and inter-institutional strengthening, and the exchange of information and experiences at the national, regional and international levels.

The Dominican Republic is also committed to ensuring transparency, reporting to the monitoring bodies and making its reports public, and providing public information and information requested by interested parties, subject to the confidentiality procedure.

Egypt

[Original: Arabic]
[9 May 2019]

The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt supports efforts by the United Nations and all regional organizations to promote confidence-building measures with a view to maintaining international peace and security by ensuring compliance with and implementation of all relevant General Assembly resolutions. Those resolutions provide for the promotion of security and stability, the peaceful settlement of disputes and the non-use of force in international relations, in addition to fostering confidence-building measures and transparency among States. The United Nations resolutions adopted by consensus on confidence-building measures at the global, regional and subregional levels are therefore fundamental to effective implementation of such measures by States, taking into account the particularities of each geographic area, thereby helping to promote security, stability and cooperative relations among States.

The Arab Republic of Egypt stresses that disarmament measures aimed at fostering a stable and sustainable security situation at the regional level contribute to building confidence and maintaining peace between States. It should also be noted that more effective implementation of disarmament measures would allow resources allocated to weapons systems to be used to contribute to the economic and social development of the States in greatest need, thereby creating a climate conducive to dialogue and cooperation between States, which, in turn, would reduce the intensity of conflicts and provide impetus to peacebuilding measures.

The Middle East is a clear example of a region in need of progress on both the disarmament and peacebuilding tracks, with a view to creating an environment conducive to building confidence and fostering a spirit of cooperation among the various parties. Progress achieved on one track at the expense of the other will not bring about the desired outcomes, namely, containing armed conflict and consolidating joint cooperation to promote security and prosperity. It should be noted that many States in the region have already taken action to promote confidence-building measures at the bilateral, regional and subregional levels. Nevertheless, the

stalled disarmament process continues to have a negative impact on efforts to promote confidence-building measures and build a sustainable peace in the region. In particular, attempts to implement the resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, as well as Security Council resolutions 487 (1981) and 687 (1991) and numerous General Assembly resolutions on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, have been blocked at every turn. The absence of an effective mechanism to achieve the objective of disarmament in the region will only fuel conflict and disputes, thereby imperilling regional peace and stability.

The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt stresses that the United Nations is the primary forum in which to discuss the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East in an institutional context and in an effective manner. In that context, the Group of Arab States introduced General Assembly decision 73/546 on convening a conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. That decision was adopted by the General Assembly in 2018.

The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt stresses the importance of achieving the objectives of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, chief among them the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, as provided in article VI of the Treaty. That objective must constitute a priority for the United Nations and the international community, as nuclear weapons remain a major cause of regional and international instability.

Lastly, the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt wishes to highlight that confidence-building measures must be aimed at promoting international peace and stability, in addition to creating a regional climate governed by constructive and sustainable cooperation among States, with armament kept at a minimum. This would create an environment conducive to effective and sustainable regional cooperation among the States of the region and help to prevent armed conflict.

Greece

[Original: English]
[15 May 2019]

Greece, through the Hellenic Ministry of National Defence, has launched various defence collaboration initiatives in bilateral, trilateral and multilateral schemes with neighbouring countries in the regional and subregional context, in order to strengthen dialogue, develop a common risk assessment and enhance transparency. The objective is to promote the creation of a common defence cooperation platform aimed at creating an arc of stability extending from the Black Sea and the Balkans to the Eastern Mediterranean.

Kyrgyzstan

[Original: English]
[15 April 2019]

The Kyrgyz Republic, in the field of confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context, conducts its activities in accordance with its commitments under the Vienna Document 2011 on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and the joint control group under the Agreement between the Russian Federation, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan and the People's Republic of China on confidence-building in the

military field in the border area, signed on 26 April 1996, and the Agreement on the mutual reduction of armed forces in the border area, signed on 24 April 1997, and in the framework of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia.

Poland

[Original: English]

[14 May 2019]

Poland remains committed to the regional security architecture based, inter alia, on conventional arms control regimes and confidence- and security-building measures. The three major arrangements – the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, the Vienna Document and the Open Skies Treaty – remain the cornerstone of the security system in the Euro-Atlantic space. Poland strictly complies with all arrangements and calls upon all participating States of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to do likewise. In fact, Poland believes that compliance is a precondition for rebuilding trust and revitalizing cooperative security in Europe. Regrettably, the current security environment in the region is characterized by a lack of trust caused by Russian aggression against Ukraine, Russia's decision to suspend its participation in the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, and Russia's reluctance to engage in the process to modernize confidence- and security-building measures.

Poland's efforts are aimed at strengthening the existing arrangements, which need to be modernized and updated. Acting in a constructive way, Poland has proposed a modernization of paragraph 17 in chapter III of the Vienna Document, proposing a draft decision on strengthening cooperation with regard to hazardous or dangerous incidents of a military nature, which is supported by 35 of the 57 OSCE-participating States. Poland is also a co-sponsor of another nine proposals aimed at modernizing the Vienna Document, including on lowering thresholds for prior notification and observation, improving verification options for evaluation visits and introducing new regulations concerning the so-called snap exercises. Moreover, to address the issue of increased military activity in the region, in 2017, Poland launched an initiative for voluntary briefings on military exercises in the OSCE Forum for Security Cooperation. About 20 OSCE-participating States decided to conduct such briefings in 2017 and 2018. Furthermore, under chapter IX of the Vienna Document, Poland has concluded two bilateral agreements on military transparency with its neighbours, Belarus and Ukraine. In order to increase transparency and confidence, mutual inspection visits are taking place each year on a parity basis. The agreements function well and contribute to the fostering of regional stability and predictability.

Poland remains engaged in the OSCE structured dialogue process – a format initiated at the OSCE Ministerial Council in December 2016. Poland hopes that this process will help to restore trust and mutual understanding in the OSCE area. Hence, the structured dialogue process can be viewed as a confidence-building measure in itself.

Qatar

[Original: Arabic]

[15 May 2019]

- Commitment should be maintained to the universality of international agreements on weapons of mass destruction and other agreements of a humanitarian nature.

- Strict compliance should be maintained with all bilateral, regional and international agreements, including disarmament agreements, to which they are party.
 - Confidence-building measures and mechanisms should be put in place to implement those agreements in order to avoid conflict and achieve regional peace and security.
 - Confidence-building measures should contribute to the exchange of information among States at the regional and subregional levels. Ongoing assessment and review should be conducted by the parties concerned in the areas of technological advancement of scientific and military equipment and means of communication. Compliance with the principle of security at the minimum level of armament should be enforced.
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