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General and complete disarmament

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

Report of the Secretary-General

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	2
II. Replies received from Governments	2
Burkina Faso	2
Cuba	3
India	4
Mexico	7
Spain	11

* A/77/50.



I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 76/40 on the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the subject and to submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its seventy-seventh session.

2. Pursuant to that request, note verbales were sent to Member States on 14 February 2022 inviting them to provide information on the subject. The replies received are set out in section II below. Any views received after 31 May 2022 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

Burkina Faso

[Original: French]
[31 May 2022]

For Burkina Faso, multilateralism is a core principle that should govern negotiations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. Burkina Faso is convinced that a multilateral approach is needed to curb the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and ensure rigorous control of conventional arms transfers at the international level.

Burkina Faso has ratified all treaties and conventions concerning conventional weapons, including the Arms Trade Treaty, the Economic Community of West African States Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials, and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The entire international community should be involved in combating trafficking in small arms and light weapons, through a strong commitment to regulating the trade in such weapons. Burkina Faso welcomes the actions taken in connection with the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the International Tracing Instrument.

Burkina Faso does not manufacture or import cluster munitions. It calls for a halt to the production of such weapons and the destruction of existing stocks, as these weapons are a hindrance to development in countries that have been contaminated by them. It calls for the universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Burkina Faso supports a total ban on anti-personnel mines, meaning that it opposes the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of those mines and calls for countries that possess such mines to destroy them. It calls for international cooperation and assistance in relation to mine clearance operations in affected countries.

Nuclear weapons are a threat to the survival of all humankind, owing to the unimaginable consequences that they could have. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is the cornerstone of collective security. Burkina Faso therefore calls for its universalization and for its fair application, without any conditions. Burkina Faso welcomes the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. It calls for the effective application of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty and the universalization of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. With regard to other weapons of mass destruction, Burkina Faso calls for the universalization of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and

Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction.

In sum, Burkina Faso calls for multilateral action to promote disarmament and for efforts to combat non-proliferation.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[31 May 2022]

Multilateralism faces enormous challenges today. There are growing threats to international peace and security; the number of conflicts is increasing; unjust and illegal sanctions and unilateral coercive measures are being imposed on developing countries; the survival of the human species is compromised by irrational patterns of production and consumption; an arms race is growing exponentially, squandering resources that should be devoted to sustainable development and to achieving the desired global immunization against the pandemic.

In this context, the role of the United Nations, international cooperation and the peaceful settlement of disputes are ever more relevant.

It is essential to abide by the purposes and principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, to preserve existing agreements on disarmament and arms control which have been the result of international cooperation and multilateral negotiations, and to comply with the binding obligations undertaken. This is the most effective way to contribute to safeguarding international peace and security.

Cuba is a country that champions international law and is committed to the Charter of the United Nations, which will always uphold peace. Cuba, a founding Member of the United Nations, has demonstrated and reaffirms its commitment to the promotion, preservation and strengthening of multilateralism in international relations.

As an active member of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, we have supported the promotion of multilateralism as a basic principle in disarmament and non-proliferation negotiations.

The contradictions and threats with regard to disarmament and non-proliferation, which stem from the continued existence of nuclear weapons and their development and modernization, security policies and military doctrines based on nuclear deterrence, the emergence of new and modern lethal weapons and plans to militarize outer space and cyberspace, among other current challenges, require multilateral efforts to achieve negotiated and peaceful solutions, under Article 33 of the Charter of the United Nations.

There is a need for continued progress, through coordinated action on arms regulation, non-proliferation and disarmament on the basis of universal, non-discriminatory and transparent multilateral negotiations at the United Nations, with a view to achieving general and complete disarmament under strict international control.

We express our deep concern and alarm at the latent danger of a nuclear conflagration, the devastating effects of which no nation would escape. The total elimination of nuclear weapons in a transparent, verifiable and irreversible manner is and must remain the highest priority in the field of disarmament. This would be the sole guarantee against the use or threat of use of these weapons.

We must continue to promote the universalization of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Cuba is proud to be the fifth State to have ratified it, to be part of the first nuclear-weapon-free zone in a densely populated area of the planet and to belong to the first region in the world to be proclaimed a Zone of Peace.

Cuba, upon assuming the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament, called on all its members to renew their commitment to this forum. It is encouraging that a decision has been taken to reactivate the work of this body, a key component of United Nations disarmament machinery. It is now necessary to fulfil its negotiating mandate, ensure its vitality and preserve its procedures and practices.

We are convinced that the Conference has the capacity to simultaneously negotiate a legally binding instrument banning the arms race in outer space; another that would offer security assurances to States that, like Cuba, are not nuclear-weapon States; and a third that would ban the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other similar devices.

Moreover, a renewed commitment is needed to make progress on legally binding, multilaterally agreed initiatives to prohibit the militarization of outer space and cyberspace and the development of lethal autonomous weapons.

The multilateral decision-making process of the United Nations, with equal rights for all States and in strict observance of the Charter and the principles of international law, is the only viable way to prevent the international system from becoming a mechanism for the imposition and legitimization of unilateral measures contrary to the multipolar, just and equitable world order we need.

India

[Original: English]
[31 May 2022]

Effective multilateralism is a sine qua non for fostering international peace and security and addressing the contemporary challenges to disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has highlighted that strengthened multilateralism, enhanced international cooperation and a stronger United Nations are the need of the hour.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his address to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session, recalled that if the United Nations is to keep itself relevant, it has to improve its effectiveness and increase its reliability. India, as a non-permanent member of the Security Council for the period 2021–2022, had the honour of presiding over the Council presidency in August last year. During its presidency, India drew the attention of the world to important issues affecting international peace and security, including maritime security, peacekeeping and counter-terrorism.

In the context of current geopolitical developments, India strongly believes that every effort must be made to advance multilateralism in the area of disarmament to make a meaningful contribution to global peace and security.

India's nuclear policy history provides perspective on its relentless advocacy for multilateral efforts towards global general and complete disarmament. As early as 1953, India's efforts led to the inclusion, in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution [715 \(VIII\)](#), of an affirmation of its "earnest desire to reach agreement as early as possible on a comprehensive and coordinated plan, under international control, for the regulation, limitation and reduction of all armed forces and all armaments, for the elimination and prohibition of atomic, hydrogen, bacterial, chemical and all such other weapons of war and mass destruction, and for the attainment of these ends through effective measures". India's conviction that a

nuclear-weapons-free world is safer for all world nations is as strong today as it was in 1954, when India became the first State in the world to make a visionary call for a “standstill agreement” to ban nuclear testing pending progress towards a comprehensive disarmament agreement.

Recognizing early on that a treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons is not an end in itself but only a means to an end, which is the achievement of general and complete disarmament, in 1965, India, along with seven other States of the Non-Aligned Movement in the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament, presented a joint memorandum on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, which called for non-proliferation efforts to be coupled with or followed by tangible steps to halt the nuclear arms race and to limit, reduce and eliminate the stocks of nuclear weapons and the means of their delivery. In 1982, India called for a “nuclear freeze” – a prohibition of the production of fissile materials for weapons and of nuclear weapons and related delivery systems. India’s action plan for a nuclear-weapon-free and non-violent world order, presented at the United Nations in 1988, called for the attainment of the goal of nuclear disarmament in a time-bound and phased manner. In 1996, India, along with the Group of 21, presented a programme of action to the Conference on Disarmament for the elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified time frame.

India has been consistent in its support for global, verifiable and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament. India strongly believes that this can be achieved in a time-bound manner through a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed global and non-discriminatory multilateral framework; India’s working paper presented to the Conference on Disarmament in 2007, [CD/1816](#), precisely sums up this approach through a number of proposals that remain relevant to date. In line with our vision, India has supported the negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer and use or threat of use, and to provide for their destruction, as also supported by the Non-Aligned Movement.

As the world’s single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, as mandated by the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, the Conference on Disarmament should demonstrate the requisite political will to agree on a comprehensive and balanced programme of work and to commence negotiations on legally binding instruments on the core items on its agenda. India is participating constructively in the meetings of the subsidiary bodies established this year at the Conference on Disarmament. It is our hope that substantive work in the subsidiary bodies can pave the way for the negotiation of legally binding instruments in the Conference on Disarmament. Without prejudice to the priority we attach to disarmament, India looks forward to negotiations commencing immediately at the Conference on Disarmament on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices based on [CD/1299](#) and the mandate contained therein. Acknowledging the utility of technical work on nuclear disarmament verification, as well as its value as an essential element of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons, India has been participating in the meetings of the Group of Governmental Experts to consider the role of verification in advancing nuclear disarmament.

India is pleased that the Disarmament Commission, a vital part of the disarmament triad, which also comprises the Conference on Disarmament and the First Committee of the General Assembly, convened its substantive session this year, after a gap of almost three years. As the main deliberative body within the United Nations on disarmament issues, the Commission’s role as a platform for dialogue and cooperation, bringing together universal membership of all Member States, is

significant. The Commission has made important achievements in the past, having successfully adopted several guidelines and recommendations. India attaches high importance to the Commission's work and looks forward to constructive dialogue that can achieve convergences and achieve the aims set out by the first special session devoted to disarmament.

India's annual resolutions at the General Assembly, namely on the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons and on reducing nuclear danger, which enjoy the support of the majority of the Member States, have consistently highlighted the need for the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations to reach agreement on an international convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and urgent steps to reduce the risks of unintentional and accidental use of nuclear weapons, respectively. India is cognizant of the need for enhanced international cooperation and for the promotion of peaceful uses of science and technology through technology transfer, the sharing of information and the exchange of equipment and materials. India's annual resolution on the role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament, adopted by consensus, calls on Member States to remain vigilant in understanding new and emerging developments in science and technology that could affect international security. Through its annual consensus General Assembly resolution on measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, India has been drawing the attention of the world to these threats and the need to strengthen international cooperation to address them.

As a major spacefaring nation and developing country, India is committed to maintaining outer space as an ever-expanding frontier for cooperative endeavours of all spacefaring nations. India continues to support substantive consideration of the prevention of an arms race in outer space within the multilateral framework of the United Nations. We remain committed to negotiation of a legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, to be negotiated in the Conference on Disarmament. India was an active participant in the Group of Governmental Experts on Further Practical Measures for the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, which concluded its session in March 2019.

India is a party to various disarmament conventions and treaties, including the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction; the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction; 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; and the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. Besides proactively pursuing disarmament efforts at the Conference on Disarmament, the Disarmament Commission and the First Committee, India, as a responsible member of various multilateral export control regimes and stringent national export controls, contributes to advancing common objectives of non-proliferation. India attaches great priority to the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects as an important consensus-based multilateral instrument on small arms and light weapons and looks forward to the eighth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects later this year.

India is committed to promoting an open, secure, stable, accessible, and peaceful information and communications technology (ICT) environment that is centred on openness, integrity, stability, diversity and security of the supply chains

through a multi-stakeholder approach. The conclusion of the United Nations processes of the Group of Governmental Experts on Advancing Responsible State Behaviour in Cyberspace in the Context of International Security and the Open-ended Working Group on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security have anchored a broader framework for the new working group. We hope that the new working group will function as a democratic, transparent and inclusive platform for addressing the existing and emerging challenges in the use and security of ICT products and systems.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]

[31 May 2022]

Mexico is submitting this document pursuant to General Assembly resolution 76/40, entitled “Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation”, in which the Assembly requests the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

Mexico has been a historic ally of multilateralism as a privileged means of addressing the most pressing international challenges facing humanity. In accordance with the principles governing its foreign policy, it advocates the peaceful settlement of disputes in order to reach agreements on, and develop strategies for, addressing challenges in all international agendas.

Mexico promotes the implementation, universality and entry into force of international treaties on chemical and biological disarmament, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, a comprehensive nuclear test ban and the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

Mexico will continue to submit draft resolutions, individually or jointly with likeminded States, to the First Committee of the General Assembly with a view to achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Mexico recalls that the very first resolution adopted by the General Assembly, in 1946, reflects the will of the membership concerning “the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and of all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction”. Since the adoption of its first resolution 75 years ago, the United Nations has recognized the primary role of multilateral diplomacy in the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Mexico is convinced – as were all the States that adopted the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament – that disarmament and arms limitation, particularly in the nuclear field, are essential in preventing the danger of nuclear war and strengthening international peace and security and in promoting the economic and social advancement of all peoples.

Mexico recognizes the differentiated impacts of both weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons on women and girls, as well as their impacts on the environment.

Mexico endorses the declaration of the General Assembly on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, in which the Assembly affirms that multilateralism is not an option but a necessity; and that there is no other global organization with the legitimacy, convening power and normative impact of the United Nations. Mexico also supports the vision of the Secretary-General, outlined in his report entitled “Our Common Agenda”, on the need to work for a stronger, more networked and inclusive multilateral system, anchored within the United Nations.

Mexico deems greater participation of women and young people in the debates on disarmament and non-proliferation issues as unavoidable, and recognizes their contribution to the realization of disarmament and non-proliferation agreements. In accordance with the new visions of effective multilateralism, Mexico recognizes the role of non-governmental organizations, organized civil society, academia and international organizations as key actors supporting current disarmament and non-proliferation negotiations. Participatory diplomatic dialogue is the only way to forge effective and inclusive multilateralism.

Mexico rejects any action that paralyse and undermine the legitimacy of collective security mechanisms, as well as actions that aggravate the trust deficit in the validity and effectiveness of multilateralism. Mexico advocates the adoption and approval by the Conference on Disarmament, the permanent forum for multilateral disarmament negotiations, of a programme of work to fulfil its mandate, namely, to negotiate multilateral disarmament agreements. With every year that it fails to fulfil its mandate and merely deliberates, the Conference, in addition to usurping the functions of the Disarmament Commission, distances us from the possibility of making further progress in the treaty-based disarmament architecture agreed upon at the first special session devoted to disarmament.

Mexico promotes assessment of the need to convene a new special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (a fourth special session), or some other mechanism for reflection to reframe the institutional conceptualization of forums that are proving to be out of step with the demands of the public conscience of the twenty-first century. This is crucial in view of the proposal for a new agenda for peace set out in the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda”.

Mexico reaffirms that States should refrain from resorting or threatening to resort to unilateral actions or directing unverified non-compliance accusations against one another to resolve pending disarmament and non-proliferation issues.

Mexico recognizes the value of the resumed dialogue among the main nuclear weapons possessors and hopes that it will provide an impetus for the Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to reaffirm multilateralism in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, with the renewal of commitments and obligations of all parties to the Treaty to move towards a nuclear-weapon-free world.

Nuclear-weapon States must adhere to their joint statement issued in January 2022, in which they affirmed that “a nuclear war cannot be won and therefore must never be fought,” and urgently seek to fulfil their nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation obligations and commitments.

Mexico is concerned at policies recently adopted by the nuclear-weapon States, which reflect a trend towards vertical proliferation and a lack of transparency – policies that are accompanied by huge budget increases for the modernization of arsenals, even in a time of pandemic. Such measures do not spur confidence to fulfil the obligation to prevent an arms race.

Under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, each of the Parties to the Treaty is called on to undertake to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race. That treaty continues to be a fundamental benchmark for achieving nuclear disarmament multilaterally.

Some of the actions carried out by Mexico between 2021 and 2022 are:

(a) Mexico voluntarily submitted its respective national reports and contributions, in compliance with General Assembly resolutions and with its obligations as a State party to international treaties and instruments;

(b) Mexico participated actively and decisively, at the regional level within the framework of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), and in interregional groups such as the New Agenda Coalition, which promotes compliance with nuclear disarmament obligations and commitments in accordance with article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. It also participated, along with States holding various positions on the matter, in the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI) focused on implementing commitments on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation reached within the framework of the Non-Proliferation Treaty;

(c) Mexico has worked with the core group and supported the presidency in preparation for the first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to implement the legal and technical provisions on the prohibition of these weapons of mass destruction. At the multilateral level, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is fully complementary with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones, including the Treaty of Tlatelolco. Mexico has continued to urge States that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons;

(d) Mexico has participated substantively in the preparatory negotiations for a fourth conference of States Parties to the treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones;

(e) Mexico supports the activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as the multilateral body in charge of implementing the safeguards system provided for in the Non-Proliferation Treaty;

(f) The invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation represents a challenge to multilateralism and to the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation architecture. As a member of the IAEA Board of Governors, Mexico has supported the work of the Director General to verify, in a professional and transparent manner, the status of nuclear facilities, equipment and radioactive materials under the jurisdiction, of Ukraine in terms of physical, radiation, technological and safeguards safety;

(g) Within the framework of the IAEA Board of Governors, Mexico has also emphasized the importance of maintaining the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, especially in the context of the degradation of multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation schemes. Mexico maintains that full implementation of Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) lays the groundwork for allowing Iran to make legitimate use of its right to nuclear technologies for peaceful purposes, in addition to providing a mechanism for verifying its compliance with its nuclear non-proliferation obligations;

(h) The provisional operation of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty verification regime provides a crucial multilateral monitoring mechanism for maintaining the de facto moratorium on nuclear testing. It is troubling that 25 years after it was opened for signature, this Treaty has not yet entered into force. Mexico will continue to urgently call on Annex II States that have not yet done so to ratify the Treaty;

(i) Mexico actively participated in the ninety-sixth, ninety-seventh, ninety-eighth and ninety-ninth sessions of the Executive Council of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, as well as in the second part of the twenty-fifth

session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction;

(j) Mexico also participated in the 2020 Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, its Meeting of Experts and the meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Ninth Review Conference;

(k) As an elected member of the Security Council (2021–2022), Mexico promoted resolution [2616 \(2021\)](#) on the impact of the trafficking and diversion of small arms and light weapons on international security, aimed at reducing strategic risks such as supplying non-State actors, as well as to reduce violence and human losses in non-conflict countries;

(l) Mexico attended the Seventh Biennial Meeting of States on the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects;

(m) In the field of conventional disarmament, Mexico has participated actively and decisively in:

(i) The Sixth Review Conference of States Parties to 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;

(ii) Three sessions of the Group of Governmental Experts related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems in 2021;

(iii) The negotiating process for a political declaration on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas;

(iv) Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction;

(v) Second Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and its intersessional meetings;

(n) Mexico has made numerous efforts to advocate, in accordance with its feminist foreign policy, for recognition of the differentiated impacts of both weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons on women and girls, as well as their impacts on the environment;

(o) Mexico wishes to highlight the participation of a Mexican expert in the Group of Governmental Experts established by General Assembly resolution [74/50](#) entitled “Nuclear disarmament verification”;

(p) During the work of the First Committee at the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly, Mexico, with the support of other States, was a co-author or main sponsor of the following resolutions on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation:

(i) Resolution [76/30](#): Humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons;

(ii) Resolution [76/34](#): Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons;

(iii) Resolution [76/49](#): Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments;

(iv) Resolution [76/25](#): Ethical imperatives for a nuclear-weapon-free world;

(v) Resolution [76/66](#): Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Mexico also participates actively in the following multilateral forums, groups and mechanisms in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation:

- Conference on Disarmament
- Disarmament Commission
- International Atomic Energy Agency
- Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
- Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization
- Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Nuclear Suppliers Group
- Australia Group
- Wassenaar Arrangement
- Non-proliferation and Disarmament Initiative
- Creating an Environment for Nuclear Disarmament (CEND) Initiative
- International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification

Spain

[Original: Spanish]
[31 May 2022]

The twenty-first century has changed the collective perception of international security and its concept. The confluence of new actors, challenges and threats that exacerbate the uncertainty and complexity of our times has made security one of the priorities of the international community.

The Strategic Compass for Security and Defence of the European Union, approved by the Council of the European Union on 21 March 2022, is the new reference for European security. In the document, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery is identified as a persistent threat, given the nuclear programmes of North Korea and Iran, the repeated use of chemical weapons, and the development and deployment of new advanced ballistic, cruise and hypersonic missiles. The Russian Federation and China are expanding their nuclear arsenals and are developing new weapons systems, and regional powers have access to sophisticated conventional weapons systems. In order to promote disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, the European Union will continue to support the centrality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; the reduction of the arsenals of the principal nuclear-weapon States in accordance with the agreements adopted after the new START Treaty; the maintenance of the global prohibition on chemical weapons, as well as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

In the 2021 National Security Strategy of Spain, the “proliferation of weapons of mass destruction” is identified among the risks and threats to national security and “strengthened multilateralism” is cited as an objective to be achieved under its third strategic pillar: “A Spain that participates in the maintenance of international peace and security and defends its strategic interests”. Such strengthened multilateralism translates into the identification of three lines of action:

- Enabling preventive diplomacy and the role of Spain as an active and committed actor in mediating external conflicts.

- Helping to intensify support for the international regime for the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and disarmament, through the updating of the international control, export and monitoring regime.
- Promoting the implementation of the objectives of the Second National Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security to integrate a gender perspective and make a reality the meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention, management and resolution, and peacebuilding.

In June 2020, the President of the Government of Spain, in collaboration with the National Defence Council, issued National Defence Directive 1/2020, a basic document that set in motion a defence planning cycle, which in its different stages covers a six-year period.

The defence of Spain is based on the one hand, on its own capabilities and strengths as a contribution to national security conceived as an integrating whole, and, on the other hand, on the practice of an effective multilateralism in which our interests and values are better defended and promoted.

I. Defence of multilateralism

Cyberattacks, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the expansion of radicalized movements and groups, both armed and unarmed, flows of migrants and refugees, trafficking in persons, and the rise of radical ideologies are emerging realities that require multilateral responses, political will and cooperation in order to contribute to peace and international stability through substantive results.

The rapid development of new technologies and their widespread use entail a new paradigm in the area of non-proliferation and make it more complex, as in the case, for example, of controls on intangible transfers of information and knowledge. This also applies to the development of new weapons systems, such as remote weapons systems, of particular concern from a humanitarian perspective. To this end, States should multilaterally identify and take the measures needed to maintain effective controls on access to weapons and the related technologies, as well as to continue to guarantee compliance with the principles of the law of armed conflict when such weapons are used.

These observations lead us to the questions of how these challenges should be addressed, and what the necessary and most effective ways to address them are. A multidisciplinary strategy that encompasses the fields of intergovernmental cooperation, the development of joint monitoring and tracking tools, the exchange of information and the establishment of new controls or the revision of existing ones will undoubtedly be required. The scope of the strategy encompasses national defences, strengthened multilateral instruments and organizations, cooperation for development, the eradication of illicit trafficking, as well as a range of other issues.

We must provide effective solutions to combat international security risks. The most appropriate road map is political and diplomatic agreement, which should be reflected in legally binding agreements on disarmament and arms control.

Spain is highly involved in the promotion of peace processes and in revitalizing and bringing innovation to the multilateral system with a view to transforming it into an instrument for peace, stability, advancement and progress. This requires arms reduction and control, the promotion of support for the non-proliferation of weapons, and disarmament, as well as efforts to combat the inequalities of globalization, since this is the only way to come close to achieving the dream of a peace that ranges from security and intercultural coexistence to the balanced and sustainable development of the planet.

Accordingly, Spain is contributing to the effective implementation of treaties and conventions, mainly through the international and regional organizations to which it belongs, such as the United Nations, the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), through a comprehensive contribution in the political, economic and technical spheres.

The existence of an effective multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation system based on effective compliance is key to the fulfilment of the obligations imposed on States. This multilateral approach not only increases the system's effectiveness, but also gives it important legitimacy.

There is a need to strengthen the effectiveness of the international system through more cohesive instruments, greater political commitment and further legally binding agreements, thus maintaining the credibility of the system and preventing a weakening of the system by avoiding the emergence of initiatives with objectives that overlap with those of existing treaties and agreements, whose achievements are evident. Regulations should require the fulfilment of the obligations assumed by States and foster rigorous and transparent verification systems accepted by all States. The capacity for consensus should also be expanded in order to establish legal frameworks that lead to real progress in the areas of peace, security, cooperation and global progress.

As a global and European actor, Spain is strongly committed to reforming multilateralism, meaning that we should be more involved in updating international relations as well as their mechanisms and institutions.

A responsible non-proliferation and disarmament policy requires the promotion of an effective multilateral system by:

- Promoting the universalization, defence and strengthening of treaties, conventions, agreements and international regimes, while avoiding parallel initiatives pursuing objectives that overlap with those of the main disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and conventions, and that are independent of the review processes of such treaties and conventions, since they would weaken those processes and call their effectiveness into question.
- Seeking comprehensive political solutions that prevent, deter or stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction or conventional weapons.
- Integrating policy on non-proliferation and disarmament into general security policy.
- Considering the possibility of including "non-proliferation clauses" in bilateral and regional relations.
- Strengthening the role of the Security Council.
- Promoting the national fulfilment of international obligations.
- Improving the effectiveness of verification mechanisms through political, economic and technical support.
- Strengthening import and export control systems relating to defence and dual-use materials, as well as enlarging their membership.
- Strengthening control measures for intangible transfers of technology.
- Promoting international information exchange.
- Strengthening technical assistance among States and cooperation for development.
- Promoting legal and responsible trade in defence materials and dual-use technologies, and preventing illicit trafficking.

- Facilitating collaboration among government agencies, non-governmental organizations and industries that share the same objective.

Only an effective multilateral system can successfully tackle the threat to international peace and security posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, in combination with other phenomena such as international terrorism, transnational organized crime, failed States and regional conflicts.

II. Non-proliferation

Spain contributes to the development and construction of a global nuclear non-proliferation architecture.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is the cornerstone of the international non-proliferation regime. In 2020, 50 years had elapsed since the entry into force of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Spain, which acceded to the Treaty in 1987, believes that it is the most valuable tool at our disposal to contain proliferation and promote the nuclear disarmament process, and is the framework which upholds the inalienable right of all States to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Spain calls for the universalization of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and affirms its total and unequivocal commitment to the three pillars on which the Treaty is based; it will reiterate that position at the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, scheduled for August 2022 in New York.

Spain maintains its unswerving support for the safeguards regime set out in article III of the Non-Proliferation Treaty for the purpose of verifying compliance with the obligations assumed by nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States. Spain firmly supports the authority of IAEA and the strengthening of its verification and monitoring capacities.

Spain is subject to two independent but closely coordinated safeguards systems: that of IAEA and that of the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM). Accordingly, the country's nuclear industry is obliged to periodically declare its stockpile of nuclear material and any resulting variants. The additional protocol between Spain and the Agency entered into force on 30 April 2004. In addition, Spain provides financial support for the safeguards system through the Spanish Programme of Support for the IAEA Nuclear Safeguards.

Spain appeals to all States to participate in the Nuclear Safety Fund, and proposes that a mandatory regime replace the current voluntary regime for State contributions to the Fund. In 2017, Spain, together with Australia and Canada, submitted a working paper entitled "Nuclear security in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons".

Spain signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty on 24 September 1996 and ratified it on 31 July 1998. In addition, it participates in numerous diplomatic efforts with third countries to promote the universalization and entry into force of the Treaty. Pending said universalization and entry into force, moratoriums on the testing of nuclear weapons or any other type of nuclear explosion constitute an important contribution to international peace and security. Spain advocates for nuclear-weapon States to maintain and strengthen the existing commitments to nuclear testing moratoriums.

Spain supports the work and actively backs the activities of the Preparatory Commission in Vienna. Spain also contributes to the International Monitoring System network by hosting a primary seismic station in Sonseca, which has been in operation since 2002. Spain and the Preparatory Commission have developed cooperation activities through an agreement entered into on 14 April 2000.

Spain is also an active party to the Convention on Nuclear Safety, the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident, the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency, and the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

Spain reiterates its concern about the risk posed by the diversion of sensitive materials and technologies to non-State actors for terrorist purposes. Spain firmly supports all initiatives undertaken in line with Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) to combat the asymmetric proliferation of nuclear weapons, and has developed an action plan for the implementation of the resolution. Spain chaired the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) as a non-permanent member of the Council in 2015 and 2016. In 2016, Madrid hosted a special meeting of the Committee as part of the comprehensive review of the implementation of the resolution, to allow Committee members to discuss the review process and contribute to a final report, as well as to promote a discussion on the objectives of the review and the role of the resolution in the international non-proliferation architecture. Spain is a member of the Group of Friends of Resolution 1540 (2004). Spain supported Security Council resolution 2325 (2016), which elaborates on resolution 1540 (2004), adopted when Spain was a member of the Council.

Spain encourages other States to participate in the global fight against nuclear terrorism at the bilateral, regional and international levels. Spain has ratified the 2005 International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and the Amendment to the IAEA Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, under which control and monitoring measures are applied to personnel, companies, services and means that carry out activities in nuclear facilities with respect to private security in order to ensure their proper compliance with the regulations in force. All of this is pursued through the preparation and implementation of a national plan for the inspection of nuclear facilities.

Spain supports the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, under which the “Gate to Africa” exercise was carried out. The Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Initiative was held in Madrid. Spain chaired the Implementation and Assessment Group from 2010 to 2013, during which time the Initiative’s activities were conducted with determination and in a coordinated manner. In 2013, Spain, together with Morocco, organized a response and mitigation exercise, conducted in Madrid, to test the capacities of the two countries and their cooperation arrangements to respond to terrorist attacks using radioactive substances.

Spain also participates in the Nuclear Security Summits and the Nuclear Security Contact Group.

Spain supports the work of the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction in the context of the Group of Seven, and encourages the continuation of its work and its openness to participation and transparency.

Spain welcomes and encourages the commencement of initiatives such as the 2019 verification exercises between Germany, France and Belgium, the Group of Governmental Experts on Nuclear Disarmament Verification, the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification, the Quad Nuclear Verification Partnership and the United Kingdom-Norway Initiative.

Spain supports the signing of all treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones. It considers the convening of a conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction a matter of crucial importance for increasing security and stability in the region. Spain supported

the holding of the first session of the said conference in New York in November 2019 and welcomed the holding of the second session in November 2021.

Spain is a staunch supporter of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. It supported the signing of the EU3+3 and Iran agreement on 15 July 2015 for the implementation of the Plan of Action, which was endorsed by the Security Council in its resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#). Spain was elected as the “facilitator” country for the resolution during its membership in the Council in 2015–2016 and, as such, it prioritized the transparent application of the Plan of Action so that all States would have legal certainty in their transactions with Iran. Spain regrets the withdrawal of the United States from the agreement and the progressive releasing of Iran from its obligations. It supports the diplomatic efforts made since April 2021 under the Vienna talks to reverse the situation, and fully endorses the work being carried out on this issue by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

During its term as a member of the Security Council in 2015–2016, Spain also served as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1718 \(2006\)](#) on the sanctions regime applied to the Democratic Republic of North Korea and calls on that country today to comply with its international obligations with respect to non-proliferation and disarmament. Spain participates actively in initiatives focused on achieving tangible results. It is a prominent member of the Stockholm Initiative for Nuclear Disarmament, which seeks to give a new impetus to the cause of nuclear disarmament and to reaffirm the centrality of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, promoting the success of the 2020 Review Conference the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, scheduled to be held in New York in August 2022. Spain also participates in other initiatives, such as Creating an Environment for Nuclear Disarmament, and calls upon all States to actively participate in forums that facilitate consensus and the adoption of pragmatic, tangible and effective decisions.

Spain is seeking to align the pillar relating to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Spain is a party to numerous international multilateral treaties and initiatives to combat the proliferation of specific weapons.

As regards other weapons of mass destruction, and specifically chemical and biological weapons, Spain ratified the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, done at Geneva on 17 June 1925.

Spain is a party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction of 10 April 1972, which it ratified in 1979. In November 2021, Spain participated in the Meeting of States Parties in Geneva, where it advocated and supported strengthening the Convention with an effective system for reviewing and following up on country reports. Spain called for mandatory financial contributions with the aim of strengthening the Implementation Support Unit of the Convention. It also contributed to the preparatory work for the Ninth Review Conference of the Convention, scheduled for December 2022, which will set the priorities for the next five years.

Spain was one of the first countries to sign the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (Chemical Weapons Convention), which it ratified on 3 August 1994. As a member of OPCW, Spain appeals for the avoidance of polarization within the organization and fully supports the work of its Technical Secretariat, which has

distinguished itself for its rigour and impartiality. Spain is preparing its contributions to the work of the Review Conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention, to be held in 2023, and where decisions will be taken regarding the priorities for OPCW action in the period following the elimination of the last chemical arsenals, also scheduled for 2023.

Specifically with regard to the means of delivery for weapons of mass destruction, Spain has signed the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation and has participated in the joint efforts of the European Union and its member States to promote universalization of the Code.

Spain also participates in many multilateral instruments relating to disarmament and non-proliferation of conventional weapons, which it works to promote.

Spain is a party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction of 18 September 1997, which it ratified in 1999. Spain supports the Oslo Action Plan adopted at the Fourth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, held in November 2019. It is currently a member of the Committee on Cooperative Compliance and the Focal Point for Gender under the Convention.

The Armed Forces of Spain have carried out significant work in the area of demining training, mainly through their International Demining Centre, which has helped to train 1,200 operators from 22 countries from all parts of the world, but also through their participation in international missions, such as the former International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan and the current United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

In addition, Spain has made contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action, the trust fund of the Organization of American States, and the fund for mine action in the Balkans.

Spain is a party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions of 30 May 2008, which it ratified in 2009. From 2018 to 2020, Spain participated in the Coordination Committee as coordinator of assistance to victims. It is currently the universalization coordinator.

Spain is a party to the 1980 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, which it ratified in 1982, and to its five protocols. In 2022, Spain is serving as the President of the Sixteenth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War, which is expected to take place by the end of the year. During its tenure, Spain has given new impetus to efforts to secure the universalization of this instrument, which have so far resulted in its ratification by the Republic of the Philippines.

Also within the framework of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, Spain contributes to the work of the Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, which is endeavouring to find a solution to the challenges posed by these types of new technologies that lend themselves to military use.

Spain participates in numerous instruments and forums concerning the arms trade and export controls.

Spain is a party to the 2014 Arms Trade Treaty, which it ratified that same year. At the present time, Spain serves as facilitator of the sub-working group on the implementation of articles 6 and 7 (assessment and prohibitions) under the working group on effective treaty implementation.

Spain is also a party to the 2000 United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention). It complies with General Assembly resolution [55/255](#), adopted on 31 May 2001, in which the Assembly adopted the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, and which supplements the Palermo Convention.

Spain also participates in the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

Spain is a party to and participates actively in all export control regimes: the Wassenaar Arrangement, the Zangger Committee, the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Nuclear Suppliers Group, and the Australia Group. It also supports the Proliferation Security Initiative, the Container Security Initiative, and the Megaports Initiative.

A major part of its promotion of multilateralism in the areas of non-proliferation and disarmament takes place within the European Union.

Spain is subject to EURATOM safeguards. Each member State has a domestic agency that manages its economic contributions. Spain hosts Fusion for Energy, the domestic agency of the European Union, based in Barcelona. In addition, the Centre for Energy, Environmental and Technological Research, together with other Spanish institutions and universities, is participating in the development of components and systems for the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor.

Spain is active in the Working Party on Non-Proliferation and Arms Exports of the Council of the European Union, both as regards non-proliferation and disarmament relating to weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery (CONOP) and as regards controlling exports of conventional weapons (COARM), and in the coordination group of the European Commission on exports of dual-use goods and technologies.

Within the advisory group on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defence of the European Commission, a technical group of experts on detection of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats, in which Spain participates, was established in 2020. The group works to assess the chemical threat from a potential terrorist attack, identifying chemical agents and explosives precursors to be considered, and also to track the capability of current detection equipment with respect to such agents and precursors, and the effects they could cause depending on the type of scenario.

The Carlos III Institute of Health, through the National Epidemiology Centre and Biological Alert Laboratory Network, participates as an affiliated entity in the new “Terror” Joint Action of the Directorate-General of Health and Food Safety of the European Commission, in order to strengthen the health sector’s preparedness for risks posed by biological and chemical terrorist attacks.

Also in the European sphere, Spain promotes key multilateral instruments on arms control in the framework of OSCE.

Spain was initially bound by the confidence-building measures of the 1975 Helsinki Final Act. At the Madrid conference, held between 1980 and 1983, what was referred to as the “Madrid Mandate” was adopted; it called for the negotiation of confidence- and security-building measures and defined, among other things, the scope of application of such measures. The measures were bolstered by the Vienna Document on confidence- and security-building measures, which covers the whole of Europe, as well as the contiguous maritime area and airspace. The Vienna Document is politically binding; it was updated in 2011 with the aim of improving and expanding its application. Spain advocates its modernization.

In October 2021, Spain hosted a two-pronged event under the 2011 Vienna Document in Zaragoza (visit to the air base and to the military installation), attended by delegates from countries participating in the Document, a representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre, and representatives of Morocco and Tunisia.

Spain is a party to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, which was signed in 1990 and entered into force on 9 November 1992. Since then, more than 60,000 units of conventional weapons limited by the Treaty have been destroyed and more than 4,000 on-site inspections have been carried out. Spain has also signed, ratified and implemented the Treaty on Open Skies, since its entry into force in 2002.

Spain regrets that these OSCE mechanisms are facing difficulties owing to the military aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, with the collaboration of Belarus.

As part of its embrace of multilateralism, Spain is participating in the OSCE structured dialogue on current and future challenges and risks, an initiative of the OSCE Ministerial Council held in Hamburg in 2016, which seeks to give a new impetus to arms control and confidence- and security-building measures in Europe. Spain served as Chair of the informal working group on structured dialogue in 2020 and 2021.

Spain also applies other OSCE instruments, such as the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, the Global Exchange of Military Information, and the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Spain has also contributed to the implementation of the regional stabilization agreements established in annex I-B to the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Dayton Peace Agreement).

In the context of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Spain argues for the usefulness of structured dialogues with partners that are not members of NATO. This applies to the NATO-Ukraine Commission, the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative and the Mediterranean Dialogue. In this connection, Spain has organized the Mediterranean Youth Dialogue and has participated in various events in partnership with NATO. The Russian aggression against Ukraine has rendered it impractical to continue with the dialogue that had been conducted until January 2022 through the NATO-Russia Council.

III. Disarmament

Spain supports general and complete disarmament. It participates actively in all international disarmament and non-proliferation forums and agreements relating to both conventional weapons and weapons of mass destruction, and fully assumes its political, legal and financial undertakings in that regard.

Spain reiterates its commitment to the Conference on Disarmament, which since 1979 has been the only forum in which the key non-proliferation and disarmament countries have been present on a permanent basis to listen to and address the international community on crucial sectors for world stability. Spain applauds the achievements of the Conference on Disarmament as a forum for the negotiation of the main non-proliferation and disarmament treaties. Spain supports the proposals on a work programme that seeks to make real progress regarding nuclear disarmament, negative security assurances and outer space. At a time when the international environment is marked by geopolitical tensions and doubts about the non-proliferation system, the resilience of the Conference on Disarmament, in which States jointly assume responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, is all more the important.

Spain reiterates its desire for an early conclusion to the negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, in accordance with the mandate set out in document [CD/1299](#). Pending conclusion of such an agreement, which is still an inadequate measure, Spain appreciates the moratoriums on production of fissile material unilaterally declared by States possessing nuclear weapons or nuclear technology in general.

As a demonstration of its commitment to the work of the Conference on Disarmament, Spain is serving in 2022 as coordinator of Subsidiary Body 2 on the prevention of nuclear war, including and all related matters, as mandated by decision [CD/2229](#).

Disarmament and arms limitation at the bilateral level are also important contributions to international peace and security. Spain is concerned at the deterioration of the agreements reached between the Russian Federation and the United States to control and reduce their nuclear arsenals, such as the end of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. The extension of the new START Treaty in February 2021 and the start of talks on strategic stability between the two powers for a new framework for nuclear weapons control were encouraging steps. However, the suspension of these talks following the military aggression of Russia against Ukraine, and certain public statements that seem to point to a lowering of the threshold for the use of nuclear weapons, pose a worrisome scenario. Further difficulties are created by the emergence of equipment and technologies, such as new highly manoeuvrable hypersonic missiles or ever-more autonomous defence systems, which increase the risk of escalation.

Spain calls for the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in non-proliferation and disarmament. It has assumed the role of co-leader in this respect in the United Nations Secretary-General's disarmament agenda. To that end, a world-pioneering seminar on gender and disarmament was held in Spain in July 2019, with the participation of Rafael Grossi, former President of the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference and current Director General of IAEA. Spain promotes the participation of women in diplomatic efforts relating to non-proliferation and disarmament, as well as of women scientists in forums. Spain takes care to recognize the distinctive contribution and differentiated impact of women and girls in non-proliferation and disarmament. Spain also upholds the importance of the link between education and disarmament, and calls for recognition of the role of young people in this field. These are areas – gender and youth – that Spain promotes, for example, as part of the aforementioned Stockholm Initiative for Nuclear Disarmament.
