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General and complete disarmament

Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report outlines the views of Member States with regard to achieving the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, in particular on effective nuclear disarmament measures, including elements of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons.

* [A/77/50](#).



Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	3
II. Replies received from Governments	3
Cambodia	3
Cuba	4
India	5
Mexico	7
Spain	10

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution [76/36](#) on the follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, the General Assembly:

(a) Underlined the strong support, expressed at its high-level meeting on nuclear disarmament, held on 26 September 2013, for taking urgent and effective measures to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons (para. 1);

(b) Called for urgent compliance with the legal obligations and the fulfilment of the commitments undertaken on nuclear disarmament and endorsed the wide support expressed at the high-level meeting for a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons (paras. 2 and 3);

(c) Also called for the urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on effective nuclear disarmament measures to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons, including, in particular, on a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons (para. 4);

(d) Requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States with regard to achieving the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, in particular on effective nuclear disarmament measures, including elements of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons, and to submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its seventy-seventh session, and also to transmit the report to the Conference on Disarmament (para. 13).

2. Pursuant to that request, a note verbale was sent to Member States on 28 January 2022 inviting them to provide information on the subject. The replies received are contained 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 original language of submission. No addenda will be issued.

II. Replies received from Governments

Cambodia

[Original: English]
[9 May 2022]

The topic is General Assembly resolution [76/36](#) on the follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament which was adopted on 6 December 2021. The resolution was initiated by Cuba, proposed by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, and was led by Indonesia to form a new movement to reduce nuclear weapons. Cambodia has acceded to two treaties related to this resolution, including:

1. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons: this treaty was open for signing in London, Moscow and Washington on 1 July 1968 with 191 Member States and 93 signatories. Cambodia ratified the treaty on 2 June 1972 in Washington and on 25 September 1987 in Moscow.

2. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons: this treaty was open for signing at the United Nations Secretariat on 20 September 2017 and Cambodia:

- Signed on 9 January 2019
- Ratified on 25 November 2020
- Deposited instruments of ratification at the United Nations Secretariat on 22 January 2021

This Treaty came into force on 22 January 2021 with 60 Member States and 84 signatories. In compliance with article 2 of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, each Member State has the obligation to declare information about the current and past situation regarding nuclear weapons or nuclear devices in their territory or under their control to the United Nations Secretariat, within 30 days after the Treaty came into force. As such, Cambodia prepared its declaration and sent it to the United Nations Secretariat on 12 May 2021.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[31 May 2022]

Cuba attaches great importance to the goal of nuclear disarmament. Our country is proud to belong to the first densely populated area of the world to be declared a nuclear-weapon-free zone, under the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), and the first region to proclaim itself a zone of peace, and to be an active member of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, which promoted the commemoration of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (26 September).

Cuba is honoured to have signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on the day it was opened for signature and to have been the fifth State to ratify it.

The Treaty makes an effective contribution to general and complete disarmament and to the maintenance of international peace and security by establishing a new rule of international law that categorically prohibits nuclear weapons in all circumstances and provides a strong and legally binding framework for their destruction and total elimination. Nuclear weapons are not only inhumane, immoral and ethically indefensible; they are also illegal.

In line with our firm opposition to nuclear testing of all kinds, we deposited our instrument of ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in 2021.

We welcome the events that have been held at all levels and the efforts of the international community to promote a world free of nuclear weapons.

Cuba considers that nuclear disarmament remains the highest priority in the field of disarmament. The verifiable, transparent and irreversible total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only way to ensure that humanity will never again suffer their terrible impact and is therefore a legitimate aspiration for the international community.

As part of the shared endeavour to eliminate nuclear weapons, the full implementation of General Assembly resolutions [68/32](#), [69/58](#), [70/34](#), [71/71](#), [72/251](#), [73/40](#), [74/54](#), [75/45](#) and [76/36](#) on the follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting is also of great importance.

Cuba promotes general and complete disarmament and rejects the existence, proliferation and use of nuclear weapons, as foreign policy principles established in its Constitution, and will continue to promote nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons in meetings and negotiations on disarmament. It will also continue to support and participate in the activities organized for the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, which is observed on 26 September each year.

On 26 September 2021, the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of

Nuclear Weapons was successfully held and attended by a wide range of participants. This illustrates the interest in achieving nuclear disarmament, in an international context threatened by the development of new nuclear weapons systems, the modernization of existing forces and arsenals, the increasing role of these weapons in the military defence and security doctrines of nuclear-weapon States, and the disregard for international commitments in the area of disarmament and arms control.

We call on the United Nations system, Governments, parliaments and civil society to take additional steps each year to commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and to mobilize international action to achieve nuclear disarmament.

The Government of Cuba promotes educational, dissemination and awareness-raising activities, forums for debate and special conferences involving students and academia. It supports the preparation and development of United Nations tabletop exercises in Cuban universities, including on nuclear disarmament.

Civil society organizations in Cuba also contribute to the celebration and promotion of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons by organizing visual exhibitions and discussion panels on the threat that nuclear weapons pose to humanity, as well as through other activities, such as the study and popularization of the ideas of the Commander-in-Chief of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro Ruz, a tireless fighter for nuclear disarmament.

Young people are encouraged to take part in all the events. The activities of the Cuban United Nations Association, the Committee of Cuban Doctors Against Nuclear Weapons and the National Union of Jurists of Cuba stand out in this regard.

Disarmament and international security issues must be addressed through multilateralism and concerted solutions, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

India

[Original: English]

[31 May 2022]

India voted in favour of General Assembly resolution [76/36](#) on the follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament submitted by the countries of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. It calls for the urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on effective nuclear disarmament measures to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons, including, in particular, a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons.

India has played an active role in the global efforts to advance the shared aspiration for nuclear disarmament. India remains committed to universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament. In India's working paper, submitted to the Conference on Disarmament in 2007 (see [CD/1816](#)), a step-by-step process is envisioned, underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed global and non-discriminatory multilateral framework to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons.

As a responsible nuclear weapon State, India has a policy of maintaining a credible minimum deterrence based on a no-first-use posture and non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon States.

We would urge the international community to intensify dialogue to build consensus towards achieving our common goal of nuclear disarmament based on the following elements (also contained working paper [CD/1816](#)):

- Reaffirmation of the unequivocal commitment of all nuclear weapon States to the goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons
- Reduction of the salience of nuclear weapons in the security doctrines
- Adoption of measures by nuclear-weapon States to reduce nuclear danger, including the risks of accidental nuclear war, de-alerting of nuclear-weapons to prevent unintentional and accidental use of nuclear weapons
- Negotiation of a global agreement among nuclear weapon States on “no-first-use” of nuclear-weapons
- Negotiation of a universal and legally binding agreement on non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon States
- Negotiation of a convention on the complete prohibition of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons
- Negotiation of a nuclear weapons convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and on their destruction, leading to the global, non-discriminatory and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified time frame.

India reiterates its call to undertake these steps as outlined in the working paper, including negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament of a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention, also called for by the Non-Aligned Movement.

India’s two annual resolutions at the General Assembly on the “Convention on the Prohibition of the use of Nuclear Weapons” and on “Reducing Nuclear Danger” represent our strong commitment towards the common goal of nuclear disarmament.

India attaches high importance to the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum drawing its mandate from the consensus final document of the first special session on disarmament and reaffirmed in General Assembly resolution [76/62](#). The Conference agreed to work in the format of subsidiary bodies this year. India has been participating constructively in the work of subsidiary bodies and hopes that it will lead to convergences towards negotiations on legally binding instruments at the Conference on Disarmament.

Without prejudice to the priority India attaches to disarmament, India supports the immediate commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a fissile material cut-off treaty in accordance with [CD/1299](#) and the mandate contained therein, which remains the most suitable basis for negotiations.

The prevention of an arms race in outer space is an important item on the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament. India has supported the commencement of negotiation by the Conference of a legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

India participates actively in the disarmament triad of the Conference on Disarmament, the First Committee of the General Assembly and the Disarmament Commission to highlight contemporary challenges to global peace and security and to foster multilateral dialogue towards tangible outcomes. India is pleased that the Disarmament Commission convened its substantive session this year after a gap of almost three years.

India is cognizant of the need for enhanced international cooperation and for the promotion of peaceful uses of science and technology through technology transfer, sharing of information and exchange of equipment and materials. India’s annual resolution at the General Assembly on the role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament, adopted by consensus, calls upon

Member States to remain vigilant in understanding new and emerging developments in science and technology that could affect international security. It also underlines the importance of Member States engaging with relevant stakeholders including experts from industry, the research community and civil society in addressing this challenge. The resolution calls upon Member States to continue efforts to apply developments in science and technology for disarmament related purposes.

We are deeply concerned about the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, which endangers international peace and security. The possibility of terrorists acquiring weapons of mass destruction necessitates Member States to work together to address this grave danger. Through its annual consensus resolution at the General Assembly, entitled “Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction”, India has been drawing the attention of the world towards these threats and the need to strengthen international cooperation to address them.

India participated in the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons in September 2021.

India believes that trust and confidence coupled with political will and intensified dialogue among States will help achieve consensus towards the shared objective of a world free of nuclear weapons. India stands ready to work with all Member States in achieving this noble goal.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[31 May 2022]

The present document is submitted by Mexico pursuant to General Assembly resolution 76/36, entitled “Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament”, in which the Assembly requests the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States with regard to achieving the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, in particular on effective nuclear disarmament measures, including elements of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons.

Mexico believes that a safer and more peaceful world must be based on international law and cooperation, not on nuclear weapons. The only guaranteed way to reduce the intrinsic risks of this weaponry is through its prohibition and total elimination.

Mexico takes note of the Secretary-General’s reflection on a new conceptualization of the disarmament work of the United Nations, presented in the report entitled “Our Common Agenda” and in the Secretary-General’s disarmament agenda, *Securing our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament*. It is important to foster a process of reflection on disarmament, not as an end in itself, but as a means of achieving and sustaining peace.

In keeping with its firmly pacifist tradition, Mexico rejects the view that nuclear weapons underpin international security or constitute a mainstay of strategic balance. On the contrary, increased military expenditure and the flaunting of the possession of nuclear arsenals, as well as the so-called doctrine of nuclear deterrence, represent a threat that force will be used, contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, and incentivize proliferation.

The first resolution adopted by the General Assembly in 1946 (resolution 1 (I)) reflects the will of the Member States concerning “the elimination from national

armaments of atomic weapons and of all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction". However, 76 years after the adoption of that resolution, which was a recognition that nuclear disarmament is a priority for ensuring international peace and security, given that such weapons threaten the very existence of humankind, fulfilling that commitment is one of the main pending tasks facing the Organization in terms of achieving its goals and purposes.

Mexico believes that a new peace agenda should be aimed at achieving the total prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, at controlling conventional weapons more effectively, especially those with indiscriminate effect, and small arms and light weapons, and at regulating new technological advances in weapons that are incompatible with international humanitarian law, such as lethal autonomous weapons systems.

Innovative and decisive measures are needed to advance towards nuclear disarmament. In particular, such measures must be person-centred, and bear in mind the interrelationship between disarmament and the pillars of the United Nations.

Mexico believes that the central importance of multilateralism to nuclear disarmament must be underscored, and it must be recognized that nuclear disarmament is in the interest of and the responsibility of each member of the international community, without detracting from unilateral, bilateral and regional initiatives. It is also essential to recognize that disarmament is a common cause, built on tangible and concrete commitments made in sensitive and complex security situations, in which a willingness to fulfil the obligations undertaken should be demonstrated.

Mexico also considers it important to initiate a serious and innovative process of reflection on the so-called disarmament machinery established by the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament in 1978, given that the governmental forums emanating from the special session (Disarmament Commission and Conference on Disarmament) have not fulfilled their mandate for decades. In addition, the revitalization of the General Assembly has not led to substantive improvements in the working methods of the First Committee of the General Assembly.

It is important to continue to commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons with a high-level plenary meeting in the framework of the General Assembly, which keeps the issue of nuclear disarmament on the political agenda of those participating in the high-level week. The meeting also affords the General Assembly the opportunity to address the total elimination of nuclear weapons in a plenary format, in addition to the deliberations of the First Committee.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Marcelo Ebrard Casaubón, participated in the 2021 high-level meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. He emphasized that the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons represented a milestone, since it was the first time that the General Assembly was meeting to discuss the total elimination of nuclear weapons after those weapons had been explicitly prohibited in a binding international treaty. He also stressed that it was unjustifiable and unacceptable that enormous financial resources continued to be allocated to maintaining, increasing and modernizing nuclear arsenals and their launch systems.

Mexico hopes that the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons will make it possible to move beyond statements towards more effective action in order to reach substantive agreements.

Such agreements should be aimed at fulfilment of the obligations and commitments of the nuclear-weapon States, particularly those set forth in article VI (nuclear disarmament), and in relation to nuclear testing, qualitative development of nuclear weapons and security assurances provided by nuclear-weapon States to non-nuclear-weapon States. The agreements should also be aimed at reiterating the concern regarding the grave and catastrophic humanitarian consequences of a nuclear detonation, accidental or intentional, as a basis for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation measures. In addition, Mexico reiterates the validity of the agreements of the 2000, 2005 and 2010 Review Conferences.

Mexico welcomes the preparations for the first meeting of the States parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. This international instrument strengthens the disarmament and non-proliferation regime and complements the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, since it is a measure that fulfils article VI thereof. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons contributes to the achievement and maintenance of a nuclear-weapon-free world by ensuring the irreversibility of nuclear disarmament once “global zero” is achieved. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons also recognizes the grave implications of nuclear weapons for human survival, the environment, socioeconomic development, the global economy, food security and the health of current and future generations, as well as the disproportionate impact of ionizing radiation on women and girls.

Mexico also welcomes the fact that, to date, 89 States have signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, of which 61 are States parties. Mexico hopes that the States parties to and signatories of the Treaty will continue meeting their obligations and collaborating to advance in the implementation and universalization of the Treaty, as well as in the strengthening of the rule prohibiting nuclear weapons, bearing in mind the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of such weapons.

Mexico recognizes that there are different views and approaches on how nuclear disarmament can be achieved. A comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons is one such approach and is one of the options for achieving and maintaining a world free of such weapons of mass destruction.

Generally speaking, a comprehensive convention would complement the existing normative framework on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and should include, at minimum, the following elements:

1. Prohibitions on nuclear weapons to guarantee the irreversibility of nuclear disarmament
2. Prohibitions on the existence and production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices
3. Establishment of a mechanism for the elimination of existing nuclear weapons, with defined time frames
4. Dismantling or conversion of plants that produce fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices
5. International verification mechanism to ensure compliance with obligations under the convention
6. Institutional arrangements that support the objectives and principles of the comprehensive convention

In recognition of the validity and importance of adhering to the principles of transparency, verification and irreversibility in nuclear disarmament, Mexico will continue to participate actively and vigorously in the forums in which the nuclear

disarmament agenda is addressed, with the aim of promoting initiatives that contribute to achieving and maintaining a nuclear-weapon-free world.

Spain

[Original: Spanish]

[31 May 2022]

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. Such steps must be gradual and realistic and in keeping with the strategic stability of all States.

Spain believes in multilateral mechanisms as a means of maintaining international peace and security. In this context, Spain has reaffirmed its willingness to move towards a nuclear-weapon-free world as the ultimate goal of a process within the framework of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Spain is a party to the Treaty as a non-nuclear-weapon State. It upholds the central role of the Treaty in the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

Along with 15 other States, Spain is a committed member of the Stockholm Initiative for Nuclear Disarmament. The aim of the initiative is to provide a means of finding common ground on the various sensitive issues related to disarmament in order to help revitalize that noble cause, in particular, by promoting a successful outcome of the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The key proposals made under the initiative are contained in the document entitled “Stepping stones for advancing nuclear disarmament” ([NPT/CONF.2020/WP.6](#)). Commitments already undertaken at past Review Conferences that are within the reach of the international community are reaffirmed in the document, with the aim of making realistic progress towards disarmament. Those commitments include the reduction of the role of nuclear weapons in security policies, the development of next-generation arms control arrangements, support for the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons must implement article VI thereof, pursuant to which they undertake “to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control”.

In this regard, it is essential that the nuclear-weapon States, especially those with the largest arsenals, engage in dialogue with the aim of reducing their arsenals and moving towards a nuclear-weapon-free world. In February 2021, the Russian Federation and the United States of America agreed to a five-year extension of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (New START Treaty), the last remaining nuclear arms control instrument in force between them. They also held several rounds of strategic stability talks during that year, the objectives of which include the negotiation of a new arms control framework to replace the New START Treaty. Owing to the military aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, the strategic stability talks have been suspended.

Although, on 3 January 2022, the five nuclear-weapon States and parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons reaffirmed the Reagan-Gorbachev principle, according to which “a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought”, in recent months some of the rhetoric from the Russian Federation has seemed to signal a lowering of the threshold for the use of this type of weaponry.

In these circumstances, it is urgent to move towards the adoption of effective nuclear risk reduction measures. The working paper entitled “A nuclear risk reduction package” (NPT/CONF.2020/WP.9), submitted by the Stockholm Initiative for Nuclear Disarmament ahead of the tenth Review Conference, includes a series of relevant measures, including the establishment of a process for follow-up work in that area within the framework of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Spain attaches vital importance to the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which it signed on 24 September 1996 and ratified on 31 July 1998. It therefore calls on those States listed in annex II to the Treaty that have not yet done so to sign and ratify it. In the meantime, Spain favours a continued moratorium on nuclear testing. In this century, the existing moratorium has been violated only by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. Spain is working with the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and supports its efforts to promote the entry into force of the Treaty.

Spain also endorses the commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament for the adoption of a fissile material cut-off treaty.

Spain supports the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all regions of the world, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States of the region concerned. This includes the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, in accordance with the resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, with the participation of regional stakeholders and the constructive involvement of the major Powers.

Spain recognizes the Non-Proliferation Treaty verification tool, overseen by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), to be of crucial importance for fostering and maintaining confidence and transparency among States. In this regard, Spain continues to support and collaborate with IAEA in the political and technical areas, and more generally on the development of programmes aimed at guaranteeing the physical security of radioactive materials and facilities.

Spain also supports ongoing diplomatic efforts in relation to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action concerning Iran, which was endorsed by the Security Council in its resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#).