



# General Assembly

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First Committee

**10**<sup>th</sup> meeting

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Official Records

*Chairperson:* Mr. José Luis Cancela . . . . . (Uruguay)

*The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.*

## Agenda items 86 to 103 (*continued*)

### Thematic discussion on item subjects and introduction and consideration of all draft resolutions submitted under disarmament and international security agenda items

**The Chairperson** (*spoke in Spanish*): As I explained previously in connection with requests for the floor during this the second stage of our work, the secretariat maintains a rolling unofficial list of speakers for each subject. Delegations wishing to take the floor should be prepared, time permitting, to speak during the meeting at which the respective subjects are considered. Requests for the floor can also be made in the room during the thematic debate on the day an issue is discussed.

We shall now continue our thematic debate on the issue of nuclear weapons, including the introduction of draft resolutions.

**Mr. Streuli** (Switzerland) (*spoke in French*): We are pleased to note that, since last year, there have been encouraging developments in the area of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. I should like to refer to the following aspects.

First, I should like to mention the commitment made by Presidents Obama and Medvedev at their meeting in London on 1 April 2009 to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons. That commitment took concrete form with the start of negotiations on a

follow-on agreement to the START I Treaty and the adoption of the Joint Understanding thereon signed last July.

Secondly, I should like to refer to the constructive atmosphere surrounding the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which took place in New York last May.

Thirdly, I would like to mention the adoption, on 29 May, of a programme of work by the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. That development has renewed the disarmament community's confidence in multilateral negotiating machinery.

A better atmosphere is increasingly evident in the area of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We must now move from the stage of making encouraging statements to that of taking concrete actions. In that respect, we would like to mention the following elements.

Finalizing a new bilateral START I follow-on treaty between Russia and the United States would be a first important milestone. In our view, that goal remains the most immediate priority and reflects the responsibility on the part of the two largest holders of nuclear weapons to firmly set a course towards disarmament. Moreover, such a development may prompt other nuclear-weapon States, whether they are parties to the NPT or not, to make commensurate efforts. Finally, the implementation of such a treaty would be a powerful argument in persuading

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non-nuclear-weapon States to reaffirm their renunciation of nuclear weapons.

A second important milestone would be the early start of negotiations by the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva in 2010. In May, we witnessed the adoption by the Conference of a programme of work. That was a major breakthrough, but we have subsequently had to lower our expectations. Switzerland regrets that it has not yet been possible to begin negotiations on a verifiable fissile material cut-off treaty or substantive discussions on other agenda items. We hope that all members of the Conference on Disarmament will once again take the path of consensus and agree on and implement a programme of work in the first part of 2010.

The third major milestone awaiting us in 2010 is the NPT Review Conference. We hope that the positive atmosphere during the third session of the Preparatory Committee will translate next May into a constructive spirit that opens the way towards tangible results. To be successful, a significant collective effort will be required regarding each of the three pillars of the NPT. Moreover, Switzerland is convinced that institutional reform would strengthen the NPT.

Alongside those three milestones, there are several other pathways towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation that nuclear-weapon States can follow in order to implement their commitments in accordance with article VI of the NPT. That entails, first and foremost, the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) by States that have not yet done so. We are convinced that the speedy implementation of the commitment made to that effect by the United States would lead to ratification by other States listed in annex 2 of the Treaty that have not yet taken that step. The Final Declaration adopted at the most recent Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Treaty reiterated the urgent importance of doing so.

Along the same lines, there is also a need to consider the legitimacy of nuclear weapons and their role in military doctrines. The vision of a world free of nuclear weapons must trigger a fundamental revision of nuclear thinking when it comes to global security. In that context, Switzerland has high hopes with regard to the ongoing review process being undertaken by the United States in connection with its nuclear posture.

We also call on all nuclear-weapon States to initiate such a review process.

Following those pathways also has to do with the issue of the level of operational readiness of nuclear-weapon systems. In 2007 and 2008, Switzerland, together with five other States, submitted draft resolutions decreasing operational readiness, which were adopted as resolutions 62/36 and 63/41. The resolutions received broad support, illustrating the conviction of the majority of States that progress must be achieved in this area. The States that sponsored the resolutions are aware that nuclear-weapon policies are under review in various countries. Those processes are fully in line with the call contained in the resolutions for further practical steps to be taken to decrease the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems.

In order to facilitate those processes and find a long-term solution to this complex issue, the sponsoring States have decided not to introduce a similar draft resolution this year. They will nonetheless continue to engage nuclear-weapon States so as to make progress towards the objective set forth in the resolutions, be it in the First Committee or in the framework of the NPT. A study that Switzerland and New Zealand commissioned from the EastWest Institute to identify practical ways to enable a decrease of operational readiness reflects this willingness to develop a constructive dialogue on this issue. The study will be the subject of a presentation on 15 October in this building.

My country is convinced that advances in nuclear disarmament lead to the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime. At the same time, compliance with non-proliferation obligations is of the utmost importance. In that respect, Switzerland remains concerned about the growing dangers posed by nuclear proliferation. We call upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to comply with the relevant Security Council resolutions and to return without preconditions to the Six-Party Talks. We also call upon Iran to comply with the relevant Security Council resolutions. We hope that the Geneva talks with the Permanent Five plus one can continue and that they will lead to a positive outcome. Switzerland is convinced that diplomacy and dialogue are the best tools to deal with all regional issues regarding non-proliferation and disarmament.

Recently, a Security Council summit took up the subject of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament (see S/PV.6191). Resolution 1887 (2009), which was adopted on that occasion, is a useful element that strengthens the international community's efforts in this area. Steps taken by the Security Council will be all the more credible if they respect the necessary balance between non-proliferation issues and disarmament obligations.

In conclusion, Switzerland would like to reiterate that while words and good intentions are needed to create a positive atmosphere, they alone will not move the disarmament agenda forward. Real action is needed.

**Mr. Ruddyard** (Indonesia): It is my great privilege to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

The topic of this meeting is indeed vital, and is at the core of international peace and security. NAM reaffirms its principled positions on nuclear disarmament, which remains its highest priority, and on the related issue of nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects. We stress the importance of the fact that efforts aimed at nuclear non-proliferation should be made in parallel to efforts aimed at nuclear disarmament. We fully support the convening of a fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (SSOD-IV) and reiterate our deep concern over the persistent lack of consensus to date. We underscore the importance of the General Assembly's continued active consideration of this issue, with a view to reaching consensus on the objectives and agenda and on the establishment of a preparatory committee for SSOD-IV, including by reconvening the open-ended working group to consider the objectives and agenda, possibly including the establishment of a preparatory committee for the session. At an appropriate time, our group will request the convening of the open-ended working group.

The Movement cannot but express its concern at the grave threat to humankind posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and their possible use or threat of use. We reiterate our deep concern over the slow pace of progress towards nuclear disarmament and the lack of progress by nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals. We underscore the need for nuclear-weapon States to implement the unequivocal undertaking they

entered into in 2000 to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear weapons. In that regard, we once again emphasize the urgent need for nuclear-weapon States to commence negotiations on nuclear disarmament without delay.

NAM emphasizes the necessity of starting negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified time frame, including a nuclear weapons convention. We reaffirm the importance of the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and to bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

It is crucial to stress the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. NAM reiterates its determination to promote multilateralism as the core principle of negotiations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. In that regard, NAM welcomes the adoption of resolution 63/50, on the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. We also underscore the Movement's principled position concerning the use or threat of use of force against the territorial integrity of any State.

Although there have been some positive signs and developments, the world is still confronted by unresolved challenges. The recent statements by some nuclear-weapon States about their intention to pursue actions to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons are positive. However, urgent and concrete actions by nuclear-weapon States in accordance with their multilaterally agreed commitments to achieve general and complete disarmament remain essential.

The total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. While noting the 2002 Moscow Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States and their recent negotiations, to be concluded by December 2009, on reducing their respective nuclear warheads, NAM stresses that reductions in nuclear deployments and in operational status cannot be a substitute for irreversible cuts in, and the total elimination of, nuclear weapons. We call on the United States and the Russian Federation to apply the principles of transparency, irreversibility and verifiability to further reduce their nuclear arsenals

under the Treaty, both warheads and delivery systems. START I is due to expire at the end of 2009. We urge both countries to conclude their negotiations on the matter urgently, in order to achieve further deep cuts in their nuclear weapons.

NAM takes note of the summit convened by the Security Council on 24 September 2009 on the issue of nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament (see S/PV.6191). The group has always been consistent and in the forefront in promoting the realization of the objective of a world free of nuclear weapons. We have communicated to the Council our positions in that respect.

We restate our call for an international conference to identify ways and means of eliminating nuclear dangers, to be convened at the earliest possible date with the objective of arriving at an agreement on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified time frame. There should be a prohibition on their development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer and use or threat of use, as well as provision for their destruction.

Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, NAM underlines the need for the conclusion of a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States as a matter of priority. We recall the establishment, in 1998, of an ad hoc committee in the Conference on Disarmament on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapons States against the use or the threat of use of nuclear weapons and to negotiate universal, unconditional and legally binding security assurances for all non-nuclear-weapon States.

We also stress the significance of achieving universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), including by all nuclear-weapon States. Inter alia, that will contribute to the process of nuclear disarmament. The group reiterates that if the objectives of the Treaty are to be fully realized, the continued commitment of all States signatories, especially nuclear-weapon States, to nuclear disarmament will be essential.

NAM is deeply concerned at increasing global military expenditures, a substantial part of which could otherwise be spent on facilitating global development and well-being. Hence, we welcome the adoption without a vote of resolution 63/52. It is worth

reminding ourselves of the virtues of the principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments. We should also remind ourselves that the development of nuclear and other such weapons violates the commitments undertaken by nuclear-weapon States at the time of the conclusion of the CTBT.

Our group remains deeply concerned at the strategic defence doctrines of nuclear-weapon States, including NATO Alliance's Strategic Concept, which not only set out rationales for the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons but also maintain unjustifiable concepts on international security based on developing military alliances and nuclear deterrence policies.

NAM also continues to be concerned over the implications of the development and deployment of anti-ballistic missile defence systems and the threat of the weaponization of outer space. Inter alia, that has contributed negatively to the promotion of disarmament and the strengthening of international security. The abrogation of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty poses new challenges to strategic stability and the prevention of an arms race in outer space. We are concerned that the implementation of a national missile defence system could trigger arms races and the further development of advanced missile systems, as well as an increase in the number of nuclear weapons.

NAM States parties to the NPT hope that the work done at the first, second and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference can be used as the basis for the Conference. States parties to the NPT need to intensify their efforts towards ensuring the success of the NPT Review Conference in 2010.

States parties to the NPT reiterate their call for the implementation of all the provisions of the Treaty. They also call for the full implementation of the 13 practical steps and for systematic and progressive efforts to implement article VI, in particular an unequivocal undertaking by nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, leading to nuclear disarmament.

Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, they recall that the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference stressed legally binding security assurances by the five nuclear-weapon States to non-nuclear-weapons States parties to the Treaty. The States parties to the NPT underline the importance for

establishing bodies subsidiary to the relevant main committees of the 2010 Review Conference of the NPT to deliberate on practical steps for systematic and progressive efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons, to consider and recommend proposals on the implementation of the resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference and to consider and adopt a legally binding international instrument on unconditional security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States.

The NAM States parties to the NPT underline that nothing in the NPT shall be interpreted as affecting the inalienable right of all parties to the Treaty to research, develop, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with articles I, II and III of the Treaty. They stress that this right constitutes one of the fundamental objectives of the Treaty and emphasize that each country's choices and decisions pertaining to peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be respected without jeopardizing its policies or international cooperation agreements and arrangements for peaceful uses of nuclear energy and its fuel cycle policies. We note with concern that undue restrictions on exports to developing countries of material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes persist. It is the responsibility of developed countries to support the legitimate requirements of developing countries for nuclear energy.

The Movement reiterates the importance of and need for nuclear-weapon-free zones and considers the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones created by the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba and the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, along with Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status, as positive steps and important measures towards attaining the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

We welcome the entry into force of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia on 21 March 2009, as well as the entry into force of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty — the Treaty of Pelindaba — on 15 July 2009.

NAM would welcome efforts aimed at establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones in all regions of the world freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned. We call for cooperation and broad consultation in order to achieve agreements in this

respect. The Group notes the convening of the second meeting of members of nuclear-weapon-free zones to be held in New York immediately before the 2010 NPT Review Conference and calls upon all relevant Member States to support the holding of this Conference.

NAM also reaffirms its support for the establishment in the Middle East of a nuclear-weapon-free zone, in accordance with Security Council resolution 487 (1981), paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) and relevant General Assembly resolutions adopted by consensus. Pending the establishment of such a zone, the NAM demands that Israel accede to the NPT without delay and place promptly all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards. We note the adoption of two resolutions at the fifty-third IAEA General Conference, GC(53)/RES/16 on the application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East and GC(53)/RES/17 on Israeli nuclear capabilities, and urge the continued consideration of this issue pending the implementation of both resolutions.

Finally, on the issue of nuclear non-proliferation, NAM believes that this matter should be approached through political and diplomatic means, and that measures and initiatives on this issue should be taken within the framework of international law, relevant conventions and the Charter of the United Nations. The international community should see to it that its policies and actions contribute to and do not detract from the attainment of global peace, security and stability.

**Mr. Vidal** (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): As this is the first time we have taken the floor at this session of the First Committee, let me congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, and the other members of the Bureau on your important work in guiding the Committee. I also welcome the presence of Ambassador Sergio Duarte at today's meeting.

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) Member States and associated States: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and my country, Uruguay.

MERCOSUR member and associated States consider it to be of utmost importance that the First Committee address in a positive and vigorous manner the question of nuclear disarmament together with that

of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. There have indeed been significant changes in the international political atmosphere that should induce meaningful results at the present session of the General Assembly.

Among these positive signs, we wish to highlight the resumption by the United States and the Russian Federation of their negotiations on the replacement of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty — START I. We also underline the convening of the Security Council summit on disarmament (see S/PV.6191). Both events help to create a positive climate in which to pursue further the goals of a world free of nuclear weapons.

As long as nuclear weapons exist there will be the risk of their use and proliferation, posing a constant danger to international peace and security. We stress the need for a general, transparent, irreversible and verifiable process within a well-defined timetable to achieve nuclear disarmament, in accordance with article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). We are convinced that the extension of the NPT cannot entail the indefinite possession by the nuclear-weapon States of their arsenals.

Two outstanding negotiating processes on the international agenda will retain our attention next year: the eighth Review Conference of the NPT and the work of the Conference on Disarmament. With regard to the NPT, it is essential that the Review Conference strengthen the Treaty a decade after the last decisions were taken, in 2000. In that year, States parties adopted the 13 practical steps on non-proliferation and disarmament.

MERCOSUR member and associated States expect that the next Review Conference will not only reaffirm the 2000 Decision and the decisions and the resolution adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, but also will agree on further measures for the accomplishment of the three pillars on which the NPT is built. Likewise, MERCOSUR member and associated States stress the need for progress in the fulfilment of the obligation established in article VI of the Treaty, regarding nuclear disarmament. Lack of progress on that essential pillar may hinder the balance that is necessary for the success of the NPT.

MERCOSUR member and associated States welcome the adoption of a programme of work by the Conference on Disarmament. We urge member States

to avoid procedural debates that unnecessarily delay the implementation of the programme of work for next year, as soon as it is adopted. We stress the need for the commencement of substantive negotiations on an irreversible, non-discriminatory and verifiable fissile material cut-off treaty.

MERCOSUR member and associated States are fully committed to the effective implementation of the programme of work of the Conference on Disarmament, which will enable the Conference to fulfil its role as the sole multilateral negotiation forum on disarmament. We support the prompt start of substantive discussions in the subsidiary bodies established in the programme of work on negative security assurances and on the prevention of an arms race in outer space. We hope that these discussions will eventually lead to the negotiation of legal instruments.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is another essential part of the disarmament and non-proliferation regime, as it will help to contain the horizontal and vertical proliferation of nuclear weapons. The Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT, held in New York on 24 and 25 September 2009, highlighted the importance of the Treaty and sent a strong political message on its prompt entry into force.

MERCOSUR member and associated States acknowledge the decision by the United States to pursue ratification of the Treaty and urge all States that have not ratified the CTBT to do so as soon as possible. We welcome the ratification by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in September, which brings the number of ratifications to a substantial 150.

We stress the importance of the moratorium on nuclear tests until the CTBT enters into force and urge all States to refrain from adopting any measures that are contrary to the provisions and obligations of the CTBT. In that respect, we condemn all nuclear-weapon tests.

MERCOSUR member and associated States stress the importance of nuclear-weapon-free zones for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. We welcome the entry into force of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia and reiterate our support to the strengthening of the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Pelindaba and Bangkok, as well as to Mongolia's status as a State free from nuclear weapons. We are convinced that better

coordination and cooperation among these zones is needed. We therefore welcome the convening on 30 April 2010 of the second Conference of States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones. We also believe that the achievement of a Middle East free of nuclear weapons should be sought unrelentingly.

MERCOSUR member and associated States support the draft resolution entitled “Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas”, in line with our countries’ commitment to the promotion of nuclear-weapon-free zones freely agreed to by the States of the region concerned. As States parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which more than 40 years ago established the first nuclear-weapon-free zone in a densely populated area, we call upon the nuclear-weapon States that have signed or ratified the protocols of instruments pertaining to nuclear-weapon-free zones to modify or do away with their unilateral reservations or interpretations that affect the status and the denuclearization of such zones.

MERCOSUR member and associated States would like to conclude by reiterating the importance of the link between disarmament and non-proliferation. As long as the nuclear-weapon States maintain their arsenals, the risk of proliferation will persist. The only secure manner of guaranteeing a world free from the threat of nuclear explosions is the total elimination of such weapons, through a coordinated, verifiable and irreversible process.

**Mr. Suda** (Japan): The people of Japan have firmly committed themselves to the goal of achieving the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Prime Minister Hatoyama stated at the Security Council summit held on 24 September (see S/PV.6191) that Japan has chosen to follow the path of non-nuclear weapons to prevent the vicious cycle of an arms race. As the representative of a country that has suffered from atomic bombings and has chosen the path of non-nuclear weapons, I would like to say again that possessing nuclear weapons per se should not grant States any political advantages in international politics.

This year, Japan will once again submit a draft resolution on nuclear disarmament to the First Committee entitled, “Renewed determination towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons”. Japan finds it greatly encouraging that each year a large number of supporting votes are cast by Member States, including

some nuclear-weapon States. I would like to call upon the General Assembly to adopt this important draft resolution by an overwhelming majority.

Reducing the number of existing nuclear weapons is the highest priority for the international community. Japan requests the Russian Federation and the United States to implement fully the Strategic Offensive Arms Reduction Treaty and to undertake nuclear arms cutbacks beyond those provided for in that Treaty. From this perspective, Japan wishes to commend the Russian Federation and the United States for their efforts to negotiate a legally binding successor to the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, which will expire in December. We call upon both States to continue their intensive negotiations with a view to concluding them as soon as possible.

On the other hand, the other nuclear-weapon States should not wait for the Russian Federation and the United States to initiate cutbacks. They too have the responsibility to take steps to stop increasing their nuclear arsenals and to reduce them. Also, progress in ensuring transparency and in disclosing information would enable confidence-building, creating a cycle of further nuclear disarmament.

Japan would also like to voice its appreciation for the historic and timely convening of the Security Council summit on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. The resolution adopted at the summit, Council resolution 1887 (2009), addressed significant challenges in these areas. I believe that the world has now arrived at the stage where it should consider more specifically a practical approach to nuclear disarmament whereby international stability will be preserved both in establishing the goal of a world without nuclear weapons as well as in the process of attaining it, while the international regime of nuclear non-proliferation is maintained and even enhanced.

The creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones, when coordinated between the five nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States in a given region, also contributes to nuclear non-proliferation and consequently to global and regional peace and security. In this context, Japan welcomes the entry into force of the Pelindaba Treaty and the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia. Japan also supports the establishment of a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons.

As we seek to advance nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, we must address the issues related to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The development of nuclear and missile programmes by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a serious threat to the peace and security of not only North-East Asia but the international community as a whole, and cannot be tolerated under any circumstances. It is imperative that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea comply fully with the relevant Security Council resolutions and that all Member States implement those resolutions without delay. Japan will continue its efforts to realize the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula through the Six-Party Talks.

On our way to further nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is a very high priority. It is crucial that we work intensively to promote the entry into force of the CTBT, particularly in the lead-up to the 2010 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). We once more strongly encourage the States that have yet to sign or ratify the CTBT, especially the nine annex 2 States, to do so without delay. Japan was encouraged by the commitment of the United States Government to pursue ratification of the Treaty. In addition, until the Treaty's entry into force, it is important for the nuclear-weapon States and States that are not party to the NPT to fully respect the moratorium on nuclear test explosions.

If the CTBT is intended to cap the qualitative development of nuclear weapons, then a fissile material cut-off treaty is aimed at limiting the quantitative increase in such weapons. A fissile material cut-off treaty has been on the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament for more than 10 years and has been a major global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation issue for more than 40 years. Japan welcomed the adoption by consensus of programme of work of the Conference on Disarmament on 29 May 2009, which included a mandate to commence negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. Although it was disappointing that the Conference was unable to start negotiations during its 2009 session, Japan strongly hopes that the Conference will adopt its programme of work at the beginning of next year and commence substantive

work early in its 2010 session, including negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty.

Japan does not subscribe to the argument that we should push nuclear non-proliferation ahead of nuclear disarmament or vice versa. They are two wheels of the same cart. Furthermore, the peaceful use of nuclear energy is another pillar of the NPT. All three aspects of the NPT need to be considered in a balanced manner. In this connection, we cannot stress enough the significance of the 2010 NPT Review Conference. Even though the third session of the Preparatory Committee was unable to agree on recommendations, it managed to expeditiously adopt the agenda and all significant procedural decisions for the Review Conference. The positive atmosphere in which the work of the third session of the Preparatory Committee was carried out also gives us hope for a productive and substantive Review Conference in May 2010.

Lastly, let me mention the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament, which was launched on the joint initiative of Japan and Australia. The Commission has been holding meetings and consultations around the world throughout the year, including in Sydney, Washington, D.C., Santiago, Beijing, Moscow, Cairo and New Delhi, and it will be convening its final meeting this month in Hiroshima. I am confident that the Commission will come up with an action-oriented report on its activities that will help our constructive deliberations in advance of the 2010 NPT Review Conference and beyond.

Japan remains committed to making its utmost contribution to the ongoing efforts for global nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in close cooperation with other Member States.

**Mr. Langeland** (Norway): Security Council resolution 1887 (2009), which was unanimously adopted, sent a strong message that the proliferation of nuclear weapons constitutes a threat to international peace and security. It cannot be denied that nuclear weapons are the most inhumane and indiscriminate weapons ever created. Nuclear disarmament serves our common security and is important for preventing severe humanitarian crisis.

Norway considers the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) to be the main avenue for achieving the elimination of nuclear weapons. The Treaty has, however, been under growing



strain. The NPT Review Conference to be held in May 2010 will consequently be the world's opportunity to set a forward-looking agenda that, in a comprehensive way, ties together nuclear disarmament, the right to peaceful nuclear applications and the need to develop a robust non-proliferation regime which also addresses nuclear security.

If we are to move forward, we need to resolve current proliferation challenges through political means. Norway condemned the nuclear testing and missile test carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to return to the Six-Party Talks without delay.

Norway has on a number of occasions urged the Islamic Republic of Iran to comply with the demands of the international community in order to reach a diplomatic outcome to the current nuclear dispute. We strongly hope that the ongoing consultations will facilitate the process of reaching such an outcome.

The overall objective of the NPT is to achieve the total elimination of nuclear arsenals. This requires concrete actions. Norway would, in particular, advocate a number of important measures in this regard.

First, we need continued reductions in nuclear arsenals. We welcome the progress made between the United States and the Russian Federation on a START follow-on treaty. We consider this as a first step towards a comprehensive disarmament process involving all categories of nuclear weapons and bringing in the other nuclear-weapon States.

Secondly, we need to implement measures to prevent any potential new nuclear arms race. The entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and an early negotiation of a fissile material cut-off treaty should be given highest priority. We must make use of the present window of opportunity to move forward with the CTBT. Likewise, we must now take advantage of the programme of work agreed upon in the Conference on Disarmament to swiftly negotiate a fissile material cut-off treaty. In the meantime, existing moratoriums on tests and production of fissile material for weapons purposes must be preserved and even strengthened. We must also provide support to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization in completing the international monitoring system.

Thirdly, further efforts are required to bring existing stocks of fissile materials under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards with a view to conversion for civilian purposes or destruction. Indeed, conversion of existing stocks will make a considerable amount of fuel available for peaceful uses. There can be no doubt that addressing the issue of existing stocks will be a precondition for attaining the full elimination of nuclear weapons. As a start, we could revisit the trilateral initiative between the United States, Russia and the IAEA.

Fourthly, improving the transparency of existing stocks of nuclear weapons and of disarmament efforts is important. Reporting is not an option, but an obligation.

Fifthly, we must also remove the status that may be associated with acquiring nuclear weapons and reduce the security policy role of nuclear weapons. From our perspective, that would imply further efforts on de-alerting existing deployed weapons and a consideration of ways to reduce the salience of nuclear weapons in deterrence doctrines.

Sixthly, we need to move forward on regional nuclear-weapon-free zones and negative security assurances. My delegation welcomes the entry into force of the Pelindaba Treaty. Norway encourages all nuclear-weapon States to sign and ratify the relevant protocols to that Treaty. Likewise, Norway reiterates its support for the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, as laid out in the resolution adopted at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference. Norway is ready to contribute towards that end.

Non-proliferation is a precondition for achieving our goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. In that regard Norway, in particular, advocates the following.

First, we must provide the IAEA with the political and financial support it needs to carry out its crucial task of administering international safeguards. Secondly, universalization of the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and its additional protocols, which Norway considers to constitute the verification norm, must be achieved. Thirdly, Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) must be fully implemented, as must the relevant instruments in the field of nuclear security. Norway welcomes the initiative by President Obama to convene a nuclear security summit in Washington, D.C., next year. Fourthly, we must also

ensure further progress in the area of an international fuel cycle and the establishment of a fuel bank under IAEA auspices. Lastly, we must also recognize that export controls support the NPT norm.

Norway fully supports the inalienable right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy as stipulated in article IV of the NPT. It is, however, vital that peaceful uses of nuclear technology not undermine non-proliferation efforts. Norway therefore underlines, first, the importance of reaching a common understanding on developing multilateral nuclear fuel cycle arrangements under IAEA guidance, which are proliferation-resistant and take into account the concerns of developing countries. Secondly, we need full adherence to the relevant IAEA nuclear safety instruments and efforts to ensure that the Agency provides essential assistance and expertise to Member States in implementing their safety obligations. Thirdly, increased funding for IAEA technical cooperation programmes with developing countries is also essential in order ensure more equitable access to peaceful nuclear applications.

Finally, while we now have a historic opportunity to pursue the goal of a world without nuclear weapons, it is crucial that States parties mobilize the necessary political will to sustain and to further strengthen the authority and legitimacy of the NPT. We must reaffirm the relevance of the three pillars of the NPT and their close linkage. In doing so, we must work in innovative ways. We must advocate cross-regional cooperation and continue building broad partnerships. We must also ensure an active participation of civil society in order to raise public awareness and the support for the political measures needed to reach our goal.

We must ensure that the NPT Review Conference in 2010 produces a substantive and tangible outcome. The Review Conference should agree on a programme of work up to 2015 and on steps to be taken beyond that year. We should also reach agreement on a strengthened NPT review process that holds us accountable for fulfilling our commitments.

**Mr. Duncan** (United Kingdom): Since this is first time that I have addressed the First Committee during this session, allow me to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your appointment, and assure you and the rest of the Bureau of the support of the United Kingdom in taking forward this work.

The United Kingdom associates itself fully with the statement delivered by the representative of Sweden on behalf of the European Union.

This is a decisive time for the international community. Nuclear issues are among the most critical we face. As United Kingdom Foreign Secretary David Milliband put it recently, get it right, and we will increase global security, pave the way for a world without nuclear weapons and improve access to affordable, safe and dependable energy. Get it wrong, and we face a new and dangerous era of new State nuclear-weapon holders and the chilling prospect of nuclear material falling into the hands of terrorists. We must work collectively and robustly to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime. At the same time, we recognize that there is a need for all nuclear armed States to pursue active disarmament in a way that will command the confidence of all the non-nuclear weapon States.

At the Security Council summit held on 24 September (see S/PV.6191), leaders from nuclear- and non-nuclear-weapon States, including United Kingdom Prime Minister Gordon Brown, sent a united message that they are committed to creating the conditions for a world free of nuclear weapons. We stand firmly by that commitment. The unanimous adoption of Security Council resolution 1887 (2009) gives us a shared vision and the blueprint to address the difficult challenges ahead.

I could sit before members today and elaborate on the exemplary record of the United Kingdom on nuclear disarmament, but they have heard it all before, and the steps we have taken are well known. We have set out our national position in two widely published documents, "Lifting the nuclear shadow" and "Road to 2010", which was launched by Prime Minister Gordon Brown in July. The United Kingdom remains dedicated to working towards a world without nuclear weapons and is fully committed to its obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

What I would rather do today is lay down a challenge to the First Committee. If we are to make the world a safer and more secure place, then we need to focus on what binds us together rather than what divides us. No one can disagree that nuclear proliferation is a threat to international peace and stability, that nuclear security must be a priority and

that we all want the certainty that nuclear weapons will never be used again. We share a common responsibility to enable access to peaceful nuclear energy while guarding against its appropriation for offensive purposes.

It is time for us to look forward rather than backward. When we sit in the First Committee in 2010, what will success look like? If in these 12 months of opportunity, we remain camped on national positions and engaged in zero-sum debates, then, I suggest, we will all have failed. If however, we have managed to move forward on issues of common concern and are working together to address our mutual concerns, then I think we can say that we will have made progress and advanced along the road towards a world without nuclear weapons.

I acknowledge that this will not be easy. For the United Kingdom's part, we would like to vote in favour of more resolutions than we currently do. The key to achieving greater consensus will be greater engagement by all and a willingness to compromise on sometimes long-held positions. We will endeavour to play our part in this and seek earlier engagement in the future.

We can make progress if we engage on the issues that concern us. This means, for example, returning to the table at the Conference on Disarmament and adopting a programme of work in 2010 that kick-starts negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty. We know that some States have concerns about such a treaty. These are concerns that are better addressed transparently at the negotiating table, rather than being plunged into a deep freeze. A failure to engage will not make the world a safer place, on a local, regional or indeed global level.

We want to see continued progress on ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and a permanent ban on further explosive testing of nuclear weapons. We too want to see further progress by the nuclear-weapon States under article VI of the Treaty, which is why the United Kingdom Prime Minister has called for an action plan under this pillar. But let us be clear. There is a "grand bargain" that lies at the heart of the NPT, and the United Kingdom will be seeking action plans for all three pillars, along with strong international commitment to tackling the issue of nuclear security. President Obama's summit on nuclear security to be held in April 2010 is an important milestone.

The 2010 NPT Review Conference is also a milestone, not an end in itself. While our attention is rightly focused on making it a success and reassuring our citizens that we take our obligations seriously, we also have to look beyond that horizon. It is our common responsibility to ensure that momentum is maintained, not just on nuclear disarmament, but on all of the three pillars, so that we can deliver what we promised over 40 years ago.

**Mr. Danon (France)** (*spoke in French*): As this is also my first statement before the First Committee, I too would like to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the Chair and on the work you carry out here with the support of all members, including, of course, that of the French delegation. My delegation fully associates itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union. I would like to share some additional comments with the First Committee.

First, in the area of disarmament, we continue, in accordance with the statement made at Cherbourg, France, by our President, to translate the foundations of my country's position into concrete reality. First and foremost, that involves the adaptation of our arsenal to strategic realities. I would recall that since the end of the cold war this adaptation process has brought about a substantial reduction in the overall number of our nuclear warheads, a number that is now capped at 300, and has limited our ground arsenal and reduced our submarine and aerial arsenal. This process also entails ensuring that the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons — which was ended some time ago — is definitively done away with through completion of the dismantling of the relevant installations in addition to the dismantling of the Pacific nuclear test site. Finally, this process entails transparency in terms of our policy by making publicly available the total — and I would emphasize the word "total" — level of our forces and facts concerning our concrete disarmament efforts and by conducting tours of our former sites for the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons, namely Pierrelatte and Marcoule, tours in which several members have participated.

Given the need for reciprocity in efforts to achieve a safer world, we call on our partners to act in a similar fashion. We would highlight three things in particular. First, all nuclear-weapon States must fully commit to reducing their arsenals. We welcome the fact that certain other nuclear Powers have also taken the route chosen by France more than a decade ago — as

well as by the United Kingdom — to put in place a posture of strict sufficiency in nuclear arsenals. A new reduction in strategic armaments by the United States and Russia is a particular priority in the area of nuclear disarmament, given that those countries still possess nearly 95 per cent of the world's stockpile of nuclear weapons. In that regard, we welcome the commitment of Presidents Obama and Medvedev to conclude a new agreement on strategic nuclear weapon reductions before the end of the year. We call on all other States concerned to also undertake reduction efforts.

Before negotiations begin on a cut-off treaty, for which we are prepared, we would also like to see, as soon as possible, the establishment by every country concerned of a national moratorium on the production of fissile materials for military purposes. Lastly, we would like to see the beginning of consultations to negotiate a treaty to ban short- and intermediate-range surface-to-surface missiles, thereby making it possible to significantly reduce the threat posed by ballistic missiles.

As underscored by heads of State and Government of the Group of Eight in July, as well as in Security Council resolution 1887 (2009), adopted on 24 September, let us not forget that our common task and fundamental goal is to ensure that the world we build is one of collective security, stability and prosperity. That means in particular that we should not limit ourselves to addressing the nuclear stakes alone, but also take up the larger host of strategic issues. We are well aware of the fact, especially here in the First Committee, that the concerns of certain countries do not pertain just to nuclear postures and arsenals, but also to anti-missile defence, conventional capacities and outer space. We should make progress on the disarmament track without limiting our thinking or purpose. Above all, that means that we should work towards re-establishing a safer international environment by addressing the significant pressing challenges affecting our security, first and foremost the serious crisis faced by the international nuclear non-proliferation regime today.

France's position with regard to the issue of proliferation is well known. The proliferation crises we are experiencing are today the gravest current threat to international peace and security. In the face of such crises, the international community should be united and resolute. It is because we want peace that we should not show weakness to those who violate

international norms. It is because disarmament is not possible without a sense of security and trust that we should put an end to the worsening proliferation crises, which pose a disincentive to pursuing nuclear reductions.

It is because civilian nuclear energy can be developed only through mutual trust that we should discourage those who would seek to divert it to other purposes. That is what is at stake in the cases of North Korea and Iran. In that regard, we will continue to judge the situation more on the basis of deeds than on intentions. I shall not revisit the speech delivered on behalf of the European Union, except to simply say in that connection that we shall pay very close attention to the concreteness of the results achieved between now and the end of the year, the resumption of the E3+3 talks with Iran, and the outcome of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections.

Lastly, we must face up to the significant and growing demand for civilian nuclear power. Officials of my country have on numerous occasions highlighted the fact that France is prepared to share its long experience and knowledge in that entire area to the benefit of this nuclear renaissance. However, civilian nuclear power can be developed only in an extremely secure atmosphere. This an industrial field like no other. The stakes involved in the areas of security, safety and non-proliferation are at the heart of its international development.

In that connection, there are some who would like to raise the issue of the inalienable right under article IV of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Quite to the contrary, it is in order to ensure that that right can be permanently enjoyed by all that there is a requirement to observe the heightened norms and standards for security, safety and non-proliferation.

More than ever before, we need a cooperative approach to ensure the responsible development of this energy. In a globalized world, access to civilian nuclear power also entails obligations. In that regard, there is a need for strict respect for common rules and individual commitments. In that connection, I would refer in particular to comprehensive safeguards agreements signed by respective countries with the IAEA. Along those lines, I should like to reiterate our desire to see additional protocols become the new standard for countries parties to the NPT.

Those considerations are reflected in Security Council resolution 1887 (2009), which was a crucial outcome of the summit of heads of State and Government held on 24 September. At a time when the world is facing real dangers in the nuclear field, the Security Council, meeting at the summit level, took stock of the challenges currently facing the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and drafted an ambitious road map to address it. That was a major milestone with regard to the Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT. The road ahead of us is one of a new nuclear order founded on the NPT and the realities of today's world.

In our view, the response to those challenges should include the implementation of concrete and realistic measures, beginning with those put forward in the area of disarmament late last year by the 27 heads of State and Government of the European Union. In May, the Union also made proposals in other areas of the Treaty. We shall take the same approach at the forthcoming NPT Review Conference in May 2010. For us, the adoption by the Conference of a plan of action for the coming years in the three areas covered by the Treaty will be a crucial measure of its success, but it will not be the only one. We will also have an opportunity to review our goals. Among other things, we will have to address the real threats to international security posed by the serious attacks against the non-proliferation regime, including abusive interpretations of article X, and we will have to focus seriously on the effective implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East.

That is a brief summary of the crucial elements of France's approach to nuclear issues dealt with by the First Committee — an approach geared towards exemplary concrete actions and genuinely resolving international tensions.

**The Chairperson** (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Kazakhstan to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/64/L.14.

**Mrs. Aitimova** (Kazakhstan): Although the political environment for making progress towards a nuclear-weapon-free world is more favourable today than it has been in a decade, that progress is far from assured. States still possess thousands of those deadly types of weapons, and the risk of their proliferation and acquisition by non-State actors persists.

Kazakhstan, which has been strongly committed to global disarmament and non-proliferation processes from the very first days of its independence, considers the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) to be the main instrument of a nuclear non-proliferation regime that is based on three mutually reinforcing pillars. We stand for steady and gradual nuclear disarmament through the implementation of commitments by all NPT States parties, nuclear and non-nuclear alike. Efforts should be consolidated at the Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT in 2010 in order to agree upon concrete proposals that ensure the effectiveness and universality of the Treaty.

We support the urgent call upon all States to start negotiations as early as possible on a treaty banning the production of fissile materials, and to ensure the earliest entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban-Treaty.

The entry into force in March of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia was among the considerable contributions made by Kazakhstan and the Central Asian States to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament in our region. The first consultative meeting of the States parties to the Treaty will take place on 15 October in Turkmenistan. We count on support for the Central Asian zone — first and foremost from the nuclear Powers — including the possibility of providing negative security guarantees. Kazakhstan welcomes the convening of the second Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, which will be held in New York in 2010.

Kazakhstan recognizes the right of any nation to develop nuclear technology for peaceful purposes under strict international control. We therefore stand for the peaceful resolution, through diplomatic efforts and negotiations, of the conflict situations that have arisen recently concerning nuclear programmes. In that regard, taking into account the growing global demand for nuclear energy, we support multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle and have expressed our readiness to host a nuclear fuel bank on our territory under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Such a storage facility would enable countries to purchase nuclear fuel, thereby decreasing the need for individual nations to develop their own enrichment programmes and contributing to the strengthening of

the nuclear non-proliferation regime. We are convinced that Kazakhstan possesses all the rights and prerequisites for that undertaking as one of the leading producers of natural uranium, a State that voluntarily refused to have nuclear weapons and a country that fully implements its obligations under the provisions of the NPT.

In their statements, almost all nations, including nuclear-weapons States, have expressed the shared vision of a nuclear-weapon-free world. The path towards that goal may be long and hard, but it is realistic. As the Secretary-General has stated, a world free of nuclear weapons is a global public good of the highest order. In that regard, I have the honour to introduce, under agenda item 96 and on behalf of the delegations of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, a new draft resolution entitled "International Day for a World Free of Nuclear Weapons", which is contained in document A/C.1/64/L.14. The main objective of the draft resolution is to raise public awareness around the world about the threats and dangers of the existence of nuclear weapons and the need to consolidate global efforts towards the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world. The draft resolution invites various actors to commemorate the International Day in an appropriate manner, especially through every educational and public awareness-raising means.

The draft resolution does not call upon States to disarm now, but rather will help everybody in moving towards that noble ideal. The significance of the date chosen for the International Day cannot be overestimated, as it is the date of the closure of the world's second-largest nuclear test site on 29 August 1991. That also initiated a process of voluntary renunciation of one of the largest nuclear arsenals in the world. A real-life experience stands behind that date. Forty years of nuclear testing were stopped on that day, setting the stage for the safe disposal of the 104 SS-18 intercontinental ballistic missiles we inherited from the past, each of which was tipped with 10 nuclear warheads. Actions of such unprecedented scope, as well as the nature of the consequences that could have followed otherwise, seem to deserve global recognition.

It is our sincere hope that the draft resolution will receive the full support of Member States, which will prove the real desire and will of the international

community to attain the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

**Mr. Macedo (Mexico)** (*spoke in Spanish*): It is a source of great satisfaction for Mexico that significant efforts have been made in recent months to place nuclear disarmament once again at the top of the international agenda — a status that the issue merits by its very nature, but which it had unfortunately lost. New windows of opportunity have thereby been opened to make progress towards a secure world free of nuclear weapons. The atmosphere has changed and new impetus can be discerned. President Obama's speech in Prague in April heralded the arrival of new hope. The beginning of bilateral negotiations with the Russian Federation on a strategic weapons treaty is a decisive step in the pursuit of our goal. We hope that the treaty to be concluded will impose substantive, irreversible and fully verifiable reductions.

We of course welcome reductions in arsenals. However, we should not lose sight of the fact that our goal is the total elimination of nuclear weapons. We urge the other nuclear Powers to emulate those disarmament processes and to continue to take energetic steps towards the elimination of nuclear arsenals. In that regard, we are encouraged by the announcements made by the representatives of the United Kingdom and France in the Committee this afternoon.

The Security Council summit on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, which was convened by the President of the United States at the level of heads of State and Government on 24 September, was an encouraging event that will no doubt give impetus to our efforts. Resolution 1887 (2009), which was adopted unanimously on that occasion, includes important pronouncements and disarmament and non-proliferation measures to which all States commit themselves to follow-up and implement, as called for Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations.

The environment has changed. Dialogue and trust are being re-established. However, rhetoric must be translated into concrete action at the multilateral level. We cannot be satisfied just with good intentions. We must not fool ourselves, but rather get to work. The Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to be held in 2010 will be an excellent opportunity to illustrate the change we have noted and to prove that, by honouring

the commitment they undertook under article VI of the Treaty and reiterated in the Final Document of the 2000 Conference, nuclear Powers will indeed dismantle and destroy all their nuclear weapons.

I should like to highlight our disappointment at the fact that the third session of the Preparatory Committee, which was very ably led by the representative of Zimbabwe, whom we thank for all his efforts, was unable to transmit to the Conference a series of recommendations for its consideration. On that day, we had the feeling that the climate had reverted to what it had been in the past. The positions taken were not always in line with the leaders' new speeches. We hope that that will not happen again and that the Conference will produce a substantive result that reflects new realities.

Horizontal non-proliferation is certainly a matter of concern for Mexico. However, we must not forget that it cannot be addressed either in an isolated manner or with disproportionate emphasis. It is part of an indivisible whole whose three aspects deserve equal attention. I am obviously referring to the transaction that made it possible for the Treaty to come into being through the three pillars that support it — disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

For reasons of history, conviction and legal commitments, Mexico is not and cannot be a proliferator, but we are aware that sensitive dual-use material can be diverted by others towards military ends. That is why my country has begun the process of joining the various dual-use products export control regimes, such as the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Wassenaar Arrangement, the Australia Group and others. These actions attest to Mexico's responsible commitment to the non-proliferation regime established under the 1970 Treaty. We thus wish to reiterate that the best way to definitively prevent proliferation is to eliminate nuclear weapons altogether.

Repeated mention has been made of the fact that, after a lengthy deadlock, the Conference on Disarmament adopted its programme of work, which includes the beginning of negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty that is fully verifiable and which, in Mexico's opinion, should also cover existing arsenals. We welcome the fact that France, as its representative said a few minutes ago, has taken the brave step of permanently closing its production plants,

as well as the moratoriums declared by other States possessing nuclear weapons. These actions are a good omen for the negotiations we are about to begin.

Let us begin our work with daring, a constructive spirit and creativity. Controversial issues will be resolved as negotiations progress. We call on those who are still reluctant to do so to sit at the table with us. We hope that the decision taken a few months ago can lead to the much-awaited resumption of the Conference's work.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) completes the nuclear disarmament regime established by the non-proliferation Treaty and, eventually, the future instrument on fissile material. Banning tests decisively contributes to preventing the updating of arsenals. Mexico welcomes the intention expressed by the President of the United States to seek approval of the Treaty by his country's Senate as quickly as possible. Ratification by the main holder of nuclear weapons will no doubt generate an impetus that will make it possible for the entry into force of an instrument whose institutions are already effectively functioning, as was indicated yesterday by the Executive Secretary. For my country, this achievement would be the fulfilment of a long-awaited dream for which we have fought tirelessly at the Conference on Disarmament.

The international community has recognized that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones is a significant disarmament measure. That of Latin America has served as an example for other regions to sign treaties of the same nature. The Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Pelindaba, Bangkok, Central Asia and Mongolia have turned a very significant portion of the planet into an enormous nuclear-weapon-free zone. Mexico welcomes this achievement and will continue working for the creation of new zones in regions such as the Middle East, Central Europe and South Asia, and a denuclearized Korean peninsula.

In order to encourage cooperation and understanding between these zones, we intend to hold next year the second Conference of States Parties and Signatories of the Treaties that establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones in New York, following up that held in Mexico in 2005. We will co-sponsor the draft resolution to be presented by Chile on this issue, and we are sure that we will continue to enjoy the full support of the Secretary-General, to whom we formally

request the assistance necessary for the Conference to be held.

The role of nuclear weapons in military doctrines and tactics must end. National or international security cannot be based on the possession and accumulation of nuclear weapons, whose very existence is a serious threat to peace. The best guarantee of peace is the eradication of nuclear weapons. Mexico will continue to work tirelessly towards achieving this goal.

**Mr. Van den IJssel** (Netherlands): Let me start by saying that the Netherlands fully aligns itself with the statement made earlier by the European Union presidency. From a national point of view, we would like to add the following observations.

The Netherlands warmly welcomes the new élan in disarmament and non-proliferation. The historic Security Council summit, as well as the unanimous adoption of Security Council resolution 1887 (2009), which resolves to seek a safer world for all and to create the conditions for a world free of nuclear weapons, show that serious work is being done. The Security Council summit demonstrated that the permanent five members share a commitment to working for further nuclear disarmament, and we therefore expect concrete steps in this context by them all.

Of course, the non-nuclear-weapon States also have an obligation in this regard. The negotiations between the two largest nuclear Powers on a START follow-on agreement constitute a positive development in this context. An ambitious agreement before the end of this year would have an enormous impact on further reductions. The Netherlands believes that the international community should build on this momentum and take concrete steps towards a nuclear-weapon-free world. The coming year will be crucial in this respect.

The 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) marks an important milestone for the international non-proliferation system. In view of the lack of outcome of the Conference of 2005 and recent developments, it is important that real progress be made to strengthen the non-proliferation system. The Netherlands believes that, in order to move forward, we need a strategic and creative approach. In the coming months, we will be active in preparations for the Review Conference, working closely together with countries from all regions of the world. Cooperation is of the essence. The NPT should not merely serve the

interests of the permanent members of the Security Council or a small group of countries; a well-functioning and effective NPT serves all of us.

We call on those States that have not ratified it to do so. We call on those States that have ratified it to implement it. Ownership by all of us is fundamental and, in this context, the best way to move forward is by maintaining the balance between the three pillars of the NPT: non-proliferation, peaceful use and disarmament.

Another important milestone would be the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). In past years, the Netherlands has been very active in the promotion of the entry into force of the CTBT. In this regard, the Netherlands would like to recognize the tireless efforts of Ambassador Jaap Ramaker as the Special Representative to Promote the CTBT Ratification Process. We still need nine more ratifications before the Treaty can enter into force. The Netherlands welcomes President Obama's commitment to seeking United States ratification of the CTBT, as well as positive statements in this regard by other States, and hopes that all States concerned will soon live up to their responsibility and take this crucial step.

With the new momentum in disarmament, we call on the Conference on Disarmament to leave the period of often interesting but inconclusive discussions behind it. The Conference should again become a forum for new and concrete steps. In this context, the Netherlands would also like to stress the importance of an early start and conclusion of negotiations on an effectively verifiable fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT). In May of this year, the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva agreed on a programme of work that included the start of these negotiations. The Netherlands therefore calls on all members of the Conference to commence substantive work, including FMCT negotiations, at the beginning of its next session. A lot of groundwork for the negotiations has already been done. We should waste no more time and get to work.

In conclusion, the Netherlands believes that the non-proliferation Treaty, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and a fissile material cut-off treaty should not be seen as entirely separate agreements. They are linked and mutually reinforcing. If one views the NPT as a house, a cut-off treaty is bound to strengthen its foundations and the CTBT serves as its roof. The Netherlands wants to help build that house



and stands ready to work constructively with all those States that want to build it with us.

**Mr. Labbé** (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation has informed me that I have 10 minutes to make my statement in my national capacity and 15 minutes to deliver each of the statements in my capacity as the representative of groups of countries. That adds up to 40 minutes. I should like to inform the Committee that, as a confidence-building measure, I do not intend to speak for 40 minutes.

The delegation of Chile is pleased to congratulate you, Mr. Chairperson, and the other members of the Bureau and to pledge our cooperation to you throughout a session of the First Committee that today looks quite hopeful.

One year ago, we said in this same room that the political changes that have already occurred and those in the offing could create opportunities for rescuing the nuclear non-proliferation regime and for relaunching nuclear disarmament. The political changes that we observed one year ago are today a concrete reality. The hopes of yesterday have given way to political events on which we can build courses of action.

Disarmament is a part of the multilateral agenda that, by its very nature, requires decisive leadership on the part of major actors in the international community. Nuclear disarmament will be a reality when States that possess atomic weapons relinquish an instrument of power whose mere existence — as noted in the statement delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), of which we are a member — creates unacceptable risks. The thinking of the NAM, which we espouse, in essence points out that the best way to avert the danger of nuclear weapons falling into terrorist hands is to eliminate them completely. The Southern Common Market has expressed itself in those same terms on many occasions. We are associated with that group as well, whose positions we also share.

Accordingly, we are very pleased to see that the necessary leadership has been given considerable impetus by the policies of President Barack Obama. The delegation of Chile will be unstinting in its praise of this White House, aligning ourselves with those who welcome the fact that the Norwegian Academy has bestowed the Nobel Peace Prize on a leader who — together with President Dmitry Medvedev in London — proclaimed the vision of a nuclear-weapon-free world. In his presidential campaign, that statesman denounced

the high state of alert of strategic nuclear weapons as a relic of the cold war, promising to work with Russia in a mutual and verifiable manner to take nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert.

As Michelle Bachelet, President of Chile, said on the subject of the Nobel Peace Prize, the award to President Obama represents

“an appeal to all international political actors to make our hopes come true for real progress towards disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and peace in areas of our planet still experiencing tremendous tension, such as the Middle East”.

The message of our delegation is the same as that of our President. Let us turn our good intentions into deeds and all assume that share of leadership that, by virtue of the principle of indivisibility of international security, is incumbent on each State — large or small — as a responsible player in the international community. As stated in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), without prejudice to the essential responsibility borne by nuclear States and recognized in that instrument, the international community as a whole also has a role to play in the achievement of nuclear disarmament.

For that reason, our delegation notes that, in the very important resolution 1887 (2009), the members of the Security Council reaffirmed the need to seek a safer world for all and to create the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons, in accordance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and on the basis of the principle of undiminished security for all. Chile notes with satisfaction that the Council made an effort to maintain a political balance between the various principles, instruments, bodies and variables involved without failing to face up to the challenges that nuclear proliferation and terrorism pose for the whole world.

As Latin Americans, we are glad to single out the work done by Costa Rica and Mexico — States with a long and distinguished tradition in the area of disarmament — together with the other non-permanent and permanent members, to achieve agreement on an instrument that, correctly interpreted, contains a multilateral road map for the coming years.

The General Assembly, whose competence in the area of international security is clearly established in Article 11 of the Charter, now has an opportunity,

through the work of the First Committee and of the plenary, to expand upon and clarify the results of the Council's disarmament summit, following the principle that United Nations action is the fruit of synergies and cooperation between all its principal organs.

In particular, as members of the General Assembly, we must be able to send a clear message to the Conference on Disarmament that, following the adoption of the programme of work — which was welcomed as evidence of a new and positive atmosphere in the disarmament machinery — the abuse of the rule of strict consensus applied there finally torpedoed the efforts of several Presidents to initiate substantive work. Is it not perhaps ironic that the substantive progress now being made in the area of nuclear disarmament is the result of the bilateral negotiations that the United States and the Russian Federation launched to replace the START I Treaty, and not of the so-called principal forum for the negotiation of disarmament instruments?

The eighth Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT is undoubtedly the most important event on our calendar for the coming year. We hope for a successful outcome to renew the political legitimacy of an instrument and a regime that are crucial for international peace and security. The old diplomatic qualities of good faith and pragmatism will be essential to the achievement of that outcome. Each State and each political group that will participate in the exercise should feel not only that it is the master of the exercise, but also that there is a possibility that its legitimate goals will be met. The NPT belongs to all its States parties; its provisions enshrine rights that we all possess. Chile subscribes to the theory that advocates a process of ongoing revision. Universal conventions of this scope have a life and a progression punctuated by the Review Conferences, which ensure not only the permanence of the instrument but also its practical relevance.

The crux of the problem is the need to reconcile support for earlier results, particularly those achieved by consensus in 1995 and 2000, with the challenges of the present. These results belong to us all and not only to one regional group, as some claimed in 2005. In particular, we believe it necessary to review the 13 practical steps for nuclear disarmament that won general support almost a decade ago in order to formulate, in the light of present realities and needs, a pragmatic agenda with objective chances of success.

It is also essential for the Review Conference to provide significant space for civil society, which has followed our activities in a selfless and disinterested fashion for years. To single out some organizations may be unfair, but I cannot fail to mention the Middle Powers Initiative, the Global Security Institute, Nuclear Flashpoints, the Acronym Institute, Mayors for Peace, the International Network of Engineers and Scientists against Proliferation and the Evans-Kawaguchi Commission, whose efforts — along with those of many others — set an example and spur us on.

The goals that we have outlined in this statement can be achieved if a genuine willingness to negotiate, to give and take, prevails among us. Chile's multilateral bent is well known and has been put into play in the Non-Aligned Group, the Rio Group, the Southern Common Market, the Seven Nation Initiative and the De-Alerting Coalition, as well as in the coalition that recently succeeded in launching the Oslo Convention on Cluster Munitions. It is a policy dictated by the need for peace and inspired by the human security paradigm. The beneficiaries of everything we do in this room — and we should never forget this — are flesh and blood people: our fellow men and women, our brothers and sisters and our compatriots, who hope for and deserve much more and much better from the United Nations.

*(spoke in English)*

My delegation would now like to address the First Committee in its capacity as coordinator of the group of countries that, since 2007, has been promoting the resolution entitled "Decreasing the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems". In this regard, on behalf of the group of lead sponsors of this resolution, Chile would like to recall that a lowered operational readiness of nuclear weapons is an integral step in the nuclear disarmament process. It represents an important part of efforts towards achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world by demonstrating a commitment to a reduced role for nuclear weapons in security strategies.

However, in the light of the efforts currently under way in several countries to review the role that nuclear weapons play in their security doctrines, the lead sponsors have decided not to present the resolution during the current sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly. The lead sponsors are of the view that the aforementioned reviews are the way to follow

and a preliminary step towards the call in the resolution for further practical steps to be taken to decrease the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems.

In this connection, the lead sponsors see the decision not to submit the resolution this year as a contribution to a positive outcome on the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems in the longer term. This decision is a demonstration of the sponsors' willingness to engage constructively on this issue moving forward. The lead sponsors will continue to work for a lasting solution on this important issue and will maintain our focus on achieving the best possible outcome on operational readiness at next year's NPT Review Conference.

The lead sponsors fully intend to present a draft resolution on operational readiness to the First Committee at the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly and remain hopeful that it will demonstrate that the good faith shown on the part of the sponsors this year has resulted in tangible progress on these issues.

*(spoke in Spanish)*

My delegation wishes to speak now, as coordinator of the focal points of the nuclear-weapon-free zones, with reference to the second Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones. We received our mandate from the first Conference, held in Mexico in April 2005. That Conference confirmed the need for joint work towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and established the basis for closer coordination and cooperation between the zones, which is the context in which the second Conference of nuclear-weapon-free zones in 2010 is to take place.

The States parties wish to hold this meeting at the United Nations in a one-day session on 30 April 2010, immediately before the NPT Review Conference. In a very positive development for disarmament since the 2005 Conference, new regions have joined the ranks of the nuclear-weapon-free regimes: Central Asia and Africa, the latter following the recent entry into force of the Pelindaba Treaty. As firm supporters of multilateralism, the States parties and signatories to treaties that establish nuclear-weapon-free zones believe that, at the present time, the United Nations is the most appropriate forum and framework for the holding of an event of this nature.

Indeed, there is a close linkage between the disarmament and non-proliferation regime and the establishment and promotion of new nuclear-weapon-free zones. These are an important tool for preventing nuclear proliferation and for decreasing the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons, as well as for the creation of a climate of trust that makes it possible to build a world free of nuclear weapons. Furthermore, the nuclear-weapon-free zones are an example of the added value of the regional dimension as a contribution to the progress of world disarmament and towards establishing and enshrining geographical areas for nuclear non-proliferation.

This convergence between the disarmament and non-proliferation regime and the establishment and promotion of new nuclear-weapon-free zones has created interest and justifies the expressed wish of countries members of these zones for the second Conference to take place on the margins of the upcoming NPT Review Conference, one day prior to its opening.

Both meetings will gain strength from each other and move us closer to the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. On behalf of the focal points of the nuclear-weapon-free zones, Chile is promoting a draft resolution in support of the holding of this Conference, whose text has been circulated among delegations. We hope that it will have the valuable support of all States Members of the United Nations.

We thank Mexico for its generous announcement that it will co-sponsor the draft resolution, and we hope that the announcement and example will be followed by all delegations represented in this room.

**Mr. Kang Yong** (China) *(spoke in Chinese)*: President Hu Jintao, at the recent Security Council summit on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament (see S/PV.6191), pointed out that to realize a safer world for all we must first and foremost remove the threat of nuclear war. President Hu also put forth China's position on nuclear disarmament in a comprehensive and systematic way. First, we must maintain global strategic balance and stability and vigorously advance nuclear disarmament. All nuclear-weapon States should fulfil in good faith obligations under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and publicly undertake not to seek permanent possession of nuclear weapons. Countries with the largest nuclear arsenals should

continue to take the lead in making drastic and substantive reductions thereto.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty should be brought into force at an early date, and negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty should start as soon as possible. When conditions are ripe, other nuclear-weapon States should also join the multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament. To attain the ultimate goal of complete and thorough nuclear disarmament, the international community should, at an appropriate time, develop a viable long-term plan of phased actions, including the conclusion of a convention on the complete prohibition of nuclear weapons.

Secondly, we must abandon the nuclear deterrence policy based on first-use of nuclear weapons and take credible steps to reduce the threat of nuclear weapons in general. All nuclear-weapon States should make an unequivocal commitment to unconditionally not using or threatening to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States or nuclear-weapon-free zones, and conclude a legally binding international instrument in this regard. In the meantime, nuclear-weapon States should negotiate and conclude a treaty on no-first-use of nuclear weapons against one another.

International nuclear disarmament is currently confronted with unprecedented opportunities. The complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons and the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free world have become widely embraced goals. Various nuclear disarmament initiatives have been proposed. Negotiations on a new bilateral nuclear disarmament agreement between the United States and the Russian Federation are under way. The Conference on Disarmament has adopted a programme of work for the first time in many years. We welcome these developments.

It is our hope that the international community can make full use of current opportunities, embrace a new security concept characterized by mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and coordination, adhere to multilateralism, and create an international security environment favourable to nuclear disarmament. It is imperative to consolidate and strengthen the hard-won momentum of nuclear disarmament by pushing nuclear disarmament processes continuously forward and substantially reducing the threat of nuclear weapons. It is also important to preserve international strategic

balance and stability so as to enhance mutual strategic trust among countries and create the conditions necessary for nuclear disarmament.

The eighth Review Conference of Parties to the NPT is highly significant. All States parties should seize the opportunity presented to further forge consensus and work together to promulgate substantive outcomes of the Conference in order to give new impetus to international nuclear disarmament.

China has consistently stood for the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons and made unremitting efforts towards this goal. China is firmly committed to a nuclear strategy of self-defence. China has adhered to the policy of no-first-use of nuclear weapons at any time under any circumstances and made an unequivocal commitment to refrain unconditionally from using or threatening to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States or nuclear-weapon-free zones.

China does not participate in the nuclear arms race in any form and has kept its nuclear capabilities at the minimum level required for national security. China will continue to work with the international community to advance the international nuclear disarmament process with the aim of making a due contribution to the early realization of the goal of complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons in favour of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

**The Chairperson** (*spoke in Spanish*): I call on the representative of New Zealand to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/64/L.31.

**Ms. Higgie** (New Zealand): New Zealand welcomes the renewed global focus on a nuclear-weapon-free world. The leadership recently shown by leaders, including through the Security Council summit and its resolution 1887 (2009), provides much-needed momentum in the lead-up to next year's Review Conference of Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The Review Conference comes at a critical juncture in our efforts to sustain work on all pillars of the Treaty, including of course the undertakings made by the nuclear-weapon States with respect to nuclear disarmament.

New Zealand welcomes the reiteration in resolution 1887 (2009) of article VI of the NPT, which sets forth the obligation to pursue negotiations on

effective measures relating to nuclear disarmament. In our view, these effective measures are not just about the numbers, even though quantitative reductions are of course an important element; they must also include practical and transparent steps that collectively diminish the role nuclear weapons play in national security strategies.

The operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems is an important element of nuclear doctrine. As colleagues will be aware, including from the statements made from Ambassadors Streuli and Labbé earlier this afternoon, the de-alerting group, of which New Zealand is part, has decided not to present its draft resolution on operational readiness this year. This decision was not taken lightly. It reflects our recognition of the very positive momentum that currently exists and the genuine willingness of many States to explore concrete steps to achieve the Prague vision. Our group's decision is intended to allow space for the various review processes under way to reach a positive outcome. Nonetheless, we remain strongly committed to promoting the decreased readiness of nuclear weapons systems, and we will be working for a satisfactory outcome on this issue both at the NPT Review Conference and in the First Committee next year.

New Zealand is proud to be associated with draft resolutions put forward by the New Agenda Coalition on nuclear disarmament and by Australia and Mexico on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). The CTBT has a vital place in today's multilateral framework for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, with a strong contribution to make to global security. Its entry into force would be a major step towards a world free of nuclear weapons, and we welcome the confidence of High Representative Sergio Duarte in saying yesterday that its entry into force might not be far away. In this regard, we note with pleasure the commitment made by the United States and the recent welcome expressions of support for ratification by China and Indonesia.

Another vital element in the process of nuclear disarmament is the commencement of negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile materials for weapons purposes. These negotiations must begin in earnest at the beginning of next year, and we call on all countries to show the required flexibility to allow negotiations to commence. New Zealand is pleased to co-sponsor the draft resolution on a fissile material cut-

off treaty (A/C.1/64/L.1), put forward by Canada in the First Committee, and we urge all States to support a strong text on this issue.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce our draft resolution on a nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere (A/C.1/64/L.31), put forward jointly by Brazil and New Zealand. The resolution has been adopted by an overwhelming majority in past years, and we look forward to an even stronger outcome this year.

We welcome the entry into force earlier this year of the Pelindaba Treaty and note that the entire network of nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties that span the southern hemisphere is now in force. Nuclear-weapon-free zones are a powerful demonstration of the strong collective will that exists at the regional level to rid the world of nuclear weapons. In that connection, we are cognizant of the fact that nuclear-weapon-free zones contribute strongly both to nuclear disarmament and to nuclear non-proliferation objectives. We look forward to further progress towards the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in other regions, especially in the Middle East.

As a strong advocate of these zones, New Zealand welcomes Chile's leadership in organizing the second Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, to be held on 30 April 2010, just in advance of the NPT Review Conference. It will provide a valuable opportunity to explore ways of strengthening communication and collaboration within and between zones. New Zealand is pleased to support Chile's draft resolution (A/C.1/64/L.46) on that important meeting, which we expect will also advance the objectives of the NPT Review Conference.

Under the terms of the NPT, nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States alike have complementary roles to play in preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons. New Zealand takes this obligation very seriously and continues to be active in countering nuclear proliferation risks in a number of contexts. We are active participants in the Proliferation Security Initiative; we hosted an Initiative exercise in Auckland last year. We are active participants in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism; we are convening a Global Initiative national tabletop exercise in New Zealand next month. And we are a long-standing contributor to the Global Partnership of the

Group of Eight. All these initiatives complement the treaty-based regime.

I have already spoken, in last week's general debate (see A/C.1/64/PV.4), about New Zealand's unwavering commitment to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), demonstrated most recently through our chairing of this year's General Conference. We remain highly concerned that, as the IAEA Director General pointed out in his statement at the recent Security Council summit, (see S/PV.6191) the Agency's verification authority is either non-existent or inadequate in over 90 countries. That worrying situation must be rectified.

As so many have said this week and in recent months, we are living in a time of great opportunity for nuclear disarmament. It is incumbent upon all of us — nuclear and non-nuclear-weapon States alike — to take this opportunity and turn it into action.

**Mrs. Ancidey** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): The issue of nuclear weapons is a matter of great importance to my delegation. In that regard, it aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Since the dawn of the age of nuclear weapons, the world has lived with the latent threat of a nuclear attack. Many try to forget that, seeking to divert international public attention towards issues that, by their very nature, can be classified as secondary, since they do not stop the threat that nuclear weapons and their refinement represent.

The scope and severe destructiveness of a nuclear weapon are immeasurable. The tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki demonstrated the power of Little Boy and Fat Man. Today, 64 years after those attacks and given the nuclear Powers' enhancement of their nuclear technology and capabilities, the potential effects of the use of those arms are inconceivable. Without doubt, the very existence of nuclear weapons represents a serious threat to humankind. Those of us who call for and practice peace continue to hope for general and complete nuclear disarmament.

Our world is facing new threats and challenges, among which stand out the rapid refinement and modernization of nuclear weapons. The possible acquisition of such weapons by terrorist groups arises from their very existence, and full responsibility for

preventing such a diversion rests with the nuclear States. Similarly, the nuclear States must guarantee that they will not use such weapons against countries that have committed to not developing that technology. However, the only genuine guarantee — called for by all humankind — is the total and complete destruction of those weapons.

That is why countries possessing nuclear weapons have the greatest responsibility to take steps to reduce and eliminate their nuclear arsenals, in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), so as to guarantee a safer world free of nuclear threats.

That spirit prevailed at the fifth Review Conference of Parties to the NPT, at which the indefinite extension of the Treaty was agreed in the hope that the States parties would work jointly to achieve progress in the areas of non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. That feeling grew after the sixth Conference, at which the implementation of 13 practical disarmament steps was agreed. Unfortunately, those goals have seen themselves thwarted by the lack of political will of some nuclear Powers that have failed to honour their international commitments.

My delegation reiterates its welcome of the adoption of the programme of work of the Conference on Disarmament after 12 years of paralysis and stagnation in that body owing to the positions maintained by some countries that are opposed to the spirit and of dialogue and cooperation that should guide international relations among sovereign States. We also wish to highlight the negotiations under way between the two major nuclear Powers, the Russian Federation and the United States of America, to reduce their nuclear arsenals. We hope that the agreements reached will be irreversible, transparent and verifiable.

The Security Council also recently considered the issue of nuclear disarmament. However, it adopted a resolution 1887 (2009) focused almost exclusively on non-proliferation. As Venezuela noted in this Committee's general debate (see A/C.1/64/PV.2), we are concerned that the Security Council is interfering in the decision-making process of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The grief caused by the invasion of Iraq by one of the Security Council members lives on in the world's heart. My delegation believes that the summit could have produced an outcome that was much more credible, balanced and

committed to the goal of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. However, we all know how it turned out.

Venezuela believes that those negotiations are a very small step towards general and complete nuclear disarmament; they are in no way the only commitments needed on the disarmament and non-proliferation agenda. The NPT Review Conference to be held in 2010 must unfold in the same spirit of achieving concrete goals in the Treaty's three pillars. We object to ongoing undesirable practices that undermine the principle of the legal equality of States and discriminate against some by imposing compliance with obligations under international agreements from which others are exempted.

Venezuela reaffirms the inalienable right of States to develop nuclear energy for peaceful ends without discrimination, especially when it comes to developing countries that must diversify their energy sources and achieve technological independence.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela believes that the priorities agreed in the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (A/S-10/4) remain fully valid, particularly if we take into account that the modernization of nuclear weapons has continued at an accelerated and appalling rate.

My country believes that granting negative security guarantees to non-nuclear-weapon countries is another measure of particular importance. The latent threat of the use of nuclear weapons against countries that do not have them is still very real.

Venezuela also recognizes that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is another essential element of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. We therefore hope that the efforts that have been deployed for its full implementation will be translated into real action by all annex 2 States.

We also wish to stress once again the praiseworthy work carried out by nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of agreements freely reached between States. We reiterate our support for the Treaty of Tlatelolco — to which we are party — the Rarotonga Treaty, the nuclear-weapon-free status of Mongolia, and the recent entry into force of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia and of the Pelindaba Treaty in Africa.

Venezuela welcomes the holding of the second Conference of States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, to be held in New York next year, as yet another measure taken by the community of non-nuclear-weapon States towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We reiterate our support for the proposal to set up a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East as soon as possible, in accordance with the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

Finally, my delegation wishes to reiterate its full commitment to promoting a safer and more peaceful world and to state emphatically that respect for the principles of international law and the United Nations Charter is the appropriate path to follow.

**Mr. Quiñones Sánchez (Cuba)** (*spoke in Spanish*): The delegation of Cuba fully supports the statement made on this issue by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Despite the much-acclaimed end of the cold war, there are more than 23,500 nuclear weapons in the world, 8,392 of which are ready to be deployed immediately. The very existence of nuclear weapons and the doctrines that prescribe their possession and use is a severe threat to international peace and security. The very ownership of nuclear weapons provides an incentive for their irresponsible proliferation. Nuclear disarmament is and must continue to be the highest priority in the area of disarmament.

In complete disregard for the 1996 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons and the growing calls of the international community for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, some States that possess nuclear weapons refuse to renounce the use of such weapons in their security doctrines, which are based on so-called nuclear deterrence, and continue to pursue modernization programmes.

Cuba believes that the use of nuclear weapons is an illegal and completely immoral act and cannot be justified by any circumstance or security doctrine. Their use would be a flagrant violation of the international standards related to the prevention of genocide.

It is therefore of grave concern that not all nuclear-weapon States are prepared to reaffirm their unequivocal commitment — undertaken by consensus at the 2000 Review Conference of Parties to the Treaty

on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) — to eliminate their nuclear arsenals entirely in order to achieve nuclear disarmament pursuant to the provisions of article VI of the NPT. Countries possessing nuclear weapons must honour with their obligations to conduct good-faith negotiations aimed at achieving nuclear disarmament and signing a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international controls. Cuba reiterates the need to fully honour to commitments that have already been made, including the 13 practical steps agreed on at the 2000 NPT Review Conference.

We hope that the statements made on the occasion of the high-level Security Council meeting on disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, held on 24 September, will not have a merely intermediary impact but will mark the starting point for concrete efforts to achieve the goal of nuclear disarmament. A convention prohibiting the development, production, deployment, stockpiling, transfer and the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons must be adopted without further delay. It must establish specific deadlines for the destruction of nuclear arsenals and guarantee a transparent, irreversible and verifiable process.

It is unfortunate that resolution 1887 (2009), adopted at the Security Council high-level meeting, stresses non-proliferation issues almost exclusively and omits concrete measures to be taken for nuclear disarmament. We also call attention once again to the interference of the Security Council in functions that fall to other bodies of the United Nations system and to disarmament and arms control instruments that are already in force. We stress that the International Atomic Energy Agency is the only authority mandated to verify compliance with the obligations undertaken by Member States through their respective safeguard agreements.

Cuba rejects the selective focus and double standard that some countries seek to impose in addressing issues relating to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control by linking them with the threat of terrorism. This selective focus stresses measures to be taken against horizontal proliferation to the detriment of concerns regarding vertical proliferation, ignoring the fact that a complete prohibition and ban of nuclear weapons is the only way to guarantee that these weapons do not fall into the hands of terrorists. Issues related to nuclear disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy

cannot continue to be relegated to the back burner while horizontal non-proliferation remains the centre of attention.

States parties to the NPT have the inalienable right to research, produce and use nuclear technology for peaceful ends without discrimination. Less developed countries have the right to participate fully, on a legal and fair basis and without impediment or discrimination, in the transfer of equipment, material and scientific and technological information in the nuclear sphere for peaceful ends.

Besides being a State member of the NPT, Cuba firmly supports and has sponsored General Assembly resolutions advocating the total elimination of nuclear weapons, such as resolution 63/46 on nuclear disarmament and resolution 63/75 on the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons. As a member of the Conference on Disarmament, Cuba also supports the priority convening of negotiations on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament that would lead to the full elimination of nuclear weapons, and has co-authored specific initiatives on this subject by the Group of 21. This position in favour of nuclear disarmament extends to our participation in the Disarmament Commission in which, together with other member countries of the Non-Aligned Movement, Cuba has proposed several recommendations for nuclear disarmament.

The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones is a positive step forward and an important measure to reach the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in the world. In this context, Cuba believes that it is essential for nuclear-weapon States to unconditionally guarantee to all States of these zones that they will not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons.

Cuba supports the holding next year of the second Conference of States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, which will contribute to world nuclear disarmament efforts.

The immense resources dedicated today to maintaining nuclear weapons and their technical infrastructure could be used in development programmes aimed at meeting the Millennium Development Goals. This would make a substantial contribution to international peace and security. Cuba reiterates its firm commitment to a world free of nuclear weapons and its full willingness to work to turn this aspiration into a reality for all of humankind.



**Mr. Tan** (Canada): Canada continues to work towards a world that will one day be free of nuclear weapons. We are under no illusions, however, of what it will take to reach that goal. It will require unwavering efforts to build consensus even when differences seem irreconcilable and to discourage States seeking nuclear weapons from realizing that ambition. It will also necessitate urging nuclear-weapon States to fulfil their disarmament obligations and building institutions and regimes that provide security assurances for all. Above all, it will require continued courage and political will.

At the heart of this endeavour is the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The NPT remains the most widely adhered to non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament instrument in history. The 2010 Review Conference will be the first since the failure of 2005. Canada is encouraged by the general momentum building towards the adoption of a substantive consensual outcome document that promises to make the 2010 Conference successful.

Canada has actively promoted the enhancement of the institutional processes of the NPT. In this respect, the Government of Canada has submitted a working paper entitled “Strengthening the Review Process of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons”. What Canada is proposing is threefold: first, to establish annual and more focused meetings which could discuss and take decisions on any issue covered by the Treaty; secondly, to create a standing Bureau empowered to convene extraordinary decision-making sessions to address events that threaten the integrity or viability of the NPT; and thirdly, to create a dedicated NPT support unit housed within the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. I believe that these three cost-neutral proposals would help us better advance the NPT’s mandate. We look forward to further discussing them with members.

The international non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament regime has witnessed important successes in the past few years. First, Canada praises United States President Obama for the bold vision he outlined in his 5 April 2009 speech in Prague, in which he advocated for a world without nuclear weapons. As an important step in this direction, Canada is also encouraged by negotiations leading to a new strategic arms reduction treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation.

British Prime Minister Brown has also pledged to work towards a world free of all nuclear weapons, and French President Sarkozy, on behalf of the European Union, put forward a comprehensive plan for nuclear disarmament late last year. Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov and Chinese Foreign Minister Yang spoke eloquently to these issues in the Conference on Disarmament during the 2009 session and reaffirmed their commitment to a world free of nuclear weapons. Canada ascribes particular importance to strong coordination and cooperation among the five permanent members of the Security Council as a contribution to forward movement of the non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament agenda. Canada also notes the unwavering efforts of Australia and Japan in launching the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament.

Closely interrelated with these developments is progress on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate Mozambique, Malawi, Lebanon, Liberia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on their recent ratifications of the Treaty, which brings the number of States that have fully committed to banning, for all time, the testing of nuclear weapons to 150. I also wish to congratulate Trinidad and Tobago on its recent ratification of the Treaty. Gaining the remaining ratifications to permit the CTBT to enter into force should be considered a key step in strengthening the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Maintaining optimism, however, is not always easy. Momentum in some regions and within multilateral forums and international treaties has stalled. Iran remains in non-compliance with its international obligations while refusing to extend full cooperation to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Canada strongly supports efforts to find a negotiated settlement, which may include reversible Security Council action as long as Iran remains in non-compliance with its international obligations.

In May of this year, North Korea conducted its second nuclear test explosion in defiance of Security Council resolutions and the norm espoused by all CTBT signatories against further nuclear tests. Canada joined the worldwide denunciation of that act, and Prime Minister Stephen Harper condemned North Korea’s nuclear weapons programme as a grave threat to international security. Canada’s ultimate aim is to see North Korea resume its adherence to the NPT, fully

comply with its comprehensive nuclear safeguards agreement with the IAEA and resume its participation in the Six-Party Talks.

Furthermore, much of our multilateral disarmament diplomacy has been at a standstill for several years. Although there were glimmers of hope that the Conference on Disarmament had made some progress this year, efforts to implement the 2009 Programme of Work and to start negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT) — Canada's top priority at the Conference — have so far been unfruitful. We sincerely hope that the Conference can again agree on the programme of work adopted by consensus in May this year and begin substantive work on an FMCT.

*(spoke in French)*

In recent years, Group of Eight (G-8) countries have often discussed non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament issues, and G-8 summit documents reflect this preoccupation. Canada will work during its 2010 G-8 presidency to work to advance non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament issues, including the NPT Review Conference scheduled for that year. Additionally, Canada will be working to obtain concrete outcomes at the nuclear security summit in to be held in Washington, D.C., in April.

The road to a nuclear-weapon-free world will not be simple, nor will it be short. It will require long-term political will, coordinated steps and effective verification. Canada remains convinced that the elimination of nuclear weapons — in a way that promotes international stability and based on the principle of undiminished security for all — remains an objective to which we should all aspire.

**Mr. Im Han-Taek** (Republic of Korea): We have gathered here amid growing expectations of progress, ending a decade-long dormancy in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. I am pleased to note that a majority of delegations in this Committee have expressed their positive views on the current situation and have encouraged one another to work together on the overarching tasks facing us all.

My delegation welcomes the various efforts that have recently revitalized discussions on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation on a global scale. Among those valuable efforts are the five-point proposal for nuclear disarmament presented by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the vision for a world

free of nuclear weapon put forward by President Obama, and the historic Security Council summit on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament (see S/PV.6191) and its adoption of Council resolution 1887 (2009). Those efforts helped to galvanize the will of the international community to address the tasks of disarmament and non-proliferation that are at hand. We are pleased that the focus is shifting back to disarmament and non-proliferation as one of the major global agendas of our time.

The Republic of Korea believes that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) has served as the cornerstone of the global disarmament and the non-proliferation regime. It is our firm position that the central role of the NPT should be further reinforced, while maintaining a delicate balance among the three pillars on which the Treaty is based. In that regard, my delegation is of the view that the 2010 Review Conference offers us an indispensable chance to overcome the pending challenges and to reinforce the NPT regime. As the most recent session of the Preparatory Committee for the Review Conference, in May, agreed on a substantive agenda and time frame, we have laid the foundation for a successful outcome of the Review Conference.

To that end, my delegation would like to stress our shared responsibility to keep up the momentum in the lead-up to the next Review Conference and also to achieve the goal of a nuclear-free world. My delegation reaffirms its own conviction in favour of the goal of a world free of nuclear arms. We call upon nuclear-weapon States to do their part; non-nuclear-weapon States should maintain their commitment to nuclear non-proliferation.

Bringing about the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is a pressing task, awaiting our decisive action. The Republic of Korea calls upon those States that have not yet ratified the Treaty, in particular the nine remaining annex 2 States, to do so immediately, and it urges all nuclear-weapon States to maintain a moratorium on nuclear testing until the entry into force of the CTBT.

Starting negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT) cannot be delayed any longer, for the sake not only of nuclear non-proliferation but also of nuclear disarmament. This year, thanks to the positive atmosphere on disarmament, the Conference on Disarmament agreed on the programme of work (see

CD/1864). However, it is disappointing that the Conference was not able to embark on substantive work this year. We call upon all members of the Conference on Disarmament to collaborate for an early commencement of substantive work on an FMCT in the Conference next year. The Republic of Korea will do its due part to drive forward the stalled process in the Conference on Disarmament.

As the nuclear renaissance is becoming an irreversible trend, the international community needs to develop ways and means to tackle the risks entailed in this trend and to further strengthen international cooperation on peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In particular, given that the threat of nuclear terrorism has been underlined as the most imminent and extreme threat to global security, the Republic of Korea joins the effort to enhance nuclear safety and security through international cooperation. Furthermore, we hope that the nuclear security summit to be held next April will be an occasion to mobilize the will of global leaders to tackle the threats of nuclear terrorism and the proliferation of nuclear materials.

The peaceful resolution of the nuclear issue of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea remains vital to securing peace and security in North-East Asia, as well as to sustaining the integrity of the global non-proliferation regime. The nuclear development of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea should not and will not be tolerated. In that regard, the Republic of Korea appreciates the international community's unified and strong response to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's second nuclear test, of 25 May, through the adoption and faithful implementation of Security Council resolution 1874 (2009).

The Republic of Korea and the countries concerned share the common goal of achieving the denuclearization of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We stand firm in the position that the nuclear issue of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea should be resolved through the Six-Party Talks in a peaceful manner. We urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to promptly return to the Six-Party Talks with a sincere attitude towards denuclearization. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea must abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes in accordance with the Joint Statement of 19 September 2005.

In his speech at the General Assembly (see A/64/PV.3), President Lee Myung-bak reiterated his proposal of a grand bargain, stating that North Korea's dismantlement of core components of its nuclear weapons programme would be met with security assurances and international assistance. That proposal demonstrates our commitment to a fundamental resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue. The Republic of Korea will continue to discuss the details of the grand bargain with the countries concerned.

Finally, we hope the 2010 NPT Review Conference will represent a milestone in our common efforts. To achieve that goal, we must explore all avenues in order to produce measures and actions that are realistic, practical and concrete. It is high time for us to grasp the opportunity to make progress amid this newly created environment. My delegation once again stresses our shared responsibility and the need to show flexibility in order to ensure the success of the next Review Conference.

**Ms. Mourabit** (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): My delegation is pleased to participate in this very important thematic debate on nuclear disarmament and is delighted to share with the members of this Committee its ideas on this crucial issue, which we hope will see positive developments in the months to come.

At the outset of its statement, my delegation would like to underline that the objective of eliminating nuclear weapons is linked to strengthening international stability and security. Achieving our goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world must be the backdrop of common collective efforts. Progress must be geared towards the ultimate goal of nuclear disarmament.

The risk of nuclear terrorism makes nuclear installations — and consequently, the lives of populations of countries on whose territory they have been built — vulnerable. This must concern us all. The summit on nuclear security planned for 2010 is preparing, moreover, to explore ways to protect vulnerable installations and sensitive sites handling nuclear materials.

It is clear that the developing policies of nuclear Powers in favour of reducing their nuclear arsenals, as underscored in statements this year by the leaders of the United States of America, Russia, the United Kingdom and France, have opened new prospects and reflect a new interest in nuclear disarmament and

non-proliferation issues, of which the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is the cornerstone.

These developments could constitute a first step towards general and complete disarmament. To achieve that objective, the negotiations under way between the United States and the Russian Federation to replace the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty are decisive insofar as they will provide a new impetus in the field of nuclear disarmament and make it possible for nuclear disarmament once again to occupy pride of place on the international agenda.

The will voiced by the nuclear-weapon States has caused great interest. My country, which welcomes this development, hopes that bilateral steps and unilateral declarations will give way to a strengthened return of multilateralism and will pave the way for the holding in the very near future of an international conference to identify ways and means to ensure the complete and definite elimination of nuclear weapons.

We note with regret that nuclear disarmament has taken too much time to become a concrete reality despite the existence of the multilateral mechanisms created to that end. There is no doubt that the delay has led to stepped up proliferation activities and has promoted the risks of nuclear terrorism, of which we are highly aware today.

As we stand at the threshold of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, my delegation hopes that the Conference will be able to retain the gains of 2000 and identify ways and means for crafting a plan of action allowing for the complete implementation of the objectives of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. Here, my delegation wishes to recall the historic commitment unequivocally taken at the 2000 NPT Review Conference, which led to the adoption by consensus of the 13 practical steps for the implementation of article VI of the NPT, leading to general and complete disarmament.

As members know, article VI of the NPT, calls on States parties "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". That fundamental obligation of the Treaty was strengthened by the Final Document of 2000, which endorsed the unequivocal commitment of States parties to the NPT to achieve the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

It is also this obligation which provides a balance to the asymmetry on which the NPT was founded. The NPT can, in no case, be interpreted as granting an exclusive right to nuclear-weapon States to continue to possess nuclear weapons. To the contrary, it must be seen as a contract based on a careful balance of the rights and obligations of all sides. Without that balance, the credibility of the NPT would be eroded.

The Kingdom of Morocco, which has always worked for respect for the principles of international law in the area of disarmament, believes that the universal ideal of disarmament hinges on a return to multilateralism and the strengthening of United Nations legal instruments in this area. My country, which has signed and ratified all multilateral instruments related to weapons of mass destruction, including the NPT, remains committed to irreversible, transparent and verifiable nuclear disarmament and is working to that end. My country would like to underscore that the objective of nuclear disarmament can be implemented only if a number of fundamental axioms which I would like to cite are respected.

First of all, the existence of the indissoluble link between the objective of disarmament and that of nuclear non-proliferation must be reaffirmed. That means that a tangible and progressive reduction of nuclear arsenals, until their complete and total destruction, would then draw the interest of non-nuclear-weapon States away from trying to acquire them, and would promote confidence-building and the objectives of transparency.

Secondly, erosion of the NPT, which is the cornerstone of the non-proliferation and disarmament regime, must be prevented by bringing about its universality. This approach is a shared responsibility but one which must first and foremost fall on nuclear-weapon countries that are in favour of strengthening this instrument, with a view to persuading countries that have not yet done so to adhere to it.

Thirdly, a programme for the destruction of nuclear weapons accompanied by a timetable needs to be drawn up, and, to this end, a subsidiary body for nuclear disarmament should be established at the Conference of Disarmament.

Fourthly, there must be close cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and efforts made to achieve the universal adherence of all States to its system of guarantees. Here, it is imperative

that Israel submit its installations to IAEA safeguards. We would like to emphasize here the important adoption by the IAEA of two resolutions: resolution GC(53)/RES/16, on application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East, and resolution GC(53)/RES/17, on Israeli nuclear capabilities.

Fifthly, all States should be guaranteed free access to nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Here, we need to underscore that nuclear power enables States to free themselves from energy dependence and therefore remains a legitimate goal for all countries aspiring to economic and social development.

The entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) would be a valuable and indispensable contribution to strengthening the non-proliferation regime and nuclear disarmament. The importance of this Treaty has been laid out in the Preamble of the NPT itself. That is why we urge the nine remaining annex 2 countries to ratify it as soon as possible. Once the CTBT has entered into force, it will block the conduct of new nuclear tests aimed at improving nuclear weapons or creating new ones and will contribute to concluding its verification network, as well as to optimizing the effectiveness of the international monitoring system operated by the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization.

In addition, my delegation sees in the start of negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT) with a view to adopting a legally binding and verifiable instrument at the Conference on Disarmament, when that body can finally begin its work — which we hope will be very soon — a new stone in the edifice of non-proliferation and disarmament. It is clear that political will, agreed measures and an effective verification regime are all critical to achieving that goal.

Finally, the irreversible commitment of the nuclear Powers to nuclear disarmament is of the greatest importance because of its positive impact on international stability and security and because of the considerable advantages it will produce for peace and development.

**The Chairperson** (*spoke in Spanish*): Before I adjourn today's meeting, let me remind delegations once again that the deadline for submission of draft resolutions is 12 noon tomorrow, Thursday, 15 October. In this regard, I wish to inform the Committee that a

delegation has asked for an extension of the deadline. The Chair, unless there is an opinion to the contrary among the delegates, believes that the deadline set and announced in a timely manner to delegations for the presentation of draft resolutions should be retained: tomorrow, Thursday, 15 October, at 12 noon.

If the Committee so decides, the Chair, with the assent of members, would instruct the Secretariat to accept the draft resolution of concern to the delegation that made the request until 6 p.m. tomorrow at the very latest.

**Mr. Rao** (India): I have listened very carefully to the Chairperson. It would help if he could kindly clarify if the deadline has been extended to 6 p.m. tomorrow for all delegations and all draft resolutions.

**The Chairperson** (*spoke in Spanish*): The proposal that I am making is to retain the deadline that was set for tomorrow at 12 noon — unless, I repeat, the Committee believes that we should decide otherwise, in which case we would proceed with the extension. Since there is only one delegation that has expressed a concern to the Bureau, the Chair, in the exercise of his functions and with assent of members, would instruct the Secretariat to accept that specific draft resolution which, according to the information we have at hand, is the only one in this situation, until 6 p.m. tomorrow.

**Mr. Rao** (India): I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for that clarification. In view of that clarification, may I suggest that delegations could be encouraged to submit their draft resolutions as soon as possible, but that the deadline should be 6 p.m. tomorrow for all the draft resolutions.

**Mr. Çobanoğlu** (Turkey): Just to echo the statement made by my Indian colleague, we would appreciate it if the deadline for all draft resolutions could be extended to 6 p.m. tomorrow.

**Mr. Shein** (Myanmar): I too would like to second the proposal made by the Indian delegation.

**Mr. Obisakin** (Nigeria): Even though I was thinking of going home, I am taking the floor just to say that an extension is good for everybody.

**The Chairperson** (*spoke in Spanish*): There are no further speakers on this matter. In accordance with what has been said by members, I propose that the deadline for submission of draft resolutions be extended to tomorrow, Thursday, 15 October, at 6 p.m.

for all delegations. In the absence of objection, I shall take it that the Committee agrees to that proposal.

*It was so decided.*

**The Chairperson** (*spoke in Spanish*): Also, as all delegations will recall, I have indicated to regional groups and delegations the Chair's interest in helping to achieve maximum consensus, or as close to that as possible, on draft resolutions before the Committee. Bearing in mind this intention of the Chair, which was also expressed by several delegations during the general debate and the current thematic debate, I

reiterate my willingness to help the sponsors of draft resolutions to attain this goal and to work with sponsors on draft resolutions that need further adjustment in order to reach the greatest possible degree of consensus.

Having extended the deadline for submission of draft resolutions until tomorrow at 6 p.m., I urge delegations to adhere to this deadline so that the Secretariat may process the documents in a timely manner.

*The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.*