



General Assembly

Sixty-fifth session

First Committee

2nd meeting

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Official Records

Chair: Mr. Miloš Koterec (Slovakia)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Introductory statements

The Chair: This morning, in accordance with its programme of work and timetable, the First Committee will begin its general debate on all disarmament and related international security agenda items.

First, I should like to make a brief statement in my capacity as the Committee's presiding officer.

I start by expressing my appreciation for the work of my predecessor, Ambassador Cancela of Uruguay, who so successfully guided the Committee's work during the sixty-fourth session. I also commend Mr. Sergio Duarte, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, and his team, as well as the secretariat of the First Committee. I salute the members of the Bureau, who so ably assist me in my work. Last but not least, I welcome all representatives attending the session.

It is my privilege and honour to have been entrusted with presiding over this important Committee in such exciting and yet challenging times. We embark on the sixty-fifth session amidst growing expectations of the whole international community, which looks up to us with renewed hopes for further progress in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. The Committee plays a crucial role in the pursuit of our ultimate goal of making the world a safer place.

This, in turn, brings a definition of a "safer world" and the whole concept of international security

to the centre of a new, heightened philosophical scrutiny. Indeed, international security, as a doctrine, has become a comprehensive, multifaceted notion. It is a combination of military, political, economic, social, environmental and other security concepts which are all equally important and interconnected. While we can move ahead on different directions independently, progress in one area will multiply the chances of success on the others. Thus, disarmament is no longer regarded as a system-creating factor for a peaceful, prosperous and economically sustainable existence. But its leading role in striving towards those lofty goals is universally acknowledged.

Over the past 18 months, this role has once again been manifest in a number of emboldening developments at both the multilateral and bilateral levels. The consensus outcome of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference and the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States on small arms and light weapons, to mention just a few, further strengthened the emerging positive trends, which I am confident will contribute to a constructive atmosphere during our session. Given these encouraging developments, this session could become critical in turning the corner and advancing the disarmament agenda. The First Committee, as an important part of the disarmament machinery, should step up to the plate and work in concerted efforts towards a more secure world.

The Committee is now presented with a historic opportunity to garner political will and determination to build on recent achievements in many critical areas. In the light of the indispensable role of multilateralism

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in disarmament and non-proliferation, I urge all delegations to work closely and cooperatively, as we have more than 50 draft resolutions ahead of us on a broad range of issues.

While I am fully aware of the divergent views on some of the issues before the Committee, I intend to use my powers to seek common ground and work towards the maximum possible convergence of our positions. In doing so, I count on the continuous support and cooperation of the Committee.

It is now my pleasure to welcome Mr. Sergio Duarte, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, and invite him to make a statement.

Mr. Duarte, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs: I welcome this opportunity to address the Committee, and wish at the outset to welcome those members of delegations that are joining us for the first time.

It is also my honour to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your appointment to guide our work. I wish to recognize as well the other members of the Bureau and to assure you and them of the fullest cooperation of the Office for Disarmament Affairs in the work of the Committee.

Many of us are familiar with the word “momentum”. It is a term that has increasingly been heard in reference to disarmament, including at the recent High-level Meeting on Revitalizing the Work of the Conference on Disarmament and Taking Forward Multilateral Disarmament Negotiations. The dictionary defines it as “The quantity of motion in a moving body, now expressed as the product of its mass and velocity”. Yet the Committee’s work here relates not to physical, but to diplomatic, momentum — and we are less interested in motion itself than in the direction of our collective efforts, and in demonstrable results.

There is clearly some new momentum in many of the issues before the Committee, including nuclear disarmament. The Presidents of the States with the largest nuclear arsenals have repeatedly endorsed this goal. Last April, the Russian Federation and the United States signed the New START treaty. China, France and the United Kingdom have announced their own initiatives to limit their nuclear weapons capabilities.

While challenges remain, we have seen efforts to improve the transparency of some nuclear arsenals, to bring the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

(CTBT) into force, and to begin negotiations on a fissile material treaty. Last September, the Security Council held its first summit on nuclear disarmament. The Nuclear Security Summit in Washington last April stressed the need for multilateral cooperation to address certain nuclear threats. In May, the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) produced a consensus Final Document (see NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. 1)) that included 64 recommendations for action and additional agreed actions to implement the 1995 resolution on the Middle East. Other recent developments include the General Assembly’s debate on disarmament and non-proliferation, held last April, the Secretary-General’s historic visits to Hiroshima and Nagasaki last August, and the recent high-level meetings on the CTBT and the Conference on Disarmament, which are widely expected to lead to further action.

This momentum is apparent in several other arenas. On 24 October 2008, the Secretary-General announced his five-point nuclear disarmament proposal, which has since been endorsed by the 4,000-member Mayors for Peace campaign, by the Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, by the Third World Congress of Speakers of Parliament, and by many delegations in statements in the General Assembly and during the NPT review process.

Efforts from civil society have added to this momentum. Following an opinion-editorial by senior statesmen in the United States in 2007, similar commentaries by distinguished authorities have appeared in over a dozen additional countries. Impressive campaigns have been launched in civil society to advance nuclear disarmament — impressive in both their global scope and their firm resolve. The launch last December of the final report of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament was another significant development.

We also welcome the fact that the global norms against other types of weapons of mass destruction are holding up well, noting here the large number of parties to the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention, and the long record of compliance with those commitments. The challenge now is to build some momentum for universal adherence to both Conventions.

I also see evidence of new momentum in initiatives to strengthen the rule of law with respect to the regulation of conventional armaments. Determined efforts are under way to establish and maintain some basic norms against the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, and to strengthen controls on stockpiles of ammunition. The 2001 Programme of Action and the four Biennial Meetings of States have underscored this commitment to action. Legal prohibitions have been agreed in recent years concerning a variety of other inhumane weapons, landmines and cluster munitions.

On 1 August, the world welcomed the entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. I remind delegations that the First Committee will host a special event on the Convention on 19 October and that the first meeting of its States parties will be held from 9 to 12 November. In addition, the General Assembly decided last December to convene in 2012 a United Nations conference on the arms trade treaty, with the specific goal of elaborating a legally binding instrument on the highest possible common international standards for the transfer of conventional arms.

The Office for Disarmament Affairs is continuing its efforts to improve transparency in these areas, in particular by maintaining the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and by promoting use of the Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures. Greater use of these instruments by Member States would be most welcome in the years ahead, especially given the vast sums that are being allocated for military purposes, and the huge commitments for future military transfers that are being made. Quite frankly, I would like to see some greater momentum when it comes to the global use of these important transparency instruments.

While much of the work of this Committee focuses on global multilateral issues, momentum in disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation can occur at the regional level as well. Last year, treaties establishing regional nuclear-weapon-free zones in Central Asia and Africa entered into force, and these developments were welcomed by the entire world. The 2010 NPT Review Conference established a mandate to convene a conference in 2012 on the issue of establishing a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East — an important new initiative to implement the 1995 resolution on the Middle East.

For their part, the three United Nations Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament — in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean — are all continuing their efforts to work with States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental groups in their respective regions. This work seeks to promote cooperation in such areas as curbing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, advancing security sector reform, and, more generally, strengthening the foundation of mutual trust and respect that is indispensable for future progress in disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation.

For specific details about those activities, I encourage all delegations to consult the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. I would add that the Office is also continuing its efforts to assist in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). We are very grateful for the support we have received from Member States in all these activities.

While my review of recent developments is necessarily incomplete, it does highlight some factors that will be indispensable in sustaining and increasing the momentum for progress in disarmament over the years ahead. The first will be determined leadership from States with the largest investments in weaponry — leadership in further reducing their arsenals, limiting their arms exports and cutting back military spending. The second will be the equally determined pursuit of disarmament and non-proliferation goals by the rest of the diplomatic community, especially the middle-Power States. And the third will be the persistent efforts by individuals and groups in civil society to advance multilateral disarmament goals. The greatest momentum will be achieved through a combination of all three factors working for common ends.

In this light, the ability of the Office for Disarmament Affairs to assist Member States in advancing their agreed disarmament objectives is itself a function of the level of the momentum that exists in the various fields I have identified today. Our potential contributions are greatest when momentum is increasing, yet the reverse is also true; if major steps forward in disarmament are postponed indefinitely, if questions persist about compliance with non-proliferation commitments, and if military spending continues to rise while Millennium Development Goals continue to be unmet, then our potential contributions will be correspondingly limited.

I very much welcome any ideas or advice from delegations on how the Office for Disarmament Affairs can increase its assistance to Member States in meeting their desired goals. And we look forward to making our own contributions to this wider momentum of progress in disarmament, which the world so urgently needs and has the capability to achieve.

Before concluding, I would like to return briefly to the realm of physics, and specifically to Newton's third law of motion, which holds that whenever a body exerts a force on a second body, the second body exerts an equal and opposite force in return. This is often called the "action-reaction law", one that is quite familiar to advocates of disarmament. Yet the practice of diplomacy was never intended to conform to the laws of physics, and as the momentum for disarmament increases, so too will it become increasingly difficult for its opposing forces to preserve a status quo. At some point, the momentum simply becomes irresistible. For this reason, let me say in concluding and in expressing best wishes to all members of the Committee in carrying out its important work, "May the momentum be with us."

Agenda items 88 to 104

General debate on all disarmament and related international security agenda items

The Chair: I remind delegations of the agreement to limit their statements to a maximum of 10 minutes for those speaking in their national capacity and 15 minutes for those speaking on behalf of several delegations.

In that context, I ask representatives to pay attention to the timing mechanism. We no longer have the so-called traffic light on the podium. Instead, the red ring around the speaker's microphone will start blinking one minute before his or her speaking time expires. From time to time I shall gently remind speakers when the allotted time has been significantly exceeded.

As mentioned at last week's organizational meeting, I invite delegations that have longer statements to make the full statement available in written form to be posted on the Committee's QuickFirst website, and to read out an abbreviated version during the general debate. I also encourage speakers to speak at a reasonable speed to allow the

interpreters to interpret their statements in an optimal way.

Furthermore, I remind delegations that officers from the Secretariat's Department of Public Information will provide daily coverage of our meetings. The press releases on the Committee's meetings are usually available in English and French on the United Nations website two hours after each day's meetings. Hard copies may also be picked up in this room the next day.

Mr. Lint (Belgium): I speak on behalf of the European Union. The candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Iceland, the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, align themselves with this statement.

We will fully support you, Mr. Chairman, in your efforts to achieve a successful outcome of this session. This year has seen a series of positive events, including the successful outcome of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference, the Washington Nuclear Security Summit and the signing of the Treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms. Positive developments with regard to conventional weapons issues, such as the arms trade treaty process and the entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, give further reasons for optimism.

The European Union warmly welcomes the continued momentum in global arms control and disarmament, and stresses the need for general disarmament. At the same time, we need to address major proliferation challenges. Non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control, together with confidence, transparency and reciprocity, are vital aspects of collective security. The European Union has long stressed the need for a comprehensive approach to all these issues. A combined effort by the international community is required to strengthen disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation, which are joint security interests for all.

Effective multilateralism, prevention and international cooperation are the three main goals of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. The European Union is deeply

committed to strengthening the multilateral system. To further this aim, it makes considerable efforts to support the United Nations and other international organizations, treaties and regimes. The EU promotes universal adherence to and full implementation of all non-proliferation and disarmament treaties and conventions, not only through diplomatic means and initiatives, but also through practical training and assistance. The EU is a major donor to international organizations in this field, providing support to dozens of countries.

We also want to support and reinforce verification mechanisms, so as to ensure full compliance with international obligations. This enhances mutual confidence and ensures the credibility of disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and conventions. The Security Council has a crucial role that should be further strengthened in addressing cases of non-compliance threatening international peace and security.

The NPT, based on the three mutually reinforcing pillars of non-proliferation, disarmament and the peaceful use of nuclear energy, is a unique and irreplaceable framework for maintaining and strengthening international peace, security and stability. The Treaty remains the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, as well as the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament in accordance with article VI, and an important element in the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

The European Union warmly welcomes the adoption by consensus of the Final Document (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)) of the 2010 Review Conference. The European Union and its member States will firmly dedicate themselves to implementing the action plans it contains, and call upon all NPT States parties to do the same. This outcome has strengthened the international nuclear non-proliferation regime by setting ambitious goals with regard to all three pillars of the Treaty and by endorsing other concrete measures, including on the Middle East.

The European Union worked actively for the successful outcome of the Review Conference and will strive for implementation of all the objectives in the NPT, whether disarmament, non-proliferation or the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We have also stated our readiness to contribute to the implementation of the

1995 resolution on the Middle East, and welcome the agreement to convene a conference in 2012 on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

We continue to face major proliferation challenges, which must be addressed resolutely in order to maintain the credibility of the NPT regime. Iran's nuclear programme and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's testing of a nuclear explosive device and delivery mechanisms are the two most worrying examples in this regard. Both issues raise grave concerns and have led the EU, in particular in the case of Iran, to engage in sustained efforts to find a negotiated solution. We call on all United Nations Member States to support these efforts by fully implementing relevant Security Council resolutions.

The EU calls for the strengthening of the multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation regime and for revitalizing relevant international instruments. Within this context, we have been both encouraged and discouraged by developments in the Conference on Disarmament over the past years. Last year we welcomed the decision of the Conference on Disarmament finally, after 12 years of stalemate, to agree on a programme of work. Yet in 2010, despite the best efforts of the majority of its members, the Conference on Disarmament has remained dogged by discord. The EU continues to urge the last remaining State that has not yet joined consensus to allow the Conference to resume its negotiating role, regain its credibility and achieve its fundamental purpose.

The EU welcomes the recent High-level Meeting on Revitalizing the Work of the Conference on Disarmament and Taking Forward Multilateral Disarmament Negotiations. The EU also welcomes the call for action made by the Secretary-General. We stand ready to engage in consultations with all United Nations Member States to consider the High-level Meeting's outcome during this session.

The EU has long attached high priority to the negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament of a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT) that would significantly strengthen nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and contribute to a climate of mutual trust and security. The EU continues to urge all States to actively support efforts to launch negotiations on an FMCT. In the meantime, the EU calls on all States concerned that have not yet done so to declare and

uphold a moratorium on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is of crucial importance to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and a top priority for the European Union. We are hopeful that renewed political commitments to pursue ratification, in particular within some annex 2 States, such as Indonesia and the United States, will give new impetus to our efforts to achieve the earliest possible entry into force of this key Treaty. In the meantime, the EU continues to provide significant support for the CTBT Organization Provisional Technical Secretariat to strengthen the monitoring and verification system.

The EU stresses the need to do everything possible to prevent the risk of nuclear terrorism, linked to possible terrorist access to nuclear weapons or materials that could be used in the manufacture of radiological dispersal devices, and in this context stresses the need for compliance with obligations under Security Council resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1887 (2009) and calls for improved nuclear security for high-radioactive sources. In this respect, the EU welcomes and supports the work through initiatives such as the Nuclear Security Summit, the Proliferation Security Initiative and the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism.

The EU remains committed to ensuring responsible development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, in the best safety, security and non-proliferation conditions, by countries wishing to develop their capacities in this field. We stress the key role played by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in this regard. We note with interest the convening of the International Conference on Access to Civil Nuclear Energy, held in Paris last March. The EU supports the development of multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle, and appreciates ongoing initiatives in this regard. We also welcome research into proliferation-resistant technologies.

Strengthening the security of activities in outer space is another key priority for the European Union. The growing number of actors and the rapid development of activities in outer space are welcome, but they also pose potential risks to the security of space and other assets. The current situation requires enhanced international space cooperation. While further multilateral legally binding commitments have

been proposed, pragmatic and voluntary confidence-building and transparency measures would allow relatively rapid subscription by as many countries as possible and could bring effective security benefits in the short term. In this spirit, the EU continues to promote a draft code of conduct for outer space activities. The proliferation of missiles with the potential to deliver weapons of mass destruction remains a major concern for international security. The EU fully supports the Missile Technology Control Regime and the Hague Code of Conduct.

The EU continues to promote universal adherence to, and strengthening and full implementation of, the Code, which is the only multilateral instrument regarding missile proliferation. In this context, the EU welcomes the decision of Iraq to subscribe to the Code and to become its 131st subscribing State. The EU is also in favour of examining further multilateral steps to prevent the threat of missile proliferation and to promote disarmament efforts in the missile field. Our proposal to start consultations on a treaty banning short- and intermediate-range ground-to-ground missiles remains valid.

The Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC) is the cornerstone of international efforts to prevent the proliferation of biological weapons.

The European Union actively promotes the universalization of and full compliance with the treaty. We also remain committed to developing measures to verify compliance with it. The Review Conference in 2011 will provide a key opportunity to further strengthen the BWC and its implementation, and to build on the effectiveness of the intersessional programme 2007-2010 and the decisive improvements brought about by the establishment of the Implementation Support Unit. We actively supported the series of intersessional expert meetings that was recently completed. The EU looks forward to the Meeting of States Parties in December. We believe that all States parties must now use their best efforts to prepare the ground for a successful outcome of the BWC Review Conference in 2011.

The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) has an essential role to play in preventing the risks posed by chemical weapons. The CWC is unique among disarmament and non-proliferation treaties. It completely bans an entire class of weapons of mass destruction in a verifiable manner. The European

Union continues to promote its universalization and full implementation, and we continue to provide significant support to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for meeting those goals.

The EU fully supports the work of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to Council resolution 1540 (2004), the 1540 Committee, in fulfilling its renewed mandate of preventing and countering proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery. We also support other international mechanisms and initiatives designed to prevent the proliferation of WMD.

The EU reaffirms its commitment to contribute to the prevention and combating of the illicit trade in, and excessive accumulation of, small arms and light weapons. In this context, the EU strongly supports the full implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. We look forward to contributing to the Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts in 2011 with a view to a comprehensive and substantial 2012 Review Conference. Meanwhile, the EU continues to assist countries in addressing threats posed by the illicit trade in and excessive accumulation of small arms and light weapons, through a comprehensive set of projects.

Action to prevent the trafficking in conventional weapons can be effective only if it is coupled with rigorous transfer controls on the legal arms trade. That is why the EU is fully committed to the negotiation of an arms trade treaty (ATT), a legally binding international instrument setting the highest common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional weapons. We were encouraged by the promising start of the ATT negotiating process at the July session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2012 United Nations Conference mandated to elaborate the ATT. We call on all States to maintain the spirit of genuine engagement that characterized that session.

Continuous constructive participation and inclusiveness of the negotiating process are essential ingredients to ensure the success of the 2012 Conference. With this in mind, the EU is fully engaged in promoting the ATT process vis-à-vis third countries. Following the outreach activities conducted in 2009,

the EU, in cooperation with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), will soon launch a new series of regional outreach seminars. In this context and beyond, let me express our appreciation for the excellent work done by UNIDIR, which celebrates its thirtieth anniversary this year.

The EU supports the full implementation and universalization of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. Our continuous commitment to mine action is well known. We welcome the enormous progress achieved and the new Action Plan decided at the Cartagena Summit. We reiterate our call upon all States that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention as soon as possible. We will continue to provide concrete assistance to States to achieve the objective of a mine-free world.

The Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), which recently entered into force, represents an important step forward in responding to the humanitarian problems caused by such munitions, which are a major concern for all EU member States. The EU remains firmly committed to preserving and developing the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), which constitutes an essential part of international humanitarian law. The adoption of a meaningful protocol on cluster munitions in the CCW framework, complementary to and compatible with the CCM, involving all major military Powers, could be an important further contribution.

The EU recognizes the importance of the First Committee as a fundamental body to discuss current topics and develop timely initiatives on non-proliferation and disarmament issues. We, as United Nations Member States, share the responsibility of keeping the relevance of this forum. We should make sure that it is seized with real and most salient questions related to international security. Rather than being a mere formalistic body that technically updates resolutions without substantive changes, the First Committee should improve its working methods in order to be capable of debating contemporary security challenges in the field of non-proliferation and disarmament, and to develop concrete measures to address them.

In closing, let me state that the EU believes that the United Nations and its Member States will be judged by public opinion on the basis of their ability to make actual progress in preventing and responding to the most pressing threats to international peace and security. The EU will work together with its partners and all interested countries to uphold and strengthen the authority of the United Nations.

Mr. Kleib (Indonesia): I am honoured to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

I congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, and the other Bureau members on your election, and assure you of our full support.

NAM views the First Committee as an essential component of the United Nations disarmament machinery, and remains committed to strengthening it. Reiterating its strong opposition to unilateralism, NAM reaffirms the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy as the only sustainable method of addressing disarmament, non-proliferation and international security issues, and reaffirms its determination to promote multilateralism as the core principle of negotiations in this field.

While noting some positive developments, the Movement emphasizes that much more remains to be done to attain a world free from nuclear weapons. NAM expresses concern at the threat to humanity posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and by their possible use or threat of their use. We urge States, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, to accelerate efforts to fulfil their obligations on nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all aspects.

NAM emphasizes its principled positions on nuclear disarmament, which remains its highest priority, and on the related issue of nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects. The ultimate aim in the disarmament process is general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control. We stress that the nuclear non-proliferation efforts should run parallel to the efforts to achieve nuclear disarmament. All States should fulfil their respective undertakings in relation to disarmament, in particular nuclear disarmament, and prevent proliferation in all aspects of nuclear weapons as well as other weapons of mass destruction.

The Movement underscores that all States need to pursue in good faith intensified multilateral negotiations, as agreed by consensus in the Final Document (S-10/2) of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, to achieve general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

The NAM States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) commend the efforts of the President of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, and consider that, although imperfect, the Conference's conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)) represent an outcome that can be built upon and further enhanced in the near future, to realize a world free from nuclear weapons.

The NAM States parties to the NPT are concerned about the lack of concrete progress by the nuclear-weapon States in implementing their obligations under the Treaty and full implementation of the 13 practical steps agreed at the 2000 Review Conference (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I and II)), particularly the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, leading to complete nuclear disarmament. The NAM States parties to the NPT call on the nuclear-weapon States to implement their obligations and undertakings, as reaffirmed by successive NPT Review Conferences.

NAM underlines that reductions in strategic and tactical nuclear weapons, as envisaged in the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, should be irreversible, verifiable and transparent, and cannot substitute for negotiations in multilateral forums to achieve the ultimate goal of complete nuclear disarmament.

The Movement reiterates that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against their use or threat of their use. The Movement emphasizes the need to start negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament as soon as possible on a phased programme, with a specified time frame, for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. The aim of the negotiations, which should include negotiation of a nuclear-weapons convention, should be the complete elimination of nuclear weapons by 2025. Pending their total elimination, urgent priority should be given to efforts to conclude a universal,

unconditional and legally binding instrument on security assurances to all non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

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

NAM reaffirms the inalienable right of developing countries to engage in research, production and use of nuclear energy, including the right to the nuclear fuel cycle, for peaceful purposes, without discrimination. The Movement continues to note with concern the persistence of undue restrictions on exports to developing countries of material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes. NAM emphasizes that proliferation concerns are best addressed through multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory agreements. Non-proliferation control arrangements should be transparent and open to participation by all States, and should not impose restrictions on access to material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes required by developing countries for their continued development.

The Movement 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 the relevant General Assembly resolutions adopted by consensus. Pending the establishment of such a zone, NAM demands that Israel accede to the NPT without delay and promptly place all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. The Movement regrets the lack of progress in implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, and underscores the importance of an expeditious process leading to full implementation of that resolution.

In this context, Israel's nuclear weapons capabilities are a matter of serious concern. Therefore, the NAM States parties to the NPT welcome the steps on the Middle East in the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, including the

recommendation that the Secretary-General and the co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution, in consultation with the States of the region, convene a conference in 2012, to be attended by all States of the Middle East, on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

NAM continues to consider the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones created by the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok, Pelindaba and Central Asia, and Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status, as positive and important measures towards attaining the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

The Movement takes note of the High-level Meeting on Revitalizing the Work of the Conference on Disarmament, held on 24 September. In this regard, NAM presented its positions, which remain valid with regard to the way forward. NAM believes that the summary of the Meeting, issued under the sole responsibility of the Secretary-General, should have duly reflected the views of Member States. Any possible follow-up should be inclusive and Member-States-driven, and should strengthen the role and work of the Conference on Disarmament, as mandated by the General Assembly at its first special session devoted to disarmament and by efforts aimed at achieving nuclear disarmament.

The Movement underlines the importance and relevance of the Disarmament Commission as the sole specialized, deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery. We continue to fully support the Commission's work.

NAM reaffirms its long-standing position on the urgent need to convene the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. NAM expects the First Committee at its current session to take concrete action to actualize the fourth session.

The Movement underscores the significance of achieving universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), including by all nuclear-weapon States, which, inter alia, should contribute to the process of nuclear disarmament. The continued commitment to nuclear disarmament of all State signatories, especially the nuclear-weapon States, is necessary if the objectives of the CTBT are to be fully realized.

The NAM States parties to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) call for its comprehensive and effective implementation, and stress the importance of the establishment of its verification mechanism. In this regard, the NAM States parties to the BWC recognize the particular importance of strengthening the Convention through multilateral negotiations for a legally binding protocol, and universal adherence to the Convention.

The NAM States parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) reaffirm the importance of meeting the 2012 final destruction deadline in the Convention, and note with concern that two of the major possessor States parties have indicated that they will not meet this deadline. We strongly urge possessor States parties to take all necessary measures to accelerate their destruction operations. Any cases of the final deadline not being met should be addressed in a manner that does not undermine the Convention or lead to rewriting or reinterpreting its provisions. We reaffirm the significance of international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the CWC, and stress the need for full and balanced implementation of all the Convention's provisions.

NAM is convinced of the need for a multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive, transparent and non-discriminatory approach to the issue of missiles in all its aspects, as a contribution to international peace and security. NAM further emphasizes the importance of the contribution of peaceful uses of space technologies to human advancement. NAM also reaffirms that any initiative to address the issues related to delivery systems for weapons of mass destruction should be conducted through inclusive negotiations in a forum where all States can participate as equals.

We call upon all States in a position to do so to provide the necessary financial, technical and humanitarian assistance to landmine clearance operations upon request. The social and economic rehabilitation of victims, and full access of affected countries to the needed material, equipment, technology and financial resources for mine clearance, are critical for their well-being and progress.

The Movement remains concerned about the explosive remnants of the Second World War, particularly in the form of landmines, which continue

to cause human and material damage and impede development in some NAM countries. We call on the States primarily responsible for laying those mines and leaving explosives outside their territories during the Second World War to cooperate with the affected countries and provide them with mine action support, including information exchange, maps indicating the locations of mines and explosives, technical assistance for mine clearance, defrayal of the costs of clearance and compensation for any losses caused by mines laid.

The NAM States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction note the outcome (see APLC/CONF/2009/9) of the Convention's second Review Conference.

The NAM States parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and its protocols encourage States to become parties to the Convention. They further note that negotiations on proposals regarding the draft protocol on cluster munitions are under way among parties to the CCW. We are concerned about the adverse humanitarian impact of the use of cluster munitions. In this regard, we reiterate the principled position of NAM on the central role of the United Nations in the area of disarmament and arms control. We note that the Convention on Cluster Munitions entered into force on 1 August this year.

Our group remains deeply concerned about the illicit transfer, manufacture and circulation of small arms and light weapons in various regions of the world. This harms the innocent and obstructs their socio-economic progress. In this regard, the Movement stresses the need to implement the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, which it considers to be the main framework for addressing the issue of that illicit trade. We take note of the fourth Biennial Meeting of States held in June. We stress that international assistance and cooperation is an essential aspect of full implementation of the Programme of Action, and encourage all countries to assist the countries in need of resources and expertise to implement the Programme.

The Movement welcomes the adoption without a vote of resolution 64/32, "Relationship between disarmament and development". The Movement is

deeply concerned about increasing global military expenditure, a substantial part of which could otherwise be spent on promoting international development efforts and eradicating poverty and disease. The need for the implementation of the principle of undiminished security for all is crucial.

In closing, the Movement stresses the importance of political will in addressing international disarmament issues. We remain committed to constructive engagement to contribute to the work of the First Committee. In this regard, we intend to submit draft resolutions on the following: measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol (A/C.1/65/L.12); effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium (A/C.1/65/L.19); relationship between disarmament and development (A/C.1/65/L.13); observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control (A/C.1/65/L.14); promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation (A/C.1/65/L.15); convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (A/C.1/65/L.35); and United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament (A/C.1/65/L.16).

Mrs. Ogwu (Nigeria): In speaking on behalf of the African Group, I first congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election. The African Group also congratulates the other members of the Bureau. We believe that your diplomatic experience, Mr. Chairman, will stand you in good stead as you guide our various meetings to a successful conclusion. The African Group assures you of its full cooperation as we address the tasks ahead of us.

The Group associates itself with the statement of the Non-Aligned Movement delivered by the Permanent Representative of Indonesia, and reiterates its commitment to the promotion of international peace and stability, based on the principle of undiminished security for all States.

The Group remains strong in its commitment to the achievement of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, as, *inter alia*, affirmed by article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Africa also believes that multilateralism and solutions derived therefrom, especially within the ambit of the instrumentality of the

Charter, will expedite achievement of most, if not all, of our goals. While noting the contributions of efforts at other levels, we believe that multilateral negotiations remain the most effective means to address matters of disarmament and international peace and security.

The African Group emphasizes its principled positions on nuclear disarmament, which remain its highest priority, and on the related issue of nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects. The ultimate aim in the disarmament process is general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

The Group wishes to express its strong belief in the achievement of the principles and objectives of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, in line with the provisions of the Treaty and the commitments agreed to at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, in particular the resolution on the Middle East (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I), annex), as well as the agreed 13 practical steps adopted at the 2000 Review Conference (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I and II)).

To that end, our Group welcomes the adoption by consensus of the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions of the 2010 NPT Review Conference (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)), mandating the Secretary-General and the co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, in consultation with the States of the region, to convene a conference in 2012, to be attended by all States of the Middle East, on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

We further reaffirm that the International Atomic Energy Agency is the sole competent authority responsible for verifying and assuring compliance by States parties with their safeguards agreements undertaken in fulfilment of their Treaty obligations.

The African Group is convinced that the early ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) by the remaining nuclear-weapon States that have not yet ratified it will contribute to its entry into force to bring into effect a comprehensive ban on nuclear test explosions. This will represent a concrete and meaningful step towards the realization of a systematic process to achieve nuclear disarmament. It stresses the significance of achieving universal adherence to the CTBT, including in particular by all nuclear-weapon States.

Pending the total elimination of those weapons, a legally binding international instrument should be established under which nuclear-weapon States undertake not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States. The African Group stresses the importance of ensuring that any nuclear disarmament process be transparent, verifiable and irreversible in order to be meaningful and effective.

The Group stresses the need to convene the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, in order to effectively promote the nuclear disarmament process. The African Group emphasizes the importance of strengthening existing multilateral arms control and disarmament agreements by ensuring full compliance with, and effective implementation of, those agreements.

As the Disarmament Commission enters the final year of its current three-year cycle, the African Group calls upon all Member States to demonstrate flexibility and adequate political will to create an atmosphere sufficiently favourable to a consensus outcome. The Group notes the High-level Meeting on Revitalizing the Work of the Conference on Disarmament and Taking Forward Multilateral Disarmament Negotiations, convened by the Secretary-General. The Group reaffirms its strong belief in strengthening the existing disarmament machinery, and in this regard emphasizes the importance of convening the fourth special session of the General Assembly as the most appropriate forum to address such issues comprehensively.

We call on the Conference on Disarmament, the sole multilateral negotiating body on disarmament, to commence negotiations on the basis of its agreed programme of work of 29 May 2009 as soon as possible. The African Group hereby calls for the cooperation of nuclear-weapon States. The African Group particularly calls upon the nuclear-weapon States that have not yet ratified the relevant annexes to the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, the Pelindaba Treaty, to ratify the Treaty protocols without further delay, in order to ensure its effectiveness.

The African Group calls on all States to take strict and effective measures to prevent any dumping of nuclear, chemical and/or radioactive wastes. As a means of enhancing the protection of all States from the dumping of radioactive wastes on their territories, the Group also calls for the effective implementation of

the International Atomic Energy Agency Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste (INFCIRC/386).

The African Group takes note of the outcome of the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (A/CONF.192/BMS/2010/3). The Group believes that the Programme's full implementation should be vigorously pursued. Africa expresses its concern at the illicit transfer, manufacture and circulation of small arms and light weapons. We hereby draw attention to the need to focus more on the needs of the developing countries for technical and financial empowerment to enable them to address adequately the menace of illicit small arms and light weapons.

Africa underscores the inalienable right of the non-nuclear-weapon States to engage in the research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

While we express appreciation for the renewed impetus so far given to the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, located in Lomé, Togo, we believe that the Centre still needs the continuing support of the United Nations. During this session the African Group intends to submit a draft resolution on the Centre, on the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (A/C.1/65/L.54) and on the prohibition of the dumping of radioactive waste.

While not being among the world's major producers and exporters of conventional weapons, many African States suffer disproportionately the pernicious effects of the illicit transfer of arms, which has destabilizing effects on their socio-economic stability. In this connection, the African Group takes note of the commencement of the arms trade treaty process. The African Group is of the firm view that this process should aim at a treaty that is universal, balanced, fair and resistant to any political abuse.

The African Group appeals to all delegations to demonstrate adequate flexibility and the requisite political goodwill during this session of First Committee negotiations. On its part, the African Group assures the Committee once again of its readiness to participate fully and constructively in all negotiations.

An African proverb states succinctly that when the left hand washes the right, and the right washes the left, both hands are clean. That illustrates the cooperation that we seek.

Ms. Kelly (Ireland): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the seven members of the New Agenda Coalition (NAC): Brazil, Egypt, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden and my own country.

At the outset, Sir, allow me to congratulate you on your assumption of the office of Chairperson of the First Committee, and to assure you of the full support and cooperation of the New Agenda Coalition as you lead us in our work over the coming weeks.

The New Agenda Coalition is a group of non-nuclear-weapon States, from across the globe, which share a common goal of making the world free of nuclear weapons. In advancing our shared objective of a nuclear-weapon-free world, the Coalition is fully committed to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and its three pillars: nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

We believe that nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are intrinsically linked and mutually reinforcing processes. Both therefore require continuous and irreversible progress. The only absolute guarantee against the proliferation and use of nuclear weapons is their complete and verifiable elimination. For as long as a number of States deem that the possession of nuclear weapons is essential for their security, others may aspire to acquire them. We see no justification for the acquisition or indefinite possession of nuclear weapons, and we do not subscribe to the view that nuclear weapons — or the quest to develop them — contribute to international peace and security.

It was dissatisfaction at the lack of progress on nuclear disarmament in the aftermath of the NPT 1995 Review and Extension Conference that led to the establishment of the New Agenda Coalition in Dublin in 1998. The 2000 Review Conference agreed on 13 practical steps towards nuclear disarmament, yet during the decade that followed little was done to implement them, and there were even attempts to call their validity into question.

We therefore welcome the renewed interest in nuclear disarmament seen in the past five years and the growing support for the goal of a world free of nuclear

weapons. The NPT Review Conference in May adopted a comprehensive Final Document (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)), which contains concrete recommendations for action under all three pillars and on the Middle East. The document includes specific reaffirmation of the continued validity of the 13 practical steps of 2000 and of the unequivocal undertaking of the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals.

The adoption of the Final Document and its inclusion of an action plan to build on the practical steps agreed in 2000 is both a reflection of that interest and support and a positive sign for the future of the NPT. The expression by the Review Conference of deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons is a sobering reminder of the need to ensure their complete and irreversible elimination.

Given our experience of the past decade, it is essential that the various commitments given in the Final Document of the NPT Review Conference be implemented without delay. In addition to being progressive in their own right, they would also serve as confidence-building measures. The New Agenda Coalition underlines the urgent need for speedy implementation of the actions contained in the nuclear disarmament action plan. We will monitor implementation of these undertakings, and offer our support for all activities in that direction.

The Coalition underlines the continued importance of achieving universal adherence to the NPT, and urges the international community to strengthen its efforts in this regard. We call upon India, Israel and Pakistan to accede to the Treaty as non-nuclear-weapon States and to place their facilities under comprehensive safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency. We urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to fulfil the commitments under the Six-Party Talks, including those in the September 2005 Joint Statement, to completely and verifiably abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes, and to return, at an early date, to the Treaty and to its adherence to its IAEA safeguards agreement. We reiterate our firm support for the Six-Party Talks and for the achievement of a resolution to the issues involved through diplomatic means.

We regret that, despite promising indications in 2009, the efforts made by successive Presidents, and

the calls addressed to it by the Assembly and the NPT States parties at their Review Conference, the Conference on Disarmament has yet again concluded its annual session without engaging in substantive work. We thank the Secretary-General for his initiative to draw high-level political attention to the situation. We hope that the Conference will soon begin substantive work on all of its core issues.

We view positively the prospects for further key ratifications of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which have been greatly enhanced by the steps taken by Indonesia and the commitment by the United States to pursue ratification of the Treaty. While the ratification of all annex 2 States is required for the Treaty to enter into force, we warmly welcome the recent ratifications by the Marshall Islands, the Central African Republic and Trinidad and Tobago, which bring the total number of ratifications to 153. In this context, the Coalition reaffirms its opposition to nuclear-weapon tests.

We welcome the conclusion and signature by the Russian Federation and the United States of America of a Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, and the commitment by both States, as reflected in the Final Document of the NPT Review Conference, to seek its early entry into force and full implementation. We hope that the ratification processes can be concluded as soon as possible.

In this regard, we underline the need for all nuclear-weapon States to take concrete, transparent, verifiable and irreversible steps to eliminate all types of nuclear weapons, regardless of their location, including non-deployed and non-strategic nuclear weapons, in order to achieve the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

The New Agenda Coalition welcomes all efforts towards transparency made by some of the nuclear-weapon States, both before and during the 2010 NPT Review Conference, as well as the attention given to the subject of transparency in the Final Document of the Conference. We hope that the nuclear-weapon States will soon agree on a standard reporting form, as the Review Conference encouraged them to do, and look forward to hearing about steps taken by the Secretary-General, who was invited to establish a publicly available repository to include the information provided by the nuclear-weapon States.

The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones enhances global and regional peace and security, strengthens nuclear non-proliferation and contributes towards the goal of nuclear disarmament. Enhanced cooperation and consultation mechanisms among existing nuclear-weapon-free zones can also make a significant contribution to the advancement of the international disarmament agenda. The Second Conference of States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia, held in New York on 30 April 2010, was an important event in this regard.

We are pleased that the NPT 2010 Review Conference, in paragraph 99 of its Final Document, encouraged the establishment of further nuclear-weapon-free zones, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the regions concerned. We hope that this encouragement will be followed by concerted international efforts to create nuclear-weapon-free zones in areas of the world where they do not currently exist, especially in the Middle East.

The New Agenda Coalition welcomes the agreement reached at the NPT Review Conference on conclusions and recommendations regarding the Middle East, particularly a process leading to full implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, and on practical steps to be taken in that regard. We call on the Secretary-General and the co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution to make all necessary preparations to implement what was agreed in the Final Document of the NPT Review Conference, including the convening of a conference in 2012, to be attended by all States of the Middle East, on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States of the region, and with the full support and encouragement of the nuclear-weapon States.

In conclusion, the New Agenda Coalition welcomes the renewed global attention to the need for progress towards a nuclear-weapon-free world. The leadership shown by key players and the outcome of the NPT Review Conference lend important momentum to our efforts to rid the world of nuclear weapons, but we all have a responsibility to ensure that this momentum is converted into real progress, and that promises are translated into reality. The NAC is committed to playing its part in this common endeavour.

As in previous years, the Coalition will present a draft resolution (A/C.1/65/L.25) to the Committee. The draft reflects our view of where the world stands at the moment regarding nuclear disarmament. We will be happy to discuss its text with any Member State wishing to do so. We hope that, in line with the broader trends in international affairs in the area of nuclear disarmament, the growth in support for our draft resolution seen in recent years will continue this year.

Mrs. Atayeva (Turkmenistan) (spoke in Russian): It is my honour to speak on behalf of the delegations of five Central Asian States — the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan — as coordinator of the Central Asia nuclear-weapon-free zone.

Allow me, Sir, on behalf of our States, to welcome you to the post of Chairman of the First Committee. I also welcome all the other members of the Bureau. We are sure, Mr. Chairman, that under your skilful leadership the Committee will work successfully and constructively, and will achieve great results in the field of disarmament and international security. We are willing to make our contribution to its activities.

The entry into force on 21 March 2009 of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia was a long-awaited event, an important step signalling the creation of the Central Asia nuclear-weapon-free zone. Welcoming the Treaty's entry into force, Central Asia believes that implementation of the idea of creating such a zone in the region was an important factor in maintaining peace, regional stability and fruitful cooperation between our countries, as well as a collective contribution towards the phased development of international harmony — and of course also an important element in enhancing regional security and nuclear disarmament. The process of creating the nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia was at the heart of constructive efforts by all five Central Asian States in their aspirations to guarantee security, stability and peace in the region, and to create the necessary conditions for the development and prosperity of our peoples.

On 28 February 1997, at the Central Asian States summit in Almaty, Kazakhstan, the Almaty Declaration was adopted. In September 1997, in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, an international conference on the Central

Asia nuclear-weapon-free zone was held. The Treaty's signing ceremony took place in the city of Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan, where the testing site was closed in 1991. The Treaty's depositary is the Kyrgyz Republic. The first consultative meeting on the Treaty took place in Turkmenistan on 15 October 2009. The parties took on voluntary commitments to outlaw the production, acquisition and deployment in their territories of nuclear weapons and their components, or of other nuclear explosive devices.

We are confident that the nuclear-weapon-free zone will be an important contribution to the struggle against international terrorism and will help prevent nuclear materials and technologies falling into the hands of terrorists.

The participants at the first consultative meeting of the States parties to the Treaty showed their determination to give comprehensive support to disarmament processes in the region, and noted the need for further work to bring closer the positions of the States of Central Asia and those of nuclear-weapon States on issues of receiving negative assurances.

The creation of sound peace and security assurances in and around our region is a prerequisite for stable development, cooperation and the progress of our States and their civilized integration into the international community. Each of our States has its own idiosyncrasies and heritage, which underpin their choice of their own model for development and integration into modern civilization. But we have a common history, and we are moving into a future in which we shall also have much in common.

Here we should note that the Central Asia region, which has huge resources, could become the richest, most prosperous region in a secure world. That is a basis for forging relations conducted in such a way that the region should see a convergence of interests, and our States are working tirelessly to achieve this.

The countries of Central Asia urge States and international organizations with experience and knowledge in the field of rehabilitation of facilities and territories contaminated by radioactivity to assist them in mitigating the environmental consequences of uranium mining and activities linked to nuclear-weapon testing.

Undoubtedly the proclamation of our region as a nuclear-weapon-free zone significantly enhances the

standing of both Central Asia as a whole and all the States of the region individually. The nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia will have an impact outside the region too, generating positive momentum and dispelling possible threats. We urge the nuclear-weapon States to confirm their commitment to negative security assurances for the non-nuclear-weapon States.

The latest events in the sphere of nuclear non-proliferation show that the nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia makes a genuine contribution to the implementation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and to the global process of disarmament and non-proliferation. It also helps in the forming of a regional security mechanism. The Treaty's entry into force helped overcome the stagnation of multilateral negotiating processes on issues of non-proliferation.

Effective nuclear oversight can be achieved only through a system of unswerving compliance with agreements and treaties and the implementation of major political initiatives. Central Asia calls for the strengthening of legal barriers to the proliferation process, and to that end proposes adaptation of the whole system of multilateral agreements, including the NPT, to the new realities.

We must admit that that Treaty has become an asymmetrical agreement, in that it stipulates sanctions only for non-nuclear-weapon States. But if the nuclear-weapon States urge a ban on the development of nuclear weapons they must set an example by reducing and renouncing their atomic arsenals. Our collective goal is a nuclear-weapon-free world. Both the nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States must play their part in achieving this.

The principles and objectives of non-proliferation and disarmament agreed at the NPT Review and Extension Conference in 1995 included a declaration that "The development of nuclear-weapon-free zones ... should be encouraged as a matter of priority." (*NPT/CONF/1995/32 (Part I), annex, para. 6*). In that context, as part of the preparations for the 2010 Review Conference, the NPT States parties focused primarily on regional aspects of implementing the Treaty, including the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones.

The States of Central Asia welcome the signing between Russia and the United States of the New START treaty, which they regard as an important event at the international level geared towards fostering

nuclear disarmament and creating a world free of nuclear weapons.

In its resolution 1887 (2009), adopted on 24 September 2009, the Security Council welcomed and supported the steps taken to conclude nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties and reaffirmed the conviction that the establishment of internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at between States, and in accordance with the 1999 Disarmament Commission guidelines, enhanced global and regional peace and security, strengthened the nuclear non-proliferation regime, and contributed towards realizing the objectives of nuclear disarmament.

General Assembly resolutions of 1997, 1998, 2000 and 2002 stated that the creation of the nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia showed broad international support for the determination of the Central Asian States to reach their goals. In resolutions of 2006 and 2009 the Assembly welcomed the signing of the Treaty on the zone and stressed that the zone's creation was an important step towards strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime; enhancing cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and in rehabilitation of the environment of territories affected by radioactive contamination; strengthening regional and international peace and security; and making an effective contribution to the struggle against international terrorism and to preventing nuclear materials and technologies falling into the hands of non-State actors, primarily terrorists. With the adoption of resolution 64/57, "Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments", the Assembly welcomed the entry into force of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia.

On 30 April this year in New York the Second Conference of States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia reaffirmed (see NWFZM/CONF.2010/1) that the nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia and nuclear-weapon-free zones in other parts of the world made a genuine contribution to implementation of the NPT and to the global disarmament and non-proliferation process, as well as to creating regional and global security mechanisms.

We are in no doubt that nuclear-weapon-free zones are among the universal instruments for

preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, guaranteeing that throughout our planet dozens of States pledge not to transfer, or accept the transfer of, any kinds of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, or accept oversight over them directly or indirectly. They also pledge not to produce or acquire any other forms of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, or to accept any kind of assistance in their production.

It must be stressed that the current stage in the process of creating nuclear-weapon-free zones is not final. Therefore, as States that have signed the Treaty on the nuclear-weapon-free zone, we urge other States and regions to follow our example. We hope that all parties directly affected will take the practical measures needed to implement proposals to create a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

Mr. Azor (Haiti) (*spoke in French*): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the 14 member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM): Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and my own country, Haiti.

I congratulate you, Sir, on your election to chair the work of the First Committee. Our congratulations also go to the other members of the Bureau. I assure you of the full support of CARICOM and of course of my own delegation. Allow me also to express our gratitude to your predecessor, Mr. José Luis Cancela, for guiding our work during the sixty-fourth session.

CARICOM supports the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

We meet at a time when measured progress has been achieved through unilateral and bilateral actions in the field of nuclear disarmament, notably the conclusion of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation; the convening of the Nuclear Security Summit by the United States; and increased transparency measures implemented by certain States.

At the multilateral level, CARICOM welcomes and is encouraged by the success of the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference, which adopted a five-year Action Plan for nuclear

disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy, the three pillars of the NPT. That was an important step towards the ultimate goal of the elimination of nuclear weapons, for which CARICOM commends all the States parties.

We also commend all NPT States parties for demonstrating the spirit of cooperation that was essential to reaching consensus. Political will is the key to ensuring that the conclusions and recommendations adopted at the Conference are not dead letters. We therefore call on all States parties, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, to ensure their full implementation.

The Conference on Disarmament is a crucial part of the international disarmament machinery, and it must be revived. It is still the only multilateral forum for the negotiation of multilateral disarmament treaties.

CARICOM continues to express its concern that within the Conference on Disarmament substantive discussion of a number of critical issues, including a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and a convention prohibiting nuclear weapons, have not yet begun, despite the adoption of a programme of work in 2009. In this context, CARICOM views the high-level meeting on revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament, held on 24 September, as a decisive stage in moving towards a resumption of work within the Conference. That is still a matter of priority. We hope that the will of the international community will be translated into action that enables the Conference to fulfil its mandate in the future.

CARICOM shares the concern of the international community about the threat of non-State actors acquiring weapons of mass destruction. It is therefore essential to intensify our efforts to promote Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and its full implementation by Member States.

In this context, CARICOM fully supports the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which plays an important role in preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and of nuclear technology. We repeat our urgent call for increased assistance to our region to strengthen the capacity of our States through, among other matters, sharing best practice on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, thus helping us to fulfil our obligations under Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

In this regard, we note that our region is part of a nuclear-weapon-free zone, established under the Treaty of Tlatelolco in 1967. CARICOM continues to view the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones as an important confidence-building measure and a contribution to global disarmament and non-proliferation measures. We welcome the establishment of other nuclear-weapon-free zones, and encourage similar initiatives.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has stated: “A world free of nuclear weapons would be a global public good of the highest order.” CARICOM fully endorses that sentiment. The elimination of nuclear weapons would allow valuable human and financial resources to be directed towards achieving sustainable development and improving the lives of peoples throughout the world. With only five years remaining before the 2015 deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, it is clear that a number of countries will be unable to meet the Goals. It is therefore essential to mobilize resources to support countries in the pursuit of those Goals.

Gun-related violence continues to concern the CARICOM countries. The region experiences a high homicide rate and other consequences of the illicit trade in and use of small arms and light weapons. In recent years my own country, Haiti, has paid — and it continues to pay — a high cost in terms of lives lost, increased insecurity, threats to the democratic process and destabilization of institutions, preventing productive investments that are essential for growth and development.

CARICOM reaffirms its commitment to implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects as an important multilateral mechanism in the fight against the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons. We therefore welcomed the fruitful discussions earlier this year during the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States on the Programme. In this context, as stated during the Meeting, CARICOM is committed to the establishment of a legally binding instrument on marking and tracing, which would advance the objective of the effective regulation of the trade in small arms and light weapons.

Our region will continue to make great efforts to reach the goal of an arms trade treaty. We welcome the

convening in July of the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty. Our region is committed to working with all States to reach agreement on an arms trade treaty by 2012. It is essential that all States, in particular producers and exporters of small arms and light weapons, as well as transit States, take bold steps and incorporate into their domestic legislation the criteria for licensing, export and transit.

In closing, CARICOM again draws attention to another issue that is crucial for the region: the trans-shipment of nuclear and toxic waste through the waters of our region. The risk of an accident poses a serious threat to the region’s environment and its economy. We reiterate our strong rejection of the continued use of the Caribbean Sea for the shipment or trans-shipment of nuclear waste, and call on countries that produce nuclear and toxic waste to take appropriate measures to put an end to this dangerous activity.

CARICOM member States share a common vision of a secure, peaceful world, in which our peoples can live in dignity. We therefore reiterate our commitment to work with all States to ensure that future generations grow up in a world free from the fear of nuclear war and free from the fear of gun-related violence.

Mr. Heller (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): First, Mr. Chairman, I congratulate you on assuming the leadership of the First Committee’s work, which we are sure you will guide to a successful conclusion. I also congratulate the other members of the Bureau.

The current session will bring to an end a year in which disarmament and non-proliferation have received particular attention on the international agenda. Therefore, we should like to give a brief summary of the progress achieved and the challenges and commitments that still lie ahead.

First, we welcome the successful conclusion of the eighth Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference in May. My delegation, like many others, worked assiduously to enable the consensus adoption of the Final Document (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)) and the 64 actions to make tangible progress towards achieving the Treaty’s objective: nuclear disarmament.

I wish in particular to highlight the contents of Action 5, by which the nuclear-weapon States

committed themselves to accelerate concrete progress on the steps contained in the Final Document (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I and II)) of the 2000 Review Conference, including their unequivocal commitment to the elimination of their nuclear arsenals.

As is the case in the fields of health, education, development or climate change, the credible and viable achievement of disarmament will depend on our translating words into deeds. Our first task is to achieve universalization of the NPT. Therefore, we again urge India, Israel and Pakistan to accede to the Treaty as non-nuclear-weapon States. We also call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to set aside the nuclear option in the military field and to make progress towards establishing a nuclear-weapon-free Korean Peninsula, resuming diplomacy, returning to the Six-Party Talks and revoking its announced withdrawal from the NPT.

With regard to Iran, we adhere to the principle that one deed says more than a thousand words. If the real objective is, as has been contended, the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, for the development and growth of the Iranian people, then achieving that objective in a fully transparent manner, with the approval of the International Atomic Energy Agency, should be not an obstacle, but a priority. It would once and for all end the international community's scepticism.

Iran has the opportunity today to show the world that the avenue of diplomacy, dialogue and transparency remains valid and effective to resolve existing disputes concerning its nuclear programme. It would certainly be a significant step towards establishing a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, and towards achieving lasting peace in the region. In that regard, we must ensure that every step is taken in a timely manner to ensure a successful outcome to the Conference on the subject to be held in 2012.

However, those are not the only cases in which the disarmament agenda has encountered setbacks. The entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is urgently needed. In view of the international rejection of nuclear tests, there can be no justification for the lack of ratifications. We call especially on the nuclear-weapon States that have not

yet done so to set an example in order to ensure that this work is accomplished.

With regard to ratifications, it is time for the nuclear-weapon States that have not yet done so to become parties to the protocols to the treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones, without reservations or interpretative clauses. It goes without saying that the existing reservations, such as those relating to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, should be removed.

We welcome the signing in April of the New START agreement between the United States and the Russian Federation, and look forward to its prompt ratification. We also recognize the progress that has been made in reducing nuclear readiness in new national security doctrines in a number of countries, as well as in the field of transparency.

We again call on all the nuclear-weapon States to further reduce their arsenals, with a view to their elimination, pursuant to article VI of the NPT, in a transparent, irreversible and verifiable manner. We hope that such actions will continue to develop, accompanied by other measures, such as non-first-use declarations, which provide a model for the adoption of a legally binding instrument on negative security assurances, for example.

We repeat that the only absolute guarantee against the threat or the use of nuclear weapons is their total elimination. We reaffirm our complete rejection of the justification for the indefinite possession of such weapons for any purpose, including deterrence. No security measure can justify the terrible humanitarian impact of their use, which remains a risk while such horrible devices continue to exist.

In that regard, we hope for positive results from the NATO summit in Lisbon, such as a decision to remove all nuclear weapons from the territory of non-nuclear-weapon States. We also look forward to the results of the negotiations of the five permanent members of the Security Council to be held in Paris next year, following the meeting held in London in 2009, on confidence-building measures, verification and compliance with disarmament and non-proliferation commitments. While those processes are complementary, progress in one area cannot depend on progress in others; in other words, disarmament should not be hostage to non-proliferation.

With regard to non-proliferation, Mexico attaches great importance to the need to establish effective and efficient control mechanisms to prevent the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction and related materials by non-State actors. That is proved by my country's actions in chairing the Security Council committee set up pursuant to the Council's resolution 1540 (2004), the 1540 Committee, where one of the main priorities has been to promote the work of the Committee as a platform for international cooperation on the matter. To that end, we have worked intensively through bilateral consultations and regional workshops in preparation for the renewal of the Committee's mandate next year, defining with greater clarity its main tasks in order to make more certain that there will be no proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

As everyone here knows, the High-level Meeting on Revitalizing the Work of the Conference on Disarmament and Taking Forward Multilateral Disarmament Negotiations, convened by the Secretary-General, was held on 24 September. As Mexico stated then, it believes that the time has come to give the Conference an ultimatum, by establishing a deadline for completing the tasks that are its *raison d'être*. Once such a deadline has been set, if the Conference on Disarmament still cannot fulfil its mandate, the General Assembly should determine its future. It is unacceptable that resources and efforts continue to fuel an exercise of non-existent diplomacy.

If we truly believe in multilateralism, the time has come to end the deadlocks in the system. We hope that during our current work we shall be able to take decisions resulting in movement with regard to the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament, movement that has been awaited for so long.

Mexico is fully aware that security does not depend solely on the elimination of weapons of mass destruction. The irresponsible or illicit use of conventional weapons is the cause of most of the conflicts currently jeopardizing international peace and security and having a devastating effect on civilian populations.

For many of our countries the most pressing concerns continue to include the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons; irresponsible transfers of conventional weapons; civilian possession of arms and munitions and lack of adequate regulation; the use of

cluster bombs; and the existence worldwide of large mined areas.

Mexico continues to suffer damage — sometimes irreparable — to its social fabric caused by small arms and light weapons and the traffic in them. The lack of control of such weapons fuels organized crime, with all its consequences. We urgently need to consider and adopt specific measures to establish more effective controls over conventional weapons.

This year Mexico sought to make a direct contribution to this difficult undertaking by chairing the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States on the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, on the premise that combating the illicit arms trade should be the subject of concerted efforts within the United Nations framework, through a comprehensive approach including technical and human aspects and fully enshrining the concept of the shared responsibility of all those involved.

We welcome the fact that for the first time it was possible to adopt a substantive document on the topic, with the consensus of all Member States. We hope that this positive outcome can be replicated in other ongoing processes, such as the arms trade treaty, where significant progress has been achieved this year in the work of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference on the subject.

Mexico fully supports the regime established by the Chemical Weapons Convention. We are therefore seriously concerned that some of the main States parties possessing such weapons have announced that they cannot complete the destruction of their arsenals by the extended deadline of 29 April 2012. Given that fact, Mexico will do its utmost to find solutions that preserve the Convention's integrity.

Finally, I should like to refer to two events that are cause for celebration: first, the entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions; secondly, the successful conclusion in June of Nicaragua's national demining plan, which has made it possible to declare the region comprising Mexico and Central America a zone free of anti-personnel mines. That undertaking further underscores the value of the Ottawa Convention.

Building confidence and cooperation, through frank dialogue, remains the avenue to achieving international peace and security. We hope that that spirit will guide the actions of the First Committee in its work during the current session.

The Chair: Before calling on the next speaker, I remind delegations that the limit for statements delivered in national capacities is 10 minutes.

Mr. Antonov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): On behalf of the Russian delegation, I congratulate you, Sir, and your colleagues in the Bureau on your appointment to your extremely responsible posts. We are confident that thanks to your wisdom and expertise we shall be able to achieve the results that are in our thoughts every day.

The First Committee meets today against a background of increasing progress in the area of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation. An important milestone in this area was the signing in April this year of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, the New START agreement.

Also of significance were the Washington Nuclear Security Summit, the successful Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the considerable efforts under the auspices of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to launch substantive work of the Conference on Disarmament.

The new realities dictate a unifying agenda in international relations, because common challenges can be met only through collective efforts in a spirit of shared responsibility and indivisible security. The Russian Federation has always supported the central role of the United Nations in accomplishing vital tasks.

The Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States on strategic offensive arms was signed in Prague on 8 April. Its underlying principles of equality, parity and equal and indivisible security of the parties make it a new gold standard for concluding disarmament and arms control agreements. We have submitted the Treaty for ratification, and we expect American legislators to take similar steps.

The Russian Federation has deliberately taken a contractual, legal approach to nuclear disarmament. Such an approach allows for the achievement of real,

verifiable, irreversible limitation and reduction of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems.

During the current session, together with our United States negotiating partners, we intend to submit a draft resolution (A/C.1/65/L.28) entitled "Bilateral strategic nuclear arms reductions and the new framework for strategic relations". We hope that it will be widely supported and adopted by consensus.

Far-reaching reductions in strategic offensive arms undertaken by Russia and the United States led to a fundamental change in the nuclear disarmament situation. The narrowing numerical gap between the stockpiles of our countries and those of the other permanent five members of the Security Council creates an urgent need for other States possessing nuclear weapons to gradually join the disarmament efforts of Russia and the United States.

At the same time, we believe that nuclear disarmament should not be limited exclusively to the efforts of the NPT States parties. Moreover, the signing of the New START agreement has brought us to a point at which a considerable reduction in nuclear capabilities makes deeper reductions impossible without due regard to all other processes taking place in the area of international security.

Further steps towards nuclear disarmament should be considered and implemented in strict compliance with the principle of equal, indivisible security and taking into account all factors capable of affecting strategic stability. These factors include, in particular, development of regional missile defence systems without taking into account the security of neighbouring States; the possibility of the deployment of weapons in outer space; plans to develop non-nuclear strategic delivery systems; unilateral build-up in strategic missile defence capabilities; growing imbalance of forces in the area of conventional arms; and the deployment of nuclear weapons in the territory of non-nuclear-weapon States.

The relationship between strategic offensive and strategic defensive arms, which is becoming increasingly important as strategic offensive arms are reduced, is a vital matter in strengthening international strategic stability.

We call for broad international dialogue on missile defence issues. Our goal is to establish a collective system to respond to missile-related

challenges by countering missile proliferation and preventing the existing missile-related challenges from turning into real missile-related threats, as well as eliminating those threats through, first and foremost, political, diplomatic and economic measures.

One of the priorities of Russia's foreign policy is preventing the deployment of any kind of weapons in outer space. We are convinced of the value of collective work at the Conference on Disarmament on the Russia-China draft treaty on the matter, and we invite all States to become involved in that work.

A necessary component in guaranteeing stability and security is developing transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities. At the sixty-fourth session the General Assembly for the first time adopted without a vote, as resolution 64/49, a Russian-Chinese draft resolution on the matter. At the current session Russia will, with other countries, submit a draft resolution (A/C.1/65/L.38), "Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities", containing the idea of establishing a group of governmental experts on the issue. We call on all delegations to support our draft and to become sponsors.

Russia has consistently stood for strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime. The provision of all possible assistance to universalization and strengthening of the NPT as a pillar of the collective security system continues to be a systemic task. The outcomes of the NPT Review Conference confirm that the Treaty remains a starting point for consideration of international issues related to the creation of optimal frameworks for cooperation in the area of peaceful nuclear energy.

In particular, we need to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime in the Middle East, based on previous decisions. At the May Review Conference, for the first time since the adoption in 1995 of a resolution on the Middle East (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I), annex), we were able to agree on concrete steps for the foundation of a mechanism to begin in practice the establishment of a zone in the region free of all weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. As a sponsor of the 1995 Middle East resolution, Russia is satisfied that those steps are based on ideas and proposals put forward earlier by Russia: the convening of a conference; appointment of a facilitator; and possible confidence-building measures.

We believe that it is necessary to help the development and universalization of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards system. Russia makes consistent efforts for the adoption of the additional protocol to the IAEA safeguards agreements as a universally recognized norm of verification of compliance by NPT States parties with their non-proliferation obligations.

We are very hopeful that the process of the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty by all key countries will be accelerated. That would allow us to put it into force. All the prerequisites for this exist, given the positive signals coming from the United States about its changed attitude towards the Treaty.

We look forward to the swift launching of negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament on banning the production of weapons-grade fissile material, within a balanced programme of work. Russia wants an end to be put to the circulation of sensitive technologies directly connected with the production of weapons-grade nuclear materials, while guaranteeing the possibility of satisfying the legitimate interests of many countries in developing nuclear power. That is the aim of the Russian President's global nuclear power infrastructure initiative, which includes the establishment of international centres providing nuclear fuel cycle services.

We support further strengthening of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and the Chemical Weapons Convention, including through universalization and fulfilment of their provisions at the national level, as well as the Convention on inhumane weapons, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. Russia intends to do its utmost to guarantee a successful, productive holding next year of the seventh BWC Review Conference.

We want all sides to fully implement the provisions of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). In that context, serious work lies ahead to define frameworks of a new resolution to extend the mandate of the Council's 1540 Committee, which was set up pursuant to that resolution, as well as setting benchmarks for the further development of that process. Russia is prepared to work on this.

What has become particularly relevant recently is the issue of conventional weapons. Attempts to find a forced response to the issue of regulating the

international arms trade by the adoption of any kind of weak or ineffective document can only undermine the international community's efforts to remedy the situation. This also fully applies to the concept of an international arms trade treaty.

The Russian Federation consistently opposes the emergence of new areas of confrontation and military rivalry. One such sphere could be the rapidly developing information space. This year we are again submitting a draft resolution (A/C.1/65/L.37), "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security", based on the work of the Group of Governmental Experts on the issue. We call on all States to support our draft and to become sponsors.

We urge all delegations to work constructively and interact with mutual respect during the work of the First Committee. I assure you, Mr. Chairman, of our support for your efforts towards the effective organization of our forthcoming work.

Mr. Eide (Norway): After more than a decade of stalemate in the field of disarmament, recent developments give a glimmer of hope for the decade that we have just entered.

First, we were able to reach agreement at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference in May on 64 concrete actions to strengthen nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy. While Norway would have welcomed even stronger language, we still think that the Review Conference was as successful as could reasonably be expected at this stage. Secondly, the two countries with the largest arsenals of nuclear weapons have recently signed a New START agreement. Thirdly, there have been more frequent references to the long-term goal of a world without nuclear weapons among key leaders and experienced statesmen than in many years. And, not least, a wide-ranging ban on cluster munitions was achieved with the entry into force this fall of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Taken together, those developments suggest that there is a new momentum in the area of international disarmament. That is, indeed, good news. But it also means that the United Nations disarmament apparatus will have to step up to the plate and re-energize its working methods. If not, the principal multilateral forums that we have put in place to deal with this

crucially important area will simply be relegated to a secondary role. This is a serious challenge. Both the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission are — to be honest — highly dysfunctional bodies today. It is up to us to make the choice between renewed relevance and oblivion.

An estimated 2,000 people are killed every day by the effects of armed violence, including by anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions, and through the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

Norway is a strong supporter of an effective arms trade treaty. We believe that such a treaty could provide a unique opportunity for the international community to make a difference, by establishing norms and regulations that can reduce the human suffering caused by an illicit and poorly regulated arms trade. In our view, such a treaty would help to prevent and reduce armed violence through improved regulation of international arms transfers.

Experience gained from the Mine Ban Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions has shown the usefulness of effective cross-regional partnerships. With the will to work in innovative and creative ways, it is possible to make a difference and achieve meaningful results. Another important lesson is that we achieve more by engaging all relevant stakeholders in such processes. Both Conventions prohibit weapons that are inherently indiscriminate. In addition, they are comprehensive agreements that provide frameworks for implementation, including provisions for adequate assistance to survivors.

In this vein, as we approach the tenth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, let me reiterate the need to include the gender dimension in all disarmament efforts.

Weapons that cause unnecessary suffering and unacceptable harm have no place in today's international security environment, and it is in our mutual interest to establish norms and legally binding rules for their elimination.

The humanitarian dimension is of course as valid for nuclear weapons as for conventional weapons. This was a message from the Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in May, which expressed deep concern over the catastrophic humanitarian consequences that would result from the actual use of nuclear weapons. We also welcome the

reaffirmation by the Review Conference of the need for all States at all times to comply with international humanitarian law.

Political leaders, military strategists and humanitarian activists alike increasingly find themselves in agreement on the ultimate goal of totally eliminating the most inhumane, indiscriminate and disproportional weapons of all.

Among the members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, this topic is now also part of ongoing discussions about a new strategic concept, discussions due to conclude in November this year: Is it possible to reduce the salience of nuclear weapons in the Alliance's deterrence doctrine, as a contribution to the global quest for nuclear disarmament? Together with concerned allies, Norway is actively promoting the disarmament and non-proliferation agenda in this and other relevant forums.

If we want to move forward, we need to reframe the question from one of whether a world free of nuclear weapons is feasible to one of how to actually achieve it, and how it can be undertaken in a secure, irreversible and verifiable manner. We should be under no illusion that the countries that currently possess such weapons will be ready to give them up as long as we do not have rock solid mechanisms for verification and a credible system for preventing any party returning to nuclear status.

The overall objective of the NPT must, eventually, be codified in a legally binding instrument. A combination of bilateral and multilateral verification arrangements will be needed. The International Atomic Energy Agency will play a key role in safeguarding fissile materials. We must provide the political, financial and technical support necessary to ensure full confidence in the disarmament process.

For a number of years, Norway and the United Kingdom have cooperated on a project on verifying the dismantling of nuclear warheads. This effort is being continued with an exercise in the United Kingdom this year. We consider this a concrete contribution towards our goal of eliminating nuclear weapons.

Progress on nuclear disarmament is inherently linked to an effective non-proliferation regime. Nuclear weapons are a manifest threat to our common security, and they cannot be seen as legitimate means of advancing national interests, whether political or

military. With thousands of people dying every day because of armed violence, and with the continuous risk of accidental, miscalculated or even deliberate use of nuclear weapons, there is no time for deadlocks, secrecy and procedural hang-ups and inhibitions. We must find effective ways to work together in order to eliminate these threats to our own security. That is in our common interest — as State representatives and as human beings — and it is our common responsibility.

Ms. Blum (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, and the other members of the Bureau on your election. We hope that your guidance and expertise will allow us to substantively contribute to the process of revitalizing the disarmament machinery.

The delegation of Colombia associates itself with the statement to be delivered on behalf of the Rio Group and the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

My country reaffirms its strong commitment to the United Nations Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons, an instrument that has become an international benchmark for progress in the fight against the illicit trade in such weapons. Its effective implementation by States and the strengthening of national capacities and follow-up mechanisms remain priorities. We acknowledge the efforts of countries aimed at creating a process that allows a more efficient exchange of lessons learned and the identification of challenges and opportunities.

Colombia had the honour to actively participate, as a facilitator, in the last two Biennial Meetings of States, in 2008 and 2010, contributing to the formulation of guidelines and recommendations to strengthen the approach to the subject of small arms and light weapons in the context of the United Nations. My delegation supports the convening of the Experts Group meeting in New York next May. It will be a valuable opportunity for national experts to exchange, in a constructive manner, information on their national experiences, remaining challenges and possible solutions on issues to be addressed. Next year marks the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Programme of Action. Therefore, it would be desirable to achieve concrete results at the meeting of experts, in order to reaffirm the Programme's validity. Likewise, we expect the second Review Conference, to be held in 2012, to

reaffirm the international community's commitment to strengthening and implementing the Programme.

In the current session, Colombia is coordinating work on a draft resolution (A/C.1/65/L.32) entitled "The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects", along the lines of the draft that we traditionally introduce along with Japan and South Africa. The 2009 draft was adopted by consensus and had many co-sponsors. We look forward to continued support from all States.

At the Cartagena Summit on a Mine-free World, held in late 2009, we and representatives from more than 100 countries reaffirmed at the highest level our commitment to the Convention banning anti-personnel mines, and to ending the suffering they cause and achieving a world free of this scourge.

In my country, illegal armed groups persist in the inhuman planting of such devices, causing terror and pain in families and communities. The Colombian Government continues to make progress in its actions to combat mines, including humanitarian demining, mine-risk education and care for victims. On the latter, the Government recently submitted to Congress a bill to establish an effective and broad policy for reparation to the victims of violence, which will also benefit those who have suffered the effects of anti-personnel mines. Colombia considers it important to strengthen international cooperation and assistance, including South-South cooperation, in all these areas.

One of the basic Colombian foreign policy guidelines has been our commitment to the disarmament and non-proliferation regime. My country is a State party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to the Treaty of Tlatelolco; it has signed and ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty; and it has participated in and contributed to building and strengthening the regime, including through its committed role within the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Conference on Disarmament.

Last May, at the eighth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, my delegation stressed the urgent need for progress in reducing the role that nuclear weapons still play in military doctrines. Colombia also stressed the incompatibility between the development of new, more powerful and more destructive nuclear weapons and the letter and spirit of the Treaty. My

country also expressed its concern about the vulnerability caused by nuclear-sharing with non-nuclear-weapon States or States not party to the Treaty, since this practice, in our view, violates the commitment to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

The delegation of Colombia expresses its concern about the new dimension of nuclear-weapon proliferation, evident in the growing interest by terrorists and illegal armed non-State actors in the acquisition and possible use of such weapons. This problem was recognized in Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). The international community must be aware of the risk. It is therefore essential to ensure full compliance with all the provisions of the Treaty as well as cooperation between States in combating this threat.

On 23 September, at the fifth ministerial meeting to promote the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, my delegation reiterated its responsible attitude to the provisions of this important instrument and stressed that a commitment by all States to refrain from any action contrary to its objects and purposes did not substitute for its validity. Colombia is convinced that only the total elimination of nuclear weapons will guarantee peace and security, and therefore it will continue to support all initiatives aimed at achieving a world free of these deadly weapons.

My delegation took part on 24 September in the High-level Meeting convened by the Secretary-General to support the work of the Conference on Disarmament. We regret that, after more than 10 years, there is not enough flexibility or political will to adopt and implement a programme of work. There is an urgent need to intensify efforts to reach consensus and adopt a balanced programme, with negotiations on nuclear disarmament, negative security assurances, prevention of an arms race in outer space and a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons, including the topic of surpluses. It is also necessary to promote debate on a possible expansion of the Conference's membership.

My delegation has actively participated in the discussions on an arms trade treaty since they began in 2008. Colombia is confident that the final text of this international instrument will incorporate an explicit prohibition of transfers of weapons to illegally armed

non-State actors and will include small arms and light weapons as a category of conventional weapons.

Colombia, with its traditional commitment to peace and its respect for international law, favours multilateralism as the framework within which the main legal instruments constituting the disarmament regime have been agreed, and will continue to actively participate in the search for commitments to safeguard the principles enshrined in the Charter.

Mr. Al-Jarman (United Arab Emirates) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I congratulate you, Sir, on chairing the Committee.

I express my country's support for the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement regarding the items on the Committee's agenda.

The meetings of the First Committee at the current session are being held in a different disarmament environment, an optimistic environment encouraged by the positive political positions expressed recently by certain nuclear-weapon States — the United States and Russia — regarding reducing their countries' dependence on strategic arsenals. These positive positions have stimulated international negotiations on disarmament issues, especially the negotiations in the most recent Review Conference of the Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the negotiations in the ministerial meetings held on the sidelines of the General Assembly at its current session. I refer in particular to the fifth Ministerial Meeting to promote the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the High-level Meeting on Revitalizing the Work of the Conference on Disarmament and Taking Forward Multilateral Disarmament Negotiations.

The United Arab Emirates follows a clear national policy, embodied in its accession to the NPT in 1995 and ratification of the CTBT in 2000, and has a continued political commitment to support all multilateral diplomatic efforts to build confidence in the areas of disarmament and non-proliferation, with a view to enhancing the universality of all treaties on the non-proliferation of all types of weapons of mass destruction. It therefore expresses its concern over the insistence of some parties on promoting policies of nuclear deterrence and other policies for developing weapons of mass destruction.

In this context, we look forward to achieving peaceful and permanent settlements with regard to the nuclear programmes of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in order to prevent further tensions and confrontations. We welcome the adoption in September by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of its resolution GC(54)/RES/13, calling for the application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East.

We also call for maximizing international efforts to subject all Israeli nuclear facilities to IAEA supervision and to put pressure on Israel to accede to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty like all other States in the region, in accordance with the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions calling for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the decision of the sixth NPT Review Conference in 2000. In this regard, we look forward to the holding of a conference to make the Middle East a nuclear-weapon-free zone by 2012, as agreed in the Final Document (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)) of the latest Review Conference.

We believe that regional and international collective security requires advancing negotiations between nuclear States and adopting comprehensive and balanced policies on confidence-building, policies capable of halting the improvement and development of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems, reducing and eventually eliminating those weapons, and changing nuclear uses to peaceful purposes within a specific time frame, in accordance with article VI of the NPT. In this connection, we also call for the development of a binding international instrument that provides the necessary safeguards regarding the non-use of existing nuclear arsenals or their use to threaten non-nuclear-weapon States.

In this regard, we reaffirm our conviction of the need to enhance the universality and inclusiveness of disarmament treaties, particularly those relating to disarmament of weapons of mass destruction, which require non-parties to be committed to the goals of those treaties. In this connection, we support the call made by the Secretary-General a few days ago for continuing efforts to bring the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty into force by 2012.

The United Arab Emirates expresses its satisfaction at the positive atmosphere that prevailed during the recent international negotiations on

revitalizing the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, and urges all States to show the necessary flexibility and political will in order to develop an integrated agenda for the Conference, covering all aspects of disarmament issues, especially nuclear disarmament.

We also reaffirm the right of developing countries to engage in the research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, without discrimination and in accordance with IAEA limits and safeguards. We also urge the nuclear States to respond to the scientific and technological needs of developing countries in order to enable them to continue their development activities.

In this framework, we emphasize that the United Arab Emirates will continue to take more concrete steps towards developing a model programme for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy to meet its growing energy requirements, under the safeguards and supervision of the IAEA, and based on the highest standards of transparency, nuclear safety and non-proliferation. The programme will be implemented in full cooperation with the Agency and with other friendly and responsible States having experience in this field, in order to reduce international fears with regard to non-proliferation, and to affirm the right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, a right that should be exercised only by adhering to highly transparent, responsible and safe standards.

Finally, we hope that our deliberations in the Committee will lead to a consensus that contributes to strengthening and developing the Committee's work and realizing our peoples' aspirations to achieve security, peace, stability and development at regional and international levels.

The Chair: I call on the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who wishes to speak in exercise of the right of reply.

Mr. Pargou (Islamic Republic of Iran): First, Mr. Chairman, allow me to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau on your election. I assure you of my delegation's full cooperation.

Today certain speakers made allegations against the Iranian peaceful nuclear programme. In speaking in exercise of the right of reply, I wish to state the following. Iran's nuclear activities are, and always have been, for peaceful purposes.

According to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), development of peaceful nuclear energy is my country's inalienable right. In exercising this right, Iran takes its responsibilities seriously.

Our commitment to non-proliferation remains intact, and the International Atomic Energy Agency has repeatedly confirmed the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme.

Some of the allegations are made by a certain group of countries that have a long record of non-compliance with their nuclear disarmament obligations, dating back 40 years. It is therefore crystal clear that the allegations are an attempt to disguise and divert attention from the horrendous record of those countries' non-compliance with their nuclear disarmament obligations. Accordingly, instead of making unfounded claims against the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme, they should comply fully and immediately with all their obligations and commitments under the NPT and the Final Documents of its Review Conferences.

In conclusion, the Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates its readiness to engage in serious and constructive negotiations, without preconditions, with interested parties, based on justice and mutual respect.

The Chair: I remind delegations that the rolling list of speakers for the general debate will close tomorrow, Tuesday, 5 October, at 6 p.m. I urge those delegations that have not yet entered their names on the list, but wish to do so, to enter them as soon as possible.

As I did during the organizational meeting, I appeal to all delegations to be punctual at our next meeting, tomorrow morning, so that we may proceed with our work in an efficient manner.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.