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Chair: Mr. Miloš Koterec (Slovakia)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda items 88 to 104 (continued)

General debate on all disarmament and international security agenda items

Mr. Errázuriz (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of the States members of the Rio Group. The Rio Group would like to congratulate you, Sir, and the members of the Bureau on your election. We are committed to making a constructive contribution to the outcome of our deliberations. We would also like to thank the outgoing Chair, Ambassador José Luis Cancela, for the efforts he made and dedication he showed in guiding the Committee's deliberations during the previous session.

The countries of the Rio Group have a long-standing tradition of participating in issues related to disarmament, which we consider as one of our priorities on the agenda of the United Nations. We believe that disarmament is an essential part of efforts to promote and maintain international peace and security.

The Group reiterates its firm support for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects. We also express our concern about the threat to humankind posed by the very existence of nuclear weapons and about the slow progress towards their complete elimination, which is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of such weapons.

The Group reiterates that the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is a crime against humanity and a violation of international law and of the Charter of the United Nations. The Rio Group emphasizes that all disarmament initiatives should be irreversible, transparent and verifiable. The Group strongly reaffirms that disarmament and non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing processes.

While we welcome some positive signs in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, the Group stresses the need to act with urgency and consistency towards the full dismantling and legally binding prohibition of nuclear weapons within a specified time frame. In that context, the Rio Group welcomes the holding of the 2010 Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in New York last May. We also take note of the fact that the Conference adopted a substantive outcome document (see NPT/CONF.2010/50).

The Rio Group notes that the outcome document of the Review Conference, imperfect though it may be, represents a result that can be built upon and improved in the future. In our view, the follow-up action plan is a positive contribution to the goal of disarmament and non-proliferation that serves as a basis for a constructive commitment in the search for concrete results towards the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

The Rio Group reaffirms the importance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which is the cornerstone of the non-

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proliferation regime, and of the balance between its three pillars. We are fully committed to the universality of the NPT. We therefore urge States that have not yet done so to accede to the Treaty as non-nuclear States. The Group also calls upon NPT States parties to fully comply with all of the Treaty's provisions and to meet their commitments within the framework of the Treaty. We also reiterate the importance of not interpreting or applying the NPT on a selective basis.

The Rio Group urges States that possess nuclear weapons to fully comply with their nuclear disarmament obligations contained in article VI of the Treaty, as well as to show leadership with regard to honouring their commitments under the Treaty, in particular with regard to the practical steps towards nuclear disarmament agreed at the 2000 NPT Review Conference and the plan of action adopted at the eighth Review Conference. We also call upon nuclear-weapon States to speed up measures in that regard.

The Rio Group reiterates that States parties must fully comply with all the provisions of the NPT. In that connection, we reaffirm the inalienable right of developing countries to participate in nuclear research and the production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination. Our Group favours the broadest possible exchange of equipment, material and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The Rio Group also emphasizes the importance of nuclear-weapon States reducing their nuclear arsenals in an irreversible, transparent and verifiable manner, with a view to their total elimination. In that regard, the Group acknowledges the conclusion and subsequent signing last April 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 as an important step in the reduction of their deployed nuclear arsenals. We look forward to its entry into force without delay. Although the Agreement represents important progress, the Group calls for additional substantial reductions, in particular as regards non-deployed and non-strategic nuclear arms. Furthermore, the Group calls on all nuclear-weapon States to take concrete, transparent, verifiable and irreversible steps to eliminate all types of nuclear weapons, which still number in the thousands.

The Rio Group takes note of the transparency measures taken by some nuclear States with regard to the number of nuclear weapons in their national inventories. We encourage all nuclear-weapon States to expand such transparency measures.

The Group expresses its opposition to the enhancement of existing nuclear weapons and the development of new types of nuclear weapons. The Rio Group stresses the need to eliminate the role of nuclear weapons in strategic doctrines and security policies.

The members of the Rio Group belong to the region that established the first densely populated nuclear-weapon-free zone, namely, under the 1967 Treaty of Tlatelolco. As States parties to the Treaty, we urge nuclear-weapon States to withdraw the interpretative declarations made upon their accession to the Protocols to the Treaty. The Rio Group also renews its commitment to the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in other parts of the world. We also express our satisfaction that the final document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference encourages the establishment of other nuclear-weapon-free zones in areas of the world where they do not exist, especially in the Middle East.

In that context, the Rio Group welcomes the ratification by some nuclear-weapon States of the protocols to the treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones. We also welcome the announcement by the United States of America of its intention to ratify the Protocols to the Treaties of Pelindaba and Rarotonga and to hold consultations with the parties in the nuclear-weapon-free zones in Central and South-East Asia, in an effort to sign and ratify the relevant protocols.

The Rio Group welcomes the holding of the second Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, and Mongolia, held on 30 April at the United Nations. We express our support for the strengthening of the disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

While reaffirming its role as the sole multilateral negotiating body on disarmament, the Rio Group deeply regrets that, despite positive developments in 2009 and the efforts made in 2010, the Conference on Disarmament has not yet been able to adopt its programme of work, concluding its annual session without engaging in substantive work. The Rio Group urges all members of the Conference on Disarmament,

in order to ensure the commencement of substantive work without delay, to show political will by adopting and implementing a balanced and comprehensive programme of work that advances the agenda of nuclear disarmament, including negotiations on a nuclear-weapons convention; a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on negative security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States as well as an agreement on the prevention of an arms race in outer space; and a non-discriminatory and multilateral treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices.

We also welcome the high-level meeting convened by the Secretary-General on 24 September on revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral negotiations, as an opportunity to draw high-level political attention to these issues.

The Group urges the Conference on Disarmament to overcome its current impasse and to establish an ad hoc committee on disarmament with the goal of initiating negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specific time frame, including a convention on nuclear weapons. In that context, we welcome the Secretary-General's five-point proposal and express our support for the negotiations on a convention on nuclear weapons backed by a strengthened verification system.

The Rio Group reaffirms that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of these weapons. Pending the achievement of that goal, non-nuclear-weapon States should receive unequivocal, unconditional and legally binding negative security assurances from the nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of such weapons. Until such legally binding assurances exist, the nuclear-weapon States must abide by existing commitments with regard to negative security assurances.

The Rio Group is concerned about the signs of an arms race in outer space. We also stress the need for negotiations on a legally binding instrument in that regard. We also note the importance of strict compliance with the legal regime in force on the use of outer space, recognizing the common interest of all humankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

Furthermore, the Rio Group stresses the need for negotiations on a non-discriminatory multilateral treaty, including an international verification regime, on the prohibition of the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices in accordance with the Shannon mandate that serves both disarmament and non-proliferation purposes and addresses existing stocks.

With regard to International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, the Rio Group reiterates the importance of achieving greater international support for that regime through the signing and subsequent ratification of such agreements. The Rio Group underscores that the safeguards are basic tools at the disposal of the international community to prevent nuclear materials and technologies from being diverted to activities contrary to the spirit and purpose of the NPT.

The Rio Group reiterates its position with regard to the complete cessation of any kind of nuclear testing. We emphasize the importance of all States maintaining the moratorium on all tests of nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices. The Group emphasizes the importance of the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. In that connection, we welcome the recent declarations by some annex 2 States expressing their intention to take steps towards its ratification. We hope that those declarations will soon translate into concrete actions. The Rio Group appeals to all annex 2 States that have not yet done so to ratify the Treaty as a matter of priority and as evidence of their political will and of their commitment to international peace and security.

The complete elimination of chemical and biological weapons should also be a disarmament priority, since, just as nuclear weapons, these are weapons of mass destruction. The Rio Group emphasizes that none of its members possesses weapons of that kind and that all of them are fully committed to maintaining that status.

The Rio Group believes that universal adherence to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction and to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their

Destruction — which enjoy broad international support — is of the greatest importance.

The Rio Group emphasizes that the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects is a problem that profoundly affects many countries, annually causing many deaths and consuming a significant amount of resources, which could be used for development. In that context, the Rio Group attaches great importance to the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, which is a fundamental instrument of global importance.

In that regard, the Rio Group welcomes the holding last July in New York of the fourth Biennial Meeting of States on Small Arms and Light Weapons, presided over by Ambassador Pablo Macedo of Mexico, including the adoption of its outcome document. We stress the importance of continuing to work to implement the Programme of Action and the recommendations adopted by the Biennial Meeting.

The Rio Group would like to reaffirm its commitment to observing the instruments already adopted in this field. We also stress that we must continue multilateral efforts in the framework of the Programme of Action in order to make progress towards the adoption of legally binding instruments on marking, tracing and illicit brokering.

The Rio Group would like to acknowledge the holding of the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, held in New York from 12 to 23 July in accordance with resolution 64/48, including the discussions held under the leadership of Ambassador Roberto García Moritán of Argentina. In that context, we call on States to work through consensus in a transparent, gradual and non-discriminatory manner in order to prepare a balanced and effective arms trade treaty.

The issue of anti-personnel mines continues to require the greatest attention from the international community. The Rio Group welcomes the fact that Nicaragua has concluded its mine-clearance activities, as well as the declaration recognizing Central America as a mine-free zone.

The Rio Group recognizes the value of the assistance provided by the United Nations Mine Action

Service. We stress the importance of cooperation for demining and assistance to victims and we hope that the success achieved in recent years will continue.

The Rio Group supports international efforts to reduce the suffering caused by cluster munitions and their use against civilian populations, in clear violation of international humanitarian law.

The Rio Group believes that confidence-building measures are an important tool in achieving international peace and security, as that they complement efforts in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. Their implementation and consolidation help to overcome uncertainty and prevent conflicts. They constitute an effective mechanism for promoting greater transparency and cooperation in the area of defence while encouraging security, political, economic and cultural integration.

Our region has taken significant steps towards the implementation of confidence-building measures in the area of conventional weapons. In that regard, the Rio Group underscores the need to strengthen, improve and expand confidence-building measures at all levels. In that connection, we wish to recall resolutions 59/92, 60/82, 61/79 and 63/57, all of which were adopted by consensus.

Transparency in the area of armaments is an important element of confidence-building measures. The Rio Group, which advocates for the application of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, attaches particular attention to the periodic review of the Register.

The Group underscores the important work being done by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, including its assistance to the countries of the region in implementing disarmament measures in various areas. In that connection, the Group welcomes the regional meeting on the implementation of the Programme of Action for States of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the regional workshop on transparency in conventional weapons held in Lima from 1 to 4 March.

Bearing in mind the new challenges facing the international community in the areas of development, poverty eradication and eliminating the diseases that afflict humankind, the Rio Group believes that the use of the resources devoted to global military

expenditures could benefit humankind if they were instead utilized for supporting social and economic development.

The Rio Group believes that political will is required in order to make significant progress on disarmament and non-proliferation — not just from some or even most States, but from every State. It is the obligation of every Government to provide peace and security for their citizens. Given the potential devastating effects of disregarding or postponing it, total and complete disarmament is a goal that requires the attention of the international community.

The Chair: Before proceeding further, I would kindly remind delegations of the 10-minute limit for national statements and the 15-minute limit for those speaking on behalf of regional groups. At the same time, I would kindly request the technicians to set the timing mechanism; apparently, it is not working today.

Mr. Wolfe (Jamaica): On behalf of the Jamaican delegation, allow me to express my congratulations to you, Sir, on your election as Chair of the First Committee at this session. Let me assure you of my delegation's full cooperation with you and the other members of the Bureau. I also wish to take this opportunity to commend your predecessor, Ambassador José Luis Cancela of Uruguay, who ably chaired the work of the Committee with a high level of professionalism during the sixty-fourth session.

Jamaica aligns itself with the statements that have been delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, Haiti on behalf of the member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Chile on behalf of the Rio Group. I wish to add the following brief remarks in my national capacity.

Human survival remains precariously balanced on the brink of destruction, given the continued existence of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. These weapons continue to occupy a place of prominence in the defence strategies of possessor States, despite the fact that history has shown us that rather than creating a situation of safety and security, their continued existence breeds a climate of fear, mistrust and insecurity.

From Jamaica's standpoint, there is no alternative but the total and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. We welcome the momentum towards the total elimination

of nuclear weapons, which began last year and has continued apace since the beginning of the year.

April 2010 saw the signing of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation, which will result in a significant and verifiable reduction of the world's largest nuclear weapons arsenals. We commend both parties for taking that bold step and urge the Treaty's ratification and implementation as quickly as possible.

In May 2010, the States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) reached agreement by consensus on a set of conclusions and recommendations, including an action plan for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We believe that this positive outcome to the 2010 NPT Review Conference signals our commitment to meet the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

We also view the convening of the high-level meeting on revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations as an important element in rejuvenating this near-dormant body. The continued neglect of the core mandate of the Conference on Disarmament as the only multilateral forum for negotiating disarmament treaties is no longer an option. Member States from all regions have made this abundantly clear. The inertia of the Conference only serves the interests of those who would seek to wreak havoc on the rest of humanity through the detonation of a nuclear device or other weapon of mass destruction. We urge the membership of the Conference to demonstrate a spirit of compromise and the requisite flexibility in order to move the process forward. We look forward to 2011 and beyond being productive for the Conference on Disarmament.

The positive action in the area of nuclear disarmament is juxtaposed against the fact that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has not yet entered into force; the threat of nuclear terrorism remains a part of our daily existence; there are unresolved concerns over the nuclear activities of some NPT States parties; and the Conference remains in a state of dysfunction. Our oft-spoken commitments to a safe and secure world must now be supported by concrete action to realize the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

As a State party to the NPT, we continue to maintain our support for all three pillars, namely, nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We call on all States engaged in the development of nuclear energy to fully comply with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) verification, monitoring and safeguards provisions. Compliance with the relevant IAEA provisions is an absolute necessity to uphold the integrity of the NPT, as well as to prevent nuclear accidents, which could have deleterious impacts on the environment and human health.

Jamaica remains concerned about the continued shipment of nuclear and other hazardous waste through the waters of the Caribbean Sea. The Caribbean Sea is the foundation of the economic viability and sustainability of the Caribbean region. As such, an accident or terrorist attack against any waste-bearing vessel would result in severe harm to the lives and livelihoods of the Caribbean people. This continued threat to our existence is totally unacceptable and we continue to advocate that a more viable alternative must be found.

On 1 August 2010, the Convention on Cluster Munitions entered into force. We support the aims of the Convention to end the indiscriminate effects of these weapons, particularly on civilian populations. The entry into force of the Convention is a tangible demonstration of the international community's willingness to act in the best interests of the peoples of the world and to advance the international disarmament agenda. While Jamaica has not yet ratified the Convention, we hope to take our place as a State party in the very near future.

Figures from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute for 2009 indicate that a mere 10 countries accounted for more than \$1.5 trillion in military expenditures. While recognizing the right of all States to self-defence, we respectfully submit that redirecting significant portions of military expenditures to development issues and priorities will have a far greater effect on international peace and security in the long run.

For Jamaica and its CARICOM partners, the scourge of illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons continues to pose a serious challenge to the region's long-term growth and development prospects. The immense socio-economic development challenges

posed by transnational organized crime and the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons must also be squarely addressed by the international community, given the obstacles they present to our achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Jamaica continues to underscore the significance of the 2001 Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects as the primary multilateral mechanism in the fight against illicit trafficking in small arms and ammunition. We are pleased to be part of the fruitful discussions and successful outcome of the fourth Biennial Meeting of States Parties to the Programme of Action, which was held in June. We remain committed to its full implementation. In addition, we are of the view that critical to future efforts to eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is the establishment of a legally binding instrument for the marking and tracing of small arms and light weapons and the incorporation of ammunition into the Programme of Action.

Jamaica welcomes the commencement of discussions on substantive issues that will pave the way towards the eventual conclusion of an arms trade treaty. Jamaica is committed to realizing a strong and effective arms trade treaty that includes small arms and light weapons and their ammunition.

Achieving a settlement of the Middle East question resulting in Palestine and Israel existing side by side as neighbours, with contiguous borders, is an essential ingredient to achieving international peace and security. We commend the efforts of the United States Administration that resulted in the resumption of negotiations between Palestinian and Israeli negotiators earlier this year. We urge both sides to ensure that this renewed hope does not turn into despair.

Pending a final resolution to the conflict, we believe that an important confidence-building measure would be the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. We express our full support for the convening of a conference in 2012 on the establishment of a Middle East nuclear-weapon-free zone and call on all States in the region to work assiduously towards this objective.

In conclusion, the task before us is arduous; but failure is not an option. We have a moral obligation to provide future generations with a safe and secure

international environment. We are committed to playing our part in achieving these goals.

Mr. Pham Vinh Quang (Viet Nam): On behalf of the Vietnamese delegation, I would like to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the chairmanship of the First Committee at the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly. We also warmly congratulate the other members of the Bureau on their elections. My delegation fully associates itself with the statements made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and by the representative of Myanmar on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). We would like to make the following additional remarks.

We start the 2010 session with a mixture of optimism and setbacks in the field of disarmament. Besides positive signs, such as the signing in April 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 and the successful conclusion of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in May, we still face slow progress in the field of nuclear disarmament, the continued deadlock in the Conference on Disarmament and the stalemate in the Disarmament Commission.

Since disarmament is a global issue that cannot be solved unilaterally or bilaterally, only global action can help to resolve it definitively. Viet Nam strongly supports multilateralism and the central role of the United Nations in that endeavour. We welcome the result of the high-level meeting on revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations, which was convened by the Secretary-General shortly before the commencement of this session.

Thirty years after the Cold War, the international community continues to be threatened by the existence of the more than 20,000 nuclear warheads deployed or stockpiled in many parts of the world. Given the exceptionally catastrophic consequences of those horrific weapons for humankind, the only absolute guarantee against nuclear war is their complete elimination. It is now high time for all of us to show strong determination and the political will to achieve our common goal of general and complete disarmament.

My delegation supports all initiatives towards a world free of nuclear weapons, including those by the Non-Aligned Movement, the Secretary-General in his five-point proposal, the Security Council summit on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament last September (see S/PV.6191) and the Nuclear Security Summit, held in April. We welcome the recent signing of the New START agreement between the Russian Federation and the United States and look forward to its ratification soon.

My delegation particularly emphasizes the need to convene an international conference to identify effective ways and means to completely eliminate nuclear weapons in a specific time frame, the need for a global and legally binding unconditional instrument on negative security assurances, and many other important issues to ensure a world without nuclear weapons.

For its part, Viet Nam commits to working harder with all Member States to achieve the noble cause of the sustainable peace and security of the world. Based on its consistent policy of striving for peace, opposing the arms race and preventing the proliferation of all kinds of weapons of mass destruction, Viet Nam persistently pursues its long-standing principled position to support general and complete disarmament, with the top priority given to nuclear disarmament. In that spirit, our country has acceded to core international arms control instruments, such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention, and we have strictly complied with all their obligations.

My delegation views the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as the backbone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regimes and welcomes the successful outcome of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, which adopted 64 concrete actions. This forward-looking action plan on the three main pillars — namely, nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the inalienable right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy — must be implemented in full and non-selectively. It is with that aim that the President of Viet Nam made a proposal to convene an international conference on the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes at the Security Council summit on nuclear non-proliferation and

nuclear disarmament held last September (see S/PV.6191).

My delegation attaches great importance to the strengthening of the disarmament machinery, with the First Committee as an essential component. We reaffirm our support to revitalizing the work of the Disarmament Commission as the sole specialized and deliberative body for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues and the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum.

It is regrettable that the 2010 session of the Disarmament Commission failed to reach agreement on substantive issues and that the Conference on Disarmament is still unable to agree on its 2010 programme of work. In that connection, my delegation highly commends the Secretary-General's initiative to convene a high-level meeting on 24 September to revitalize the work of the Conference on Disarmament in order to enable it to perform its mandate to negotiate legally binding multilateral disarmament on the four core issues of nuclear disarmament, negative security assurances, the prevention of an arms race in outer space and a fissile materials cut-off treaty.

My delegation considers that the existing nuclear-weapon-free zones have made significant contributions to strengthening the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regimes at the regional and international levels. The forty-third ASEAN Foreign Ministers meeting, held in Hanoi from 19 to 20 July, underscored the importance of preserving South-East Asia as a nuclear-weapon-free zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction, as enshrined in the ASEAN charter and the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty.

Viet Nam is working hard with other ASEAN countries for sustainable peace and security in the South-East Asia region and throughout the world. In that connection, we call upon all nuclear-weapon States to ratify, as soon as possible, the Protocol annexed to the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty so as to demonstrate their serious commitment to the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world. We highly appreciate the holding in April of the second Conference of States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones. We welcome all efforts aimed at establishing nuclear-

weapon-free zones in every region of the world, especially in the Middle East.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that, as a peace-loving nation, Viet Nam will do its utmost and spare no effort to strive for the goal of complete disarmament and lasting international peace and security.

Mr. Çorman (Turkey): Let me begin by joining previous speakers in congratulating you, Sir, and the other members of the Bureau on your well-deserved election. We are confident that the First Committee will successfully complete its deliberations under your able stewardship. In order to remain within the time limit allotted to me, I will deliver an abbreviated version of my full statement, which is being distributed by the Secretariat.

Turkey attaches great significance to global overall disarmament and continues to support all efforts aimed at enhancing international security and stability through arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament. We would like the United Nations to play a more effective and influential role in that field.

Turkey shares the vision of a world free of nuclear weapons and supports working towards that goal within the framework established by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). That is a well-balanced framework consisting of three complementary and mutually reinforcing pillars, namely, nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Turkey believes that equal and balanced treatment of those three pillars will reinforce the integrity and credibility of the NPT regime.

We are pleased that the 2010 NPT Review Conference was able to adopt by consensus a comprehensive final document that contains far-reaching recommendations for concrete action aimed at making progress towards a nuclear-weapon-free world. Now is the time to follow through on our joint commitments. On 22 September, Foreign Minister Davutoğlu attended a high-level meeting in New York with the participation of a number of like-minded countries committed to the realization of the consensus outcomes of the 2010 Review Conference. The participants of the meeting belonged to different geographic regions, cultures and alliances. But they shared the same vision of a world free of nuclear weapons. We take this opportunity to call on all States

Members of the United Nations to join forces with us to make this vision a reality.

We acknowledge the international safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as the fundamental tool in global non-proliferation efforts. In that context, Turkey recognizes the need for further strengthening and universalization of the Agency's verification authority. We regard the comprehensive safeguards and the Additional Protocol of the IAEA as an indispensable verification standard. We believe that strengthening the safeguards system of the IAEA and promoting the Agency's role in advancing the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear energy are also essential for the sustainability of the NPT regime in the long run.

It is our firm belief that, as provided for in the NPT, States in full compliance with their safeguards obligations should have unhindered access to civilian nuclear technology. In our view, that would only contribute to the further strengthening and universalization of the NPT regime. Having said that, we must also ensure that all requisite steps are taken so that there will be no diversion of nuclear programmes from peaceful to military uses.

We also attach significance to the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). Turkey has been an active participant in article XIV conferences aimed at facilitating the entry into force of the Treaty and has assumed key responsibility within its verification system by hosting a primary seismic station in the framework of the international monitoring system. We will continue to exert every effort to contribute to the entry into force of the Treaty, while also supporting the CTBT Organization both technically and financially.

It is our steadfast belief that, in this era, nuclear weapons or any other weapons of mass destruction cannot provide additional security for any country. On the contrary, the possession and pursuit of such weapons undermine regional security and stability. Turkey therefore endorses all meaningful steps for the establishment of effectively verifiable zones free of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, particularly in the Middle East. In that respect, we welcome the 2010 NPT Review Conference's endorsement by consensus of 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.

We look forward to the peaceful resolution of current non-proliferation issues that are of common concern to the international community. In that vein, we attach importance to the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to return to the Six-Party Talks immediately and without conditions. Turkey hopes that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will abandon its nuclear weapons and return immediately to the NPT as a non-nuclear-weapon State.

We also consider it important that the outstanding issues relating to Iran's nuclear programme be resolved through peaceful and diplomatic means without further delay. As a neighbour of Iran, Turkey will continue to support and facilitate the diplomatic process on this issue.

With regard to the Conference on Disarmament, we support revitalizing the work of the Conference to resume its role as the world's single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. Various impediments to the substantive work of the Conference should be dealt with in a constructive manner by engaging the parties in order to alleviate legitimate concerns. Our common desire to revitalize the Conference should be put into action so that a programme of work is agreed as soon as possible. Second-track initiatives or new groupings where the participation of all concerned parties is not granted will fail to bring about the desired outcomes.

The Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention are also important components of the global system against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We actively support the efforts to promote the implementation of these instruments in the Mediterranean, the Middle East and adjacent regions.

Turkey also continues to support the work of the Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), which complements the international efforts against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Likewise, we consider the Proliferation Security Initiative to be an important scheme complementing existing international mechanisms. In April 2010, Turkey took part in the Nuclear Security Summit held in Washington, D.C., which led to a reaffirmation of the commitments to

strengthen nuclear security and reduce the threat of nuclear terrorism through effective national action and international cooperation.

The proliferation of conventional weapons is also a cause for concern for Turkey. In that regard, Turkey remains committed to the effective implementation and further strengthening of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and continues to support the conclusion of an arms trade treaty that should establish common standards for international trade in conventional arms.

Another worrying issue in the field of conventional weapons is the scourge of anti-personnel landmines. As a party to the Ottawa Convention since 2004, Turkey fully supports efforts in favour of the universalization and effective implementation of the Ottawa Convention and the vision of a world free from anti-personnel mines. We continue to pursue the destruction process of the stockpiled anti-personnel landmines in the Turkish munitions disposal facility with the utmost care and diligence. Let me take this opportunity to once again appeal to the States that have not yet done so to accede to the Convention.

Turkey also shares the humanitarian concern behind the international efforts to limit the use of cluster munitions and has also been involved in the Oslo process on such munitions. We actively participate in the ongoing work of the meetings of the Group of Governmental Experts on Cluster Munitions within the context of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

The year 2010 has been a busy and productive one as far as disarmament and arms control issues are concerned. We are convinced that the current international environment and the new tide of multilateralism are conducive to making further progress. We stand ready to maintain and build upon this positive momentum. It is our sincere hope that the deliberations of the First Committee this year will contribute to this momentum. I wish to conclude by assuring you, Mr. Chair, of our delegation's full support and cooperation in bringing this session to a successful conclusion.

Mr. Wunna Maung Lwin (Myanmar): I have the privilege and honour to take the floor on behalf of the member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely, Brunei Darussalam,

Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and my own country, Myanmar.

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the Chair of the First Committee. I am confident that your vast experience and diplomatic skills will bring our deliberations to a successful conclusion. Our appreciation also goes to the other members of the Bureau. I assure you, Sir, of our full cooperation and support in fulfilling the important task that lies ahead of us.

With its continuous development, strategic geographical position and peace-oriented values, ASEAN increasingly plays a pivotal role in the maintenance of peace and stability in South-East Asia and the Asia-Pacific region. We believe that it will contribute to international peace and security. We firmly support and actively participate in all efforts to achieve the objectives of general and complete disarmament. We pursue a policy of intensified cooperation and coordination, both at the regional and international levels, to effectively address the challenges of our time.

At the sixteenth ASEAN Summit held in Hanoi, Viet Nam, from 8 to 9 April 2010, the heads of State and Government of ASEAN member States noted with satisfaction the significant progress achieved in the implementation of the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Blueprint, which envisages three key elements, namely, a rules-based community of shared values and norms; a cohesive, peaceful, stable and resilient region with shared responsibility for comprehensive security; and a dynamic and outward-looking region in an increasingly integrated and interdependent world.

Among the existing tools and mechanisms made available to implement the APSC, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) constitutes the key code of conduct governing inter-State relations in the region. In that regard, in their joint communiqué of the forty-third meeting of ASEAN Foreign Ministers, held from 19 to 20 July 2010 in Hanoi, Viet Nam, the Ministers welcomed the accession of Canada and Turkey to the TAC as a strong signal of their commitment to strengthening cooperation with ASEAN and to the peace and security of the region.

ASEAN upholds the United Nations Charter and international law and reaffirms the right of every

ASEAN member State to lead its national existence free from external interference, subversion or coercion. ASEAN further notes international agreements articulating the right of all States to territorial integrity.

Nuclear disarmament remains the highest priority on the disarmament agenda of ASEAN member States. As enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, one of the purposes of our organization is to preserve South-East Asia as a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

In that connection, ASEAN welcomes the signing 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. ASEAN also welcomes the final document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (see NPT/CONF.2010/50) and calls for the full implementation of its action plan. We express our sincere appreciation for the very important contribution made by the Philippines in its capacity as President of the Conference.

ASEAN reaffirms the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) as a core instrument prohibiting all nuclear testing on Earth that contributes to halting the modernization of existing nuclear weapons and to preventing the development of new nuclear warheads and their delivery systems. While welcoming the positive decisions by nuclear-weapon States, we reiterate our call on all States, in particular those whose ratification is needed for the Treaty's entry into force, to sign and ratify the CTBT at an early date. In that connection, we commend the intention of Indonesia and the United States to ratify the CTBT and call on all countries still outside the Treaty to join it.

ASEAN member States are making their contributions to nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in the work of the First Committee. We are convinced that the continuing existence of nuclear weapons poses a threat to humankind and that their use would have catastrophic consequences for all lives on Earth. Therefore, the only defence against a nuclear catastrophe is the total elimination of nuclear weapons. On 8 July 1996, the International Court of Justice unanimously concluded that there existed an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects, under strict and effective international control.

To that end, the delegation of Malaysia will again bring this important obligation to our attention this year with draft resolution A/C.1/65/L.50, entitled "Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*".

At this session, Myanmar will introduce a draft resolution on nuclear disarmament. We believe that the mere existence of nuclear weapons, combined with the lack of legal regimes on the complete prohibition of such weapons, poses the greatest threat to the survival of humankind. The draft resolution will reflect interim measures and steps to be taken by nuclear-weapon States, as well as various multilateral approaches leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified time frame. Those measures and approaches are comprehensive and pragmatic and can be implemented if there is genuine political will to rid the world of nuclear weapons.

Those resolutions will reflect ASEAN views on nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. We hope that they will enjoy the support of the international community when it comes time to take action on them in the First Committee.

ASEAN strongly believes that the nuclear-weapon-free zones established by the Treaty of Tlatelolco, the Rarotonga Treaty, the Treaty of Bangkok, the Pelindaba Treaty and the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, as well as Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status, contribute significantly to strengthening global nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation regimes. That was underscored at the Conference of States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia, which was convened in New York just prior to the 2010 NPT Review Conference. Furthermore, at the meeting of the Commission for the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone in July 2010, ASEAN emphasized the importance of enhanced interaction and coordination among nuclear-weapon-free zones. ASEAN also underscores the importance of the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones where they do not exist, especially in the Middle East.

We further emphasize the important decision taken at the forty-third ASEAN Foreign Ministers' meeting to preserve South-East Asia as a nuclear-weapon-free zone free of all weapons of mass

destruction, including through the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone. ASEAN nations have agreed to exert greater efforts to ensure that various programmes and activities indicated in the Plan of Action towards the strengthening of the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone be carried out fully and effectively. In the same vein, we continue to engage with the nuclear-weapon States to encourage them to accede to the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Protocol as soon as possible.

The Chemical Weapons Convention and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction play a major role in combating weapons of mass destruction. We urge States that have not yet done so to join the treaties at their earliest opportunity.

ASEAN recognizes the urgent need to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and to promote the full implementation of the 2001 United Nations Programme of Action in that regard. ASEAN reiterates its call on States and organizations in a position to do so to further strengthen cooperation and assistance to States in building national capacity for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action. In that regard, we take note of the report 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, held in New York from 14 to 18 June.

ASEAN member States believe that any potential negotiations on the issue of the unregulated trade in small arms, light weapons and/or conventional weapons must fairly take into account the interests and needs of all regions and groups. ASEAN member States will therefore work to promote outcomes that are in line with the purposes and principles of the ASEAN charter.

ASEAN recognizes the adverse humanitarian impact caused by the use of cluster munitions. In that regard, we take note of the entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, on 1 August 2010, and welcome the offer of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to host the first meeting of States parties to the Convention in Vientiane from 9 to 12 November.

ASEAN member States are greatly dismayed by the many years of setbacks and stalemate in the work of the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission. We therefore welcome the high-level meeting on revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations held in New York on 24 September. We reaffirm the important role of the Conference on Disarmament as the primary multilateral negotiating body on disarmament.

ASEAN member States share the disappointment that the Conference on Disarmament has been unable to undertake substantive work on its agenda. In that regard, we call on the members of the Conference to adopt and implement a balanced and comprehensive programme of work based on its agenda and dealing with, inter alia, the core issues, in accordance with the rules of procedure and by taking into consideration the security concerns of all States.

ASEAN member States reaffirm the importance of the principles of transparency and inclusiveness in the disarmament and non-proliferation negotiating process. We are of the view that the time has come for the Conference on Disarmament to consider the question of expanding its membership, given that the last expansion took place in 1999. We also welcome the call for the appointment of a special coordinator on expansion in the near future.

In conclusion, I would like to inform the Committee that ASEAN has accomplished great achievements in moving towards an ASEAN community by 2015 that is politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible. We believe that a stable and prosperous ASEAN will contribute to regional and international peace and security.

Mr. Sorreta (Philippines): I add my voice to the many others that have extended congratulations to you, Sir. It is my personal pleasure to see you preside over the Committee. I look forward to working with you and the other members of the Bureau, as well as the familiar faces of our excellent Secretariat.

The Philippines associates itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the statement delivered by the representative of Myanmar on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), in particular with regard to

the points they raised that give us all hope, but also the points that disappoint and dim our dreams of disarmament. I will not repeat those points, but would just like to add our own views.

The section of the 2010 final document (see NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)) of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions contains 64 action points, as well as specific measures that must be undertaken with reference to the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. If the world is serious about making concrete progress in preventing nuclear proliferation, eliminating nuclear arms and promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, all those steps and action points must be seriously considered.

The Philippines attaches particular importance to the following issues in the final document: the fulfilment of nuclear-weapon States' commitments, in particular actions 3, 5 and 21; the universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT); the negotiation of a nuclear-weapons convention; the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, by holding the international conference in 2012 and, preparatory to it, designating a host country for the conference and appointing a facilitator, in consultation with the States in the region; the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT); the revitalization of the Conference on Disarmament; the conclusion of a legally binding instrument on security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States; the universal subscription to the International Atomic Energy Agency additional protocol; the bringing into force of comprehensive safeguards agreements for NPT States parties that have not yet implemented them; the resolution of all cases of non-compliance with safeguards obligations in full conformity with the IAEA Statute and the respective legal obligations of member States; the securing of nuclear material at all times; and guaranteeing access to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

On nuclear-weapon-free zones, the Philippines considers such zones important to the achievement of the goal of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The Philippines recognizes the contributions made with the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones by the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok, Pelindaba and Central Asia, as well as by Mongolia's nuclear-

weapon-free status. The Philippines also considers important the creation of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East and hopes that all States of the region will participate in the international conference planned for 2012.

On the Conference on Disarmament, the Philippines recognizes the importance and need of breaking the deadlock that has plagued the Conference for the past 14 years. In that regard, the Philippines commends the Secretary-General for organizing the high-level meeting of 24 September and endorses the recommendations made in the Chair's summary.

At this juncture I wish to reiterate some of the points raised by our Foreign Secretary when he addressed the high-level meeting. The first was the importance of convening the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, which could review the Conference's methods of work in order to facilitate the crystallisation of agreed outcomes in a timely fashion and come up with a differentiation between consensus and unanimity in decision-making. The second was the expansion of the membership of the Conference, which should no longer be limited to the current 65 countries. The third was that, prior to convening the fourth special session, an informal process could be set in motion that approximated an expanded future Conference, allowing for wider sourcing of ideas and expertise. Certain members of the Conference may have to lead the way in establishing that parallel track to the Conference. And the fourth was that the Conference must begin work on vital issues, such as nuclear disarmament, fissile materials, negative security assurances and the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

The Philippines remains concerned about the following with regard to other developments facing us here in the First Committee, on which we will all be working. First, with regard to the proliferation and the uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons, the Philippines emphasizes the importance of the early and full implementation of the 2001 Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. The Philippines welcomes the positive outcome of the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States and looks forward to participating in the open-ended meeting of governmental experts in May 2011.

Secondly, the Philippines recognizes the adverse humanitarian impact of landmines and cluster munitions on innocent civilians. We therefore support the full implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. The Philippines is also a signatory to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which entered into force in September.

Thirdly, the Philippines welcomes the successful outcome of the 2006 Review Conference of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Conventions.

Fourthly, the Philippines recognizes the significance of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and calls on States to meet the deadlines for their destruction as extended by the Conference of States Parties. The Philippines also calls on the few remaining States not party to the CWC to sign and ratify the Convention without delay.

I would like to conclude by stressing the particular importance of this session and the need to forge ahead. You have our full support to that end, Sir.

Mr. Ramafole (Lesotho): I congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the chairmanship of the First Committee and assure you of my delegation's support. I also congratulate the other members of the Bureau on their election.

I would like to associate myself with the statements delivered by the representatives of Nigeria and Indonesia, respectively, on behalf of the African Group and the Non-Aligned Movement.

The sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly was characterized by interesting developments in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. The 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and 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 are but some of the success stories of the session. On the bilateral front, we witnessed the signing by the Governments of the Russian Federation and the United States of America of a new strategic arms reduction treaty, a commendable and positive step indeed.

Despite those successes, disarmament and non-proliferation still remain a global challenge and,

indeed, a threat to international peace and security. Those global challenges include the possession of nuclear weapons by some Member States, refusal to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency, the fact that some States remain outside the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and, last but not least, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) has not yet entered into force.

Disarmament and non-proliferation are at the heart of the creation of the United Nations. We must never forget that the United Nations was founded primarily to save humankind from the scourge of war. The possession of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction are indicative of the fact that the thought of war has not really escaped our minds. The only true security assurance to humankind is the total elimination of nuclear weapons by the nuclear-weapon States. It is against that background that we urge those States to remain true to their commitments made under the NPT in order to accomplish the total elimination of nuclear weapons. We emphasize that transparency is of the utmost importance in the implementation of such commitments.

The 2010 NPT Review Conference clearly demonstrated that compromises are possible when negotiations are held in good faith. The Conference signalled the clear commitment and political will of Member States towards achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world. Accordingly, we call upon all Member States to join in implementing the plan of action adopted at the Review Conference.

Multilateralism is one of the pillars of the United Nations. Consequently, multilateral negotiations in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation are critical for our success. In its wisdom, the General Assembly decided to establish the Conference on Disarmament in 1978. The Conference is the sole multilateral negotiating forum for disarmament treaties. However, it does not reflect the membership of the United Nations. In order to remain faithful to true multilateralism, a special coordinator to look into the possible expansion of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament must be appointed without further delay. Moreover, we hope that the high-level event convened by the Secretary-General on revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament will provide impetus to its work.

The CTBT is of paramount importance to achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world. Its contribution to nuclear disarmament is obvious to all. In that spirit, the Secretary-General included the early entry into force of the CTBT in his five-point action plan. Lesotho subscribes to the joint statement adopted by Member States that are party to the CTBT at the meeting held on the margins of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, which, *inter alia*, stated that the CTBT would make an important contribution

“by constraining the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and ending the development of advanced new types of nuclear weapons, as well as preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects”.

We reiterate the call made by this meeting to the annex 2 States to take urgent measures towards the ratification of that Treaty so that it may enter into force as soon as possible.

It would be remiss of me not to talk about the deadliest and most easily accessible weapons of all, that is, small arms and light weapons. Those weapons continue to wreak havoc for societies, especially in Africa and in developing countries. Innocent lives are lost in huge numbers on a daily basis as a result of the use of those weapons. The humanitarian consequences that result from the use of such weapons are devastating.

I must say that this area is a little challenging to Lesotho. In spite of the annual destruction of illegal small arms and light weapons, those weapons continue to exist in abundance in Lesotho and still claim the lives of innocent men, women and children in unprecedented numbers. Their illicit transfer, manufacture and circulation must be rooted out. Lesotho would welcome technical assistance to help curb the proliferation of those illegal weapons and ultimately eliminate them.

I wish to conclude by underscoring that the impasse on the disarmament agenda will only be solved if we all have the necessary political will. Accordingly, I join previous speakers in calling for the convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. I believe that forum may help infuse the political will necessary to take forward the disarmament and non-proliferation agenda.

Mr. Al Habib (Islamic Republic of Iran): At the outset, let me congratulate you, Sir, and the other members of the Bureau on your election. I assure you of the cooperation of the Iranian delegation and wish you every success.

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The Islamic Republic of Iran considers nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects as an essential component of international security. In our view, the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the highest priority, and the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Since the 2009 session of the First Committee, the international community has witnessed both discouraging and encouraging signs in the field of disarmament and international security.

On the one hand, the adoption of the recommendations and follow-on actions by the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons proved the validity and relevance of that Treaty. On the other hand, such a fragile consensus, reached at the end of the Conference, illustrated the vulnerability of that Treaty to non-compliance and discrimination. The 40-year non-compliance with nuclear disarmament by the nuclear-weapon States parties to the NPT continues to remain its major challenge.

Similarly, the development of new types of and the sharing of nuclear weapons, imposing restrictions on peaceful uses of nuclear energy and cooperation with non-parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) are among other challenges to the Treaty. If the NPT is to continue to play its role in promoting international peace and security, the nuclear-weapon States must prove that they are serious about their responsibilities and obligations to fully implement article VI of the NPT and all the commitments that they have made at the NPT Review Conferences. Sixty-four years ago, through its first resolution on disarmament (resolution 1011 (XI)), the General Assembly called for the elimination of atomic weapons from national armaments. However, that goal has yet to be materialized.

While the international community's current heightened attention to nuclear disarmament proves the continuity of the desire of all nations for a nuclear-

weapon-free world, it also indicates that there are nuclear disarmament obligations that have gone unfulfilled. During the past year, many euphemistic statements have been made, and a treaty has been signed to reduce strategic offensive arms. If that treaty is ratified, enters into force and is fully implemented, a positive step could be considered to have been taken in the field of nuclear disarmament. However, if the treaty is not ratified or does not enter into force or is not fully implemented, its signing and the rhetoric surrounding it will jeopardize the relevance and credibility of the NPT and, by causing more despair and mistrust among nations, will ultimately increase the vulnerability of the international security environment. We therefore call for the full compliance of nuclear-weapon States with their nuclear disarmament obligations.

Moreover, Iran strongly supports the early start of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a nuclear weapons convention banning all nuclear weapons. The implementation of such a convention should lead to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons by 2025. I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize the need for a more comprehensive and coordinated effort at raising awareness in all parts of the world regarding the dangers posed to humankind by the very existence of these inhuman weapons.

In its latest Nuclear Posture Review, a certain nuclear-weapon State has threatened to use such weapons against some NPT members. It is therefore imperative to start negotiations within the Conference on Disarmament to conclude a convention to assure all non-nuclear-weapon States that they will not be subject to the use or threat of use of these weapons.

In dealing with issues related to disarmament and international security, I would like to stress the need to promote the rule of law rather than the rule of power and to avoid exclusive and discriminatory approaches.

I would also like to emphasize the need to ensure the universality of the three major instruments on weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), in particular the NPT. In that context, this meeting should call for the full implementation of the resolution of the 1995 NPT Review Conference on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Yet the Israeli regime, which has flouted all international instruments dealing with weapons of mass destruction, continues to be the only impediment to the realization of such a zone. It has rejected global demands that it accede to

the NPT and continues to pursue its clandestine nuclear-weapons programme. The Zionist regime has repeatedly attacked and openly threatened to attack other countries in the region. These measures show the grave threat posed by such an irresponsible regime and prove how great a danger nuclear weapons in the hands of such a regime could be to regional and international peace and security.

Accordingly, pending the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, the Zionist regime should be compelled to renounce the possession of nuclear weapons, promptly accede to the NPT and place all its nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards.

The idea of establishing such a zone in the Middle East was proposed by Iran in 1974. The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a peace-loving nation and a responsible State in the region, will continue to play a leading role in the realization of this idea. In that context, and as a contribution towards a nuclear-weapon-free world, the Islamic Republic of Iran convened an international conference on disarmament and non-proliferation in Tehran in April 2010, with the participation of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and other high-ranking officials from more than 60 countries and regional and international organizations.

The theme of the conference, "Nuclear energy for everyone, nuclear weapons for no one", was greatly lauded both during and after the Conference. In a message to the Conference, the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that from the time of the first use of an atomic weapon, the security of all humankind had been threatened, and that there had been global consensus on the need for the complete elimination of these weapons. The Iranian Supreme Leader maintained that any use or even threat of use of nuclear weapons is a serious and material violation of indisputable rules of humanitarian law and a cogent example of a war crime. Accordingly, we regard the use of these weapons to be illegal and haram, which means religiously forbidden. It is therefore incumbent upon all to protect humankind from this grave disaster.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a victim of weapons of mass destruction during the eight-year war imposed on it by the former Iraqi regime, with the broad support of Western countries, is firmly committed to pursuing the realization of a world free from weapons of mass destruction. We are in full

compliance with our obligations under three major WMD-related legal instruments, namely, the NPT, the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The inalienable right to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology, including the fuel cycle, is one of the basic foundations of the NPT. In order to meet its growing energy needs, Iran is determined to exercise that right. In doing so, Iran takes its responsibilities seriously, and its commitment to non-proliferation remains intact.

In recent years, Iran has continuously demonstrated its firm determination to negotiate without preconditions and based on justice and mutual respect. Iran's positive response to the requests made of it, leading to the Tehran declaration of 17 May 2010, which was jointly signed by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey and Brazil, on the exchange of nuclear fuel is the most recent example of Iran's position, which was largely welcomed by the international community. Indeed, it was a positive step forward, which provided an appropriate basis to move in the right direction. It is now up to the other parties to change their past policies and to demonstrate their goodwill.

With respect to the Chemical Weapons Convention, we underline that the remaining possessor States parties must take every necessary step to meet the final deadline and destroy all their chemical weapons by 29 April 2012. The failure to meet that deadline would constitute a clear and serious case of non-compliance.

The Conference on Disarmament, affected by the international security climate, was deadlocked during the past decade. We have supported the reactivation of the Conference based on a balanced and comprehensive programme of work, which should be responsive to the priorities of all Member States. The momentum created in the Conference in 2009 can be maintained only if we accommodate the concerns of all Member States.

In conclusion, we look forward to working cooperatively towards the successful conclusion of the deliberations of the First Committee.

The Chair: Before proceeding further, I would kindly ask speakers to follow the 10-minute limit for interventions and to deliver abbreviated versions of

their statements. The full text of their statements can be posted on the QuickFirst website.

Mr. Benmehidi (Algeria) (*spoke in French*): Allow me, first of all, to convey to you, Sir, my heartfelt congratulations on your election to the chairmanship of the First Committee and to ensure you and the members of the Bureau of the full cooperation of my delegation.

Algeria associates itself with the statements made by the Permanent Representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the African Group.

Algeria attaches great importance to issues of disarmament and international security. In this respect, we note that this year has seen a number of international meetings and promising commitments, which have been enumerated in the statements of those who spoke before me. This positive atmosphere for disarmament issues is an opportunity that the international community should seize with a view to making tangible progress.

Algeria, which is a party to the main treaties on weapons of mass destruction, would like to reiterate that the ultimate goal of these instruments is to rid our planet of that category of weapons forever. The total elimination of nuclear weapons inevitably requires nuclear disarmament through progressive measures in accordance with the principles of irreversibility, transparency and verifiability. Under the provisions of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the nuclear-weapon States have certain commitments to respect. We should recall here the 1996 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, in which the Court reaffirmed the ongoing obligation of such States to work towards the reduction and subsequent elimination of their nuclear arsenals.

While reiterating its commitment to both the non-proliferation regime established by the NPT and the legitimate right of all States parties to use nuclear energy for civilian purposes, Algeria reiterates its call for a diplomatic settlement to the Iranian and North Korean nuclear issues that strictly respects the provisions of the NPT and the statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). This position is based on the fact that only dialogue and peaceful means are likely to resolve differences.

My delegation, which continues to believe that nuclear disarmament is the ultimate goal of the NPT, welcomes the results achieved as part of the negotiations of the eighth NPT Review Conference, held in New York last May. Algeria is among the vast majority of States that have chosen to use atomic energy in the service of exclusively civilian purposes, including for research and development, under article IV of the NPT.

It is obvious that, given the demands of economic development and continued technological progress, the right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy is of particular importance today. For many countries, nuclear energy is inevitably a strategic option in meeting energy needs and ensuring energy security. The proposals made, including within the IAEA, for the creation of a multilateral mechanism for supplying nuclear fuel should be discussed broadly, with full respect for the inalienable right of all States parties to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Given certain deadlocked situations, which are great sources of concern for my delegation — in particular the deadlock in the Conference on Disarmament and the persistent delays in the process of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and in the establishment of the organization of States parties in Vienna — it has become necessary to convene the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. By virtue of the Assembly's political authority, its universal membership and the mandate vested in it by the Charter of the United Nations, in particular in the field of disarmament, such a session would be the appropriate framework in which to bring together the various initiatives and engage in the necessary debate with a view to moving forward together on all areas of the issue of nuclear disarmament.

The entry into force on 15 July 2009 of the Pelindaba Treaty, which created a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa, is a vital contribution by the continent to enhancing the non-proliferation regime, as well as to world peace and regional and international security. Algeria, which was one of the very first countries to sign and ratify the Treaty, in particular urges the nuclear-weapon States that have yet to do so to sign and ratify the relevant annexes of the Treaty.

The example of the Pelindaba Treaty leads me to recall the appeal by the international community for

the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Indeed, in spite of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the 1995 NPT Review Conference, that undertaking remains deadlocked due to the intransigence of Israel, which refuses to accede to the NPT and to place its nuclear installations under IAEA safeguards. That is why we believe that the outcome of the NPT Review Conference in May is a positive step, in particular since it launched a process that should lead to the creation of such a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

With a view to meeting the many challenges we face, the Conference on Disarmament should take advantage of the positive international climate and momentum generated by the outcome of the eighth NPT Review Conference to relaunch its work and deliver on its mandate.

To that end, Algeria welcomes the initiative of the Secretary-General to hold a high-level meeting on revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament. My delegation has noted the recommendation of the Secretary-General contained in his presidential summary suggesting that the Conference on Disarmament adopt once again, during its January 2011 session, the programme of work it adopted in 2009.

It was actually Algeria itself that, as Chair of the Conference on Disarmament at the time, took the initiative to engage in the negotiating process leading to the consensus adoption of the programme of work covering all of the items on its agenda. On that basis, my delegation believes that no other United Nations forum should substitute for or strip the Conference on Disarmament of its prerogative or legitimize the dissociation of one of the fundamental themes falling under its mandate. In addition to setting a very dangerous precedent, this would call into question the global nature of the Conference and the balance to be struck between essential and complementary themes on the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament.

The trade and illicit transfer of small arms and light weapons continue to threaten peace and stability in many countries and are thus an ongoing concern for my delegation. We reiterate our commitment to implementing the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, adopted in 2001, and we call for it to be strengthened. This important

instrument has undoubtedly helped raise genuine awareness of the harmful political and humanitarian consequences of this scourge and of its contribution to supplying terrorist groups and fuelling organized crime. In that regard, Algeria is committed to implementing the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons. The efforts we have undertaken in this field are noted in our national report for 2010.

Concerning the initiative for an arms trade treaty, Algeria has supported this process from the outset, convinced that an international instrument concluded under the aegis of the United Nations seeking to establish norms for the import, export and transfer of arms would help strengthen peace and security at all levels. Debates held in the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, which met in New York last July, shows the interest and importance that delegations attach to this issue.

At the regional level, my country has made its commitment and engagement to promoting international peace and security a permanent aspect of its foreign policy and a guiding principle underpinning its action. Algeria is determined to support and contribute to efforts aimed at promoting and fostering dialogue and negotiations and to strengthen security within its traditional membership frameworks, particularly in the Mediterranean region. My delegation is therefore honoured to submit every year to the First Committee a draft resolution on enhancing security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region. We hope for the support of all the traditional sponsors of the draft resolution and that all Member States will lend their support to it.

In conclusion, we would recall that the review of disarmament issues annually offers us an opportunity to take stock of the situation of the collective security system. This exercise highlights the central role of the First Committee in disarmament matters. Algeria takes this opportunity to reiterate its commitment to our multilateral disarmament endeavour, including disarmament instruments and mechanisms.

Mr. Park In-Kook (Republic of Korea): At the outset, my delegation wishes to join previous speakers in congratulating you, Sir, on your assumption of the chairmanship of the Committee, as well as the other

members of the Bureau on their election. I am sure that your able stewardship will guide us through these month-long deliberations. I would also like to thank Mr. Duarte, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs for their strenuous efforts in support of the work of the Committee. Let me assure the Committee of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

There is a saying that the longest journey starts with a single step. However, in recent times we have witnessed multiple steps towards a long-awaited breakthrough in ending the decade-long dormancy in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. These include the five-point proposal for nuclear disarmament presented by the Secretary-General; the vision for a world free of nuclear weapons put forward by President Obama; and a historic Security Council summit on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, including the adoption of resolution 1887 (2009).

Just early this year, a series of positive developments served to awaken us, namely, the signing of the New START treaty between the two largest nuclear Powers in April, the Nuclear Security Summit held in Washington, D.C., that same month and, finally, the consensus adoption — a decade in the making — of a final document (see NPT/CONF.2010/50) at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. In particular, the adoption of that document amounts to a formal recognition by the international community of the fact that disarmament and non-proliferation are once again becoming central to the global agenda. The responsibility for achieving the common goal of a world free of all nuclear weapons rests on the shoulders of both nuclear and non-nuclear States.

As we gather here today against that backdrop, we must not merely look back self-complacently at what we have achieved. Instead, we must compel ourselves to take the next step. This is not the time for us to remain content with recent developments; rather, it is time for us to once again roll up our sleeves and move forward with a firm commitment to further our noble endeavours. Indeed, we must act before aspirations and expectations fade. In that regard, I would like to see three concrete agendas taken up during this session.

First, during the past decade, there have been increasing concerns with regard to the effectiveness of the Conference on Disarmament. That is why the Secretary-General convened the high-level meeting on revitalizing the work of the Conference and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations. We fully support the outcome document of that meeting. The Conference has thus far kept its head down, which might let other forums set the terms of the discussion. If the Conference remains mired in deadlock, its status and legitimacy as the premier forum for disarmament will be jeopardized. I firmly believe that the Conference should act rather quickly if it wants to continue to play its central role. We call upon all Conference members to cooperate in commencing substantive work on a fissile material cut-off treaty at the earliest time possible, not only for the sake of nuclear non-proliferation but also for nuclear disarmament. The Republic of Korea will play its due role in jolting into motion the Conference process.

Secondly, the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is another task on which we must take decisive action. The prospects for the early entry into force of the CTBT are brighter than ever. We must seize the window of opportunity for action presented by the current atmosphere. The Republic of Korea calls upon States that have not yet ratified the Treaty to do so immediately, in particular the remaining nine annex 2 States. We also stress the importance of maintaining a moratorium on nuclear testing until the entry into force of the CTBT.

Thirdly, along with the ongoing efforts to achieve the universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), my delegation believes that the Treaty's monitoring and verification mechanisms need to be strengthened even further through the universalization of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) additional protocol. This has become even more important given the current renaissance of nuclear energy. In particular, the final document of the 2010 Review Conference could breathe new life into the Treaty. In that regard, Korea reaffirms its full commitment to the early implementation of the conclusions and recommendations for follow-up actions adopted at the Review Conference.

Let me turn to current pressing challenges to our collective international non-proliferation efforts. North

Korea's nuclear programme represents a serious threat to regional peace and security, and an unprecedented challenge to the international non-proliferation regime. The international community has demonstrated a unified and resolute position against North Korea's nuclear ambitions by adopting relevant Security Council resolutions and the final document of May's NPT Review Conference. We look forward to continued efforts by the international community to urge North Korea to abandon its nuclear programme in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner.

Unfortunately, North Korea has turned a deaf ear to the legitimate demands of the international community. Moreover, in March of this year, North Korea attacked the Republic of Korea's *Cheonan* military vessel. The Security Council clearly condemned the attack and warned against further attacks and hostilities against the Republic of Korea, adopting a presidential statement (S/PRST/2010/13) on 9 July. Bearing in mind that unified message by the international community, North Korea must take responsibility, refrain from any further provocations and demonstrate a genuine change in its behaviour and attitude.

In spite of North Korea's repeated acts of defiance, my Government will continue to exert efforts for a peaceful and comprehensive resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue. We are maintaining a two-track approach by implementing sanctions while leaving open the door to dialogue. However, we are not willing to engage in dialogue for the sake of dialogue. Rather, we look forward to talks that will lead to substantial progress on the North Korean nuclear issue, which is why North Korea needs to first demonstrate its sincerity towards denuclearization by taking concrete actions. We will continue consultations with the countries concerned on the resumption of the Six-Party Talks while closely watching North Korea's behaviour.

My Government is also pursuing a fundamental resolution to the North Korean nuclear issue through the "grand bargain" initiative, which aims to reach a single comprehensive agreement encompassing all steps related to irreversible denuclearization and corresponding measures. Participants in the Six-Party Talks have reached a common understanding on the initiative and are currently engaged in joint efforts to induce North Korea to make the strategic decision to abandon its nuclear programme.

In addition, we actively join the international community in urging Iran to comply with all relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 1929 (2010) and IAEA resolutions, and to fully cooperate with the Agency so as to restore confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear programme.

We recognize that all parties to the NPT have the right to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy as long as they are in full compliance with their non-proliferation obligations. At the same time, we believe that, given the proliferation potential inherent in sensitive nuclear technologies and fuel-cycle activities, States involved in technologies and activities that can be directly diverted towards non-peaceful uses must demonstrate a higher level of commitment to non-proliferation in order to inspire international confidence.

In addition to traditional non-proliferation issues, nuclear security is also an issue that warrants special attention from all countries in order to prevent nuclear terrorism. We believe that the international community needs to develop ways and means to tackle the risks entailed in such trends, and further strengthen international cooperation for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Given that the possibility of nuclear terrorism is the most imminent and extreme threat to global security, my delegation joins the effort to enhance nuclear security through international cooperation. In this regard, we expect that the 2012 Nuclear Security Summit, to be held in Korea, will serve as an excellent opportunity to review the implementation of the commitments made at the Washington, D.C., Summit and to explore new and creative ways to further enhance nuclear security.

The Republic of Korea is of the view that the issue of conventional weapons also warrants the constant attention of the international community. We fully support the basic goals of an arms trade treaty. In its nascent stage, such a treaty should reflect well-balanced deliberations in terms of feasibility, scope and parameters so as to attract the largest possible number of members. We will do our utmost to bring the deliberations to a fruitful outcome by the target date.

In addition, my Government and the Government of Australia will reintroduce a draft resolution on preventing and combating illicit brokering activities, which was adopted by consensus during the sixty-third session of the General Assembly (resolution 63/67). We plan to introduce the same draft resolution with minor

modifications this year, and we expect the full support of all the delegations in this room.

A new consensus now seems to be forming in the international community, not only towards nuclear non-proliferation but also around the eventual goal of a nuclear-free world. With many promising signs in every corner of the globe, we need to redouble our efforts to ensure that they lead to tangible results. We must work hard and take bold decisions in laying the foundation for lasting progress. My delegation once again stresses our sense of shared responsibility and willingness to cooperate for the success of this Committee and other efforts.

Mr. Al Nafisee (Saudi Arabia): First of all, I would like to congratulate you, Sir, on being elected Chair of the First Committee.

Now that the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly has opened and the work of the First Committee is under way, the world continues to be plagued by threats of nuclear proliferation, weapons of mass destruction and the illicit trade in small arms. Of all the issues before the First Committee, these threats are of the highest priority.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia takes a firm foreign policy stance in support of international efforts to reduce the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the world. As a result, the Kingdom has acceded to most treaties and international agreements calling for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction. First and foremost among these is the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which was signed on 1 July 1968 in London, Washington, D.C., and Moscow and went into effect on 5 March 1970. Most Arab countries signed the Treaty at that time. Israel, on the other hand, has not signed or acceded to the Treaty yet, arguing that its agreement on the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards system outlined in the Agency's information circular is good enough.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia acceded to the NPT in 1988 and has since abided by all its provisions and participated in various treaty reviews, such as the Preparatory Committee prior to the April 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in New York, in which my country participated with a very senior delegation headed by our Minister of Foreign Affairs. Unfortunately, different agendas

dominated the Conference and international pressure was insufficient to move Israel to accede to the NPT.

Globally, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia desires a nuclear-weapon-free world; locally, my country is working to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free Middle East. However, that can only be achieved when Israel signs the NPT. To that end, participants at the May Review Conference agreed to hold an international conference by 2012 in Egypt to address this issue.

Along with nuclear weapons, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia actively seeks to ban the use of chemical weapons, having signed the Chemical Weapons Convention on 13 January 1993. The Kingdom participated in all 16 Preparatory Commission meetings held in The Hague and ratified the Convention on 9 August 1996. As a result, the Kingdom's Council of Ministers established a national authority on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, headed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is responsible for the full implementation of the Convention.

Subsequently, several subcommittees to steward inspection and verification were established in May of this year. In addition, the Saudi Council of Ministers adopted its resolution No. 134 to expand the national authority on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention to include the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia supports current initiatives to limit the use of ballistic missiles and has participated in the International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation since the meetings held in Paris on 7 and 8 February 2002. At that time, the Kingdom encouraged Middle Eastern countries possessing ballistic missile capabilities to support the effort.

As world peace is predicated on the eradication of weapons of mass destruction, so too regional peace is predicated on the control and limitation of conventional weapons and the elimination of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. To that end, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia seeks the elimination and destruction of anti-personnel mines. The Kingdom has contributed more than \$4.5 million to this cause and signed the 1997 Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition

of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

The Kingdom also actively participates in the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. A national working group currently meets weekly at the headquarters of the Saudi Ministry of Interior to review and study draft articles on an arms trade treaty, in pursuit of its adoption.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is dedicated to achieving peace and stability in the world and welcomes the continuing efforts of the United Nations in that regard. In response to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), on the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the Kingdom has submitted its official report in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 4 of that resolution.

During the Nuclear Security Summit held in Washington, D.C., in April 2010, the Kingdom announced its intention to work with the Security Council to convene a workshop in Riyadh next December to bring together international and national experts on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), in order to strengthen the Kingdom's ability to limit the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction while promoting recognition of these efforts at the national level.

In conclusion, my Government would like to affirm that disposing of nuclear weapons is the best guarantee against their use or threat of use by any terrorist organization. In the light of the continuing instability in the Middle East and the increasing risk emanating from the region, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia shares the concerns of most non-nuclear countries and seeks a nuclear-weapon-free Middle East. That can only be achieved through binding international instruments that ensure the safety and stability of non-nuclear-weapon States.

Mr. Ali (India): I should like to begin by congratulating you, Sir, on your election as Chair of this important Committee and by assuring you and the other members of the Bureau of my delegation's full cooperation in the discharge of your duties. The Committee has the vital task of strengthening consensus on the international disarmament agenda and

our common resolve to achieve specific steps to enhance international peace and security.

India aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

India attaches the highest priority to global and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament. The vision of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free and non-violent world order was most eloquently articulated by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi here in 1988 (see A/S-15/PV.14). Twenty-two years later, that vision remains as compelling as ever; but the goal remains a distant reality. In the meantime newer threats have emerged, including the threat of terrorists gaining access to weapons of mass destruction.

In 2006, India submitted a working paper on nuclear disarmament (A/C.1/61/5, annex) that contained specific proposals that reflected the spirit and substance of the Rajiv Gandhi action plan. The working paper suggested a number of measures, including the reaffirmation of the unequivocal commitment by all nuclear-weapon States to the goal of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons; the reduction of the salience of nuclear weapons in security doctrines; measures to reduce nuclear danger, including the de-alerting of nuclear weapons; the negotiation of a global agreement among nuclear-weapon States on no first use of nuclear weapons; the negotiation of a convention prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons; and the negotiation of a nuclear weapons convention for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified time frame.

We believe that the progressive delegitimization of nuclear weapons is essential to achieving the goal of their complete elimination. There is a need for a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework for achieving global and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament. We support an intensification of dialogue to strengthen the international consensus on disarmament and non-proliferation. This dialogue should cover not just Member States, but the wider spectrum of non-governmental communities as well.

Without prejudice to the highest priority we attach to the goal of nuclear disarmament, India supports the negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament of a multilateral, non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable fissile material cut-off treaty

(FMCT) that meets India's national security interests. India is a nuclear-weapon State and a responsible member of the world community, and would approach these negotiations as such.

Addressing the high-level meeting called by the Secretary-General on 24 September, India's External Affairs Minister expressed disappointment that the Conference on Disarmament, the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, had been prevented from undertaking its primary task of negotiating multilateral treaties. He expressed India's support for the immediate commencement of FMCT negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament as part of its programme of work in early 2011.

India remains committed to maintaining a unilateral and voluntary moratorium on nuclear explosive testing. India has a policy of a credible minimum nuclear deterrent. We do not subscribe to any arms race, including a nuclear arms race. India has espoused the policy of no-first-use and non-use against non-nuclear-weapon States, and is prepared to convert these undertakings into multilateral legal arrangements. We support negotiations with a view to reaching agreement on effective arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. We also support a global no-first-use treaty.

India is a party to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). The CWC remains a unique treaty providing for the elimination of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction through a multilaterally negotiated, non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable instrument. It is important that all States parties uphold and fulfil their commitments under the treaty. We look forward to strengthening the implementation of the BWC at the seventh Review Conference, to be held in Geneva in 2011.

India continues to support efforts to strengthen the international legal framework on the security of space assets to enhance space security for all space users, and specifically to prevent the weaponization of outer space, which is the common heritage of humankind. While universal and non-discriminatory transparency and confidence-building measures are useful complementary measures, we support the negotiation of legally binding instruments to strengthen

space security and to prevent an arms race in outer space.

India is strongly committed to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) process as a keystone in the edifice of the law of armed conflict and international humanitarian law. We have ratified all five of the CCW protocols. India has actively engaged in the negotiations on a draft protocol on cluster munitions that strikes a balance between humanitarian and security considerations.

We welcome the successful outcome of the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, held here in New York in June.

While we have participated actively in the preparatory meetings for an arms trade treaty, we believe that the prospects for a viable and effective outcome will be enhanced only if the interests of all the stakeholders are addressed through a transparent and consensus-based approach.

As in the previous years, India will introduce three draft resolutions in the First Committee, on measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction; reducing nuclear danger; and a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons. We will make more detailed presentations on the draft resolutions during the time allocated for that purpose.

Ms. Flores (Honduras) (*spoke in Spanish*): I am pleased to congratulate you, Sir, on your election to lead the work of this important Committee. I also convey my best wishes to the members of the Bureau on their appointment. And I commend the tireless efforts of Mr. Sergio Duarte, High Representative of the Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs.

Some may consider inconsequential what the delegation of a small country such as mine, with limited military and police resources, can contribute to the discussion of an issue that one would assume could best be debated among those who possess large arsenals of weapons. However, my country suffers the violent repercussions of the illicit arms traffic that supplies criminal organizations. We in Central America have endured tumultuous periods of armed civil conflict, with painful consequences that persist to this day. In other words, we wish to speak here not as

participants in the unbridled race to acquire weapons, but as victims of a wasteful arms build-up whose wake puts weapons in the hands of anti-social elements and organized crime, keeping our citizens in a state of anxiety and anguish. We therefore have a few things to say.

Real and comprehensive disarmament is impossible until we reach the collective conviction that civilized coexistence does not come from imposing our will by force of arms but from arming ourselves with the will not to impose force at all. We were given the world to live in it together and resolve disputes peaceably. In an infinite universe, life and our ability to understand are what make us so singularly special. While we have the ability to create life, we can also destroy it. We share a single planet populated by human beings, who have been granted superior intelligence, the gift of being able to think and the ability to reason and know right from wrong. We were made with the capacity to feel and to love so that we may choose to preserve and protect what violent instincts and confused souls can easily destroy or devastate.

Just as greatness is not necessarily linked to physical size, in a world of values, principles, ideas and creative, innovate and transformative ability, the strength of a nation ought not to be measured by the size of its military machine — its bombs, missiles and technological genius for destruction. Rather, it should be measured by its actual assets in intangible values, its wealth of spirit and the richness of its human legacy. We also possess the gift of being able to learn from our past mistakes so as not to repeat them — to remember our nightmares in order to awaken from them. And, if we do close our eyes, let it be to dream big dreams. Only when we embrace the concept of neighbourliness in solidarity and brotherhood as the bond that naturally unites us in this small and finite planet will there be the willingness and the commitment necessary to achieve comprehensive disarmament.

However, we do not want to dwell under any illusions. We do not ignore reality or the motives underlying human instincts. The argument for building powerful arsenals is that they act as a shield to protect sovereignty, or else as a deterrent in the game of geopolitical security interests. The true deterrent — the way to guarantee peace — does not necessarily mean having the greatest destructive capability; rather, it

means no one having it. In my delegation's view, disarmament should be approached in a special way, one tied directly to the maintenance of international peace and security and to development programmes and initiatives.

Nuclear disarmament must be universal and comprehensive if we want to safeguard the future we hope to bequeath to our children and avert ending in cataclysm. We are proud to be party to the first nuclear-weapon-free zone, under the Treaty of Tlatelolco. Latin America's traditional tendency towards pacifism is the basis for the absolute necessity that nuclear energy in the region be used for peaceful purposes and the economic and social development of its peoples. We hope that the regime for nuclear-weapon-free zones will continue to develop in a positive direction. We also hope that such a zone will be established in the Middle East and that the Pelindaba and Rarotonga Treaties will be further consolidated. We welcome the new Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Strategic Offensive Reductions, which was signed in Prague on 8 April.

We believe that all nuclear activities must be verifiable and comply with the oversight and safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency. We call for full compliance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and we underscore the urgency of negotiating a binding and unconditional global instrument to provide security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States.

The deadlock in the Conference on Disarmament forces us to seriously consider the need to revise the multilateral methods for disarmament negotiations. We hope that the Secretary-General's efforts will succeed in revitalizing the Conference. We support his initiative to include a new item entitled "Follow-up to the high-level meeting on revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations" on the agenda of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly. We hope that it will lead to positive results.

Small arms and light weapons constitute a serious threat to developing countries. Neither my country nor the Central American region is immune to that threat. In spite of our very limited resources and inadequate police forces, we must nevertheless face up to criminal groups that have illicitly equipped themselves to

mercilessly and relentlessly create upheaval in our societies. While nuclear weapons indeed pose a potential danger, small arms and light weapons, which circulate without controls, destroy the lives of human beings every day — bereaving families, undermining countries' domestic security, damaging our economies and driving away opportunities. There is therefore an urgent need to establish mechanisms to controls destined for those who produce, sell and buy such weapons.

At the national level, Honduras actively participates in the Central American Small Arms Control Project. Statistics show that 12 million small arms are in circulation in our region. Currently, through the Central American Integration System, we are working to create a common legal framework to combat the illicit trafficking in small arms. We wholeheartedly support the efforts of the Open-ended Working Group to Negotiate an International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace in a Timely and Reliable Manner Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons. We acknowledge the work of the United Kingdom on this issue.

The Latin America and Caribbean region, through the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, in Lima, Peru, plays an important role in promoting regional disarmament. Its assistance to the countries of the region is invaluable. We therefore reiterate the need to provide it with a regular budget — just like other such centres throughout the world — in order to ensure its sustainable and dependable operation.

Moral and humanitarian considerations motivate the deepest fibres of our being. Spending on weapons deprives us of crucial resources for which there is a crying need to invest in human beings. How many resources does violence rob from the health and education of human beings? Wagering on peace by pursuing arms is nothing less than immoral. We respectfully send out a heartfelt call to countries that manufacture weapons to at least put in place a moratorium on their weapons programmes and to consider the impact that such investments have on their development assistance. The well-being of the world does not lie in being predominant by inspiring fear; rather, as Benito Juárez would say, in respect borne of respect for the rights of others and, of course, respect for life.

Mrs. Atayeva (Turkmenistan) (*spoke in Russian*): I would like to speak today in my national capacity, as distinct from my previous statement, which I made as coordinator of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia. One strategic aspect of Turkmenistan's foreign policy, which also includes developing fruitful partnerships with the United Nations, is our proactive approach to addressing issues of strengthening peace and security as prerequisites for resolving global political, economic and social problems. Our efforts will be geared towards further developing the principle of collective security in the decisions of the United Nations.

Political and military security will not be sustainable in the long-term without guaranteeing economic, energy and food security; preventing environmental risks associated with technology; and effectively countering international terrorism, drug trafficking, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and other global challenges. In that regard, the bedrock of our State strategy is to focus on broad and multipronged cooperation. We stand for the joint development of partnership models based on the compatibility and convergence of the interests of various countries in support of major international initiatives. In this connection, and with a view to guaranteeing a sustainable world order, the President of Turkmenistan proposed at the current session of the General Assembly the drafting of an agreed security concept within the United Nations.

In regional terms, Turkmenistan calls for the creation of a multilateral mechanism for the interaction of States of Central Asia and the Caspian region. In this context, we think it would be wise to consider at this session the issue of forming under United Nations auspices a system of regular, high-level and political consultations between the Central Asian and Caspian States.

Broad international cooperation in guaranteeing peace and security is unimaginable without resolving the problem of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, disarmament and arms control. Therefore, Turkmenistan is implementing a set of measures with a view to effectively helping the international community to address these issues. To that end, we think it would be prudent for the General Assembly to seriously consider the issue of revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament.

For Central Asia and the Caspian Basin, as an integral historic and geographic region where we are seeing the formation of important energy, transport and communications crossroads, the issue of disarmament should become the most important area of United Nations focus and activities. In June 2010, the city of Ashgabat, with the support of the United Nations, hosted an international conference on disarmament issues in Central Asia and the Caspian Basin. The outcomes of the conference allowed us to conclude that the challenges to the non-proliferation regime and to the disarmament process as a whole must be addressed within the existing international legal mechanisms.

It is our belief that the existing machinery must be complemented with new documents and forms of multilateral interaction. We could consider the creation of a standing platform for political dialogue on the issue of disarmament in Central Asia and the Caspian region. We are willing to cooperate in that context with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.

My country calls for the effective implementation of the provisions of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia and the creation of relevant mechanisms for its implementation.

On the issue of strengthening the international legal non-proliferation and disarmament framework, we note that Turkmenistan has, from the first years of its independent development and thereafter, acceded to the most important conventions prohibiting weapons of mass destruction, above all nuclear, chemical, bacteriological, biological and other weapons.

Speaking at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly (see A/65/PV.4), the President of Turkmenistan noted that our efforts were focused on creating a sound and effective system of regional security and stability in Central Asia and in the Caspian region. He went on to reiterate our commitment to the settlement of existing problems or — contentious issues through peaceful negotiating methods based on mutual understanding, trust, openness and objective discussion on any relevant topics.

To that end, we believe that it is clearly necessary to create a mechanism for region-wide dialogue — an ongoing process of multilateral communication with a view to drawing up mutually acceptable approaches to various issues. This dialogue must unfold systematically and have a clearly defined agenda, and

its participants must have the necessary authority to adopt decisions. We think that such a form of communication is clearly dictated by the objective realities of contemporary regional development. We propose, as a political format for such interaction, the institution of a high-level forum on security, peace and cooperation in Central Asia and the Caspian Basin. We believe that it would be wise to hold the forum on a regular basis in each State of the region in turn, and we are ready to hold the first such meeting in our capital in the near future.

Mr. Gutiérrez (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): Allow me at the outset to express the satisfaction of my delegation on your election, Sir, as Chair of the First Committee at the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly. I also congratulate the other members of the Bureau. We are sure that your broad and recognized professional experience will help lead the Committee to a successful session, and you can count on the full support of my delegation.

In all multilateral disarmament forums in which we participate, the Government of Peru has consistently called for States to spend less money on arms and more on fighting poverty. We have done so at the regional level in the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), the Andean Community, the Common Market of the South and the Rio Group; at the hemispheric level in the Organization of American States; and at the international level in the United Nations. We have also made this call in other disarmament forums, such as the Second Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

We have raised this banner because we are convinced that it is absurd to continue spending money on weapons when humankind has more important challenges to face, such as the fight against poverty, hunger, illiteracy and disease, and the protection of the environment. In this context, arms serve only to limit social development and to maintain poverty and inequality, thereby fuelling instability.

At the regional Latin American level, my Government has been calling attention to this absurd situation. As emphasized by the President of Peru in his statement to the General Assembly in the general debate,

“it is not possible that, since the establishment of the integrated, reliable Union of South American Nations, its 10 member countries have invested \$25 billion in new weapons and spent another \$150 billion on maintaining military operating expenditures. This is shameful, because with that sum, more than 50 million people in South America could have ceased to live in poverty.

Over the next five years, if we do not halt this absurd arms race, we will have spent another \$35 billion on new weapons and \$200 billion on regular military expenditure, thus fuelling an irrational race which will always find justification to continue.” (*A/65/PV.11, p. 36*)

Peru therefore believes it necessary to explore mechanisms that will help to halt the spiral in weapons purchases. In that regard, President García Pérez has proposed to multilateral financial institutions that, just as they impose environmental provisions in granting credit and loans, they should also include provisions or conditions against the build-up of arms.

We are aware that there are many interests at play in the arms trade world. However, we will remain resolute in this battle because we are confident that history will eventually open the door to clarity and the acceptance of our arguments.

Peru is convinced that through effective confidence-building measures, States can move towards integration and strengthen mechanisms for cooperation in order to urgently deal with extreme poverty, inequality and social exclusion. It is therefore important to continue to promote, at all levels, an environment conducive to arms control, the limitation of conventional arms and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction so that each State can allocate greater resources to its economic and social development, taking into account its international commitments as well as its legitimate needs for defence and security.

In that regard, we reiterate both the need to strengthen confidence-building and cooperation measures in the area of defence and the importance of ensuring that military expenditures be carried out with the utmost transparency and full public disclosure.

Given that Peru is a country that suffers from the consequences of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, my country attaches particular importance to

the effective implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. In that regard, we believe it necessary to adopt legally binding instruments on the identification, tracing and illicit brokering in such weapons; the strengthening of cooperation in cross-border control; and the promotion and strengthening of cooperation, international assistance and building national capacities as cross-cutting and independent issues.

We also support the process under way towards the 2012 Conference on an Arms Trade Treaty. The establishment of such a treaty would enable us to create a system that contributes towards total transparency in the arms trade. That will lead to trust as States become aware of other States' acquisitions, as well as allow for strict control over the origins and final destinations of weapons.

Peru is one of the 156 States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. My country has been carrying out a series of efforts to meet its commitments, in particular those related to providing assistance to victims, the process of humanitarian demining and the dissemination of public education campaigns on the risks of anti-personnel mines.

More than 10 years have passed since the Convention went into force. By February of this year alone, Peru had destroyed 84,500 anti-personnel mines in its border area with Ecuador, as well as in other mined areas of our national infrastructure. In addition, we have been carrying out medical assistance, social reinsertion and economic reintegration programmes for mine victims.

Disarmament is the best way to guarantee international security. In order to achieve that goal, in addition to political will on the part of States, we need legal mechanisms that make it possible to carry out disarmament. As the sole multilateral body for negotiations on disarmament, the Conference on Disarmament is key to such efforts. Peru believes that, above and beyond the current stalemate with regard to the adoption of a programme of work and the willingness to revitalize the disarmament machinery, ensuring the viability and continued existence of this crucial forum is a top priority. It is therefore relevant to

stress the urgent need for the Conference to resume its work and assume its responsibilities as soon as possible, so that it can adopt and carry out a broad and balanced programme of work that takes into account all the interests and priorities included on its agenda.

Peru believes it is necessary that we show signs of flexibility in order to launch the negotiating process for multilateral instruments in the area of disarmament. In that regard, we consider it a matter of urgency that the Conference on Disarmament immediately begin negotiations on international legal instruments in the area of disarmament, including a fissile material cut-off treaty and an international instrument on negative security assurances. We reiterate that, so long as there continue to be obstacles and delays in the Conference, Peru will not stand in the way of other negotiating initiatives that seek to constructively make progress in the area of disarmament — for we believe that the security of our generation and future generations cannot afford delays.

In the past two years, disarmament issues have once again risen to the top of the international agenda. Let us not lose this unique opportunity to adopt measures that tangibly contribute to strengthening international peace and security. The efforts we deploy in the work of the First Committee should focus on achieving that goal. In that regard, Sir, you can count on the full support of Peru.

Mr. Al-Saadi (Yemen) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, allow me to congratulate you, Sir, on your election to preside over the First Committee, as well as to assure you and the members of the Bureau of our full cooperation in achieving our desired objectives.

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

I would like to assure the Committee that the Republic of Yemen firmly believes in the total elimination of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. We also believe that a multilateral collective effort that includes dialogue, transparency and confidence-building measures among States is the best way to achieve disarmament and create a world of peace and harmony.

Given the new postures expressed by some nuclear-weapon States to rid the world of nuclear weapons, my delegation welcomes the new momentum

and the positive environment in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. We emphasize the importance of practical, tangible measures to translate those desires into reality, which will allow us to attain the goals of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

The Republic of Yemen has been consistent in its principles and positions with regard to weapons of mass destruction. In that regard, we honour our political commitments towards achieving nuclear disarmament. In keeping with our commitment to international peace and security, we have ratified multilateral conventions and agreements in the field of disarmament. We will continue to comply fully with our international commitments under the provisions of those instruments. The Republic of Yemen reiterates its principled position towards the total eradication of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. We agree with and support the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, including with regard to the transit of such weapons across borders.

To that end, we have established national commissions and adopted national legislation banning such weapons and penalizing those who carry out activities involving weapons of mass destruction. We call on all nuclear-weapon States to continue to work towards nuclear disarmament and to establish serious mechanisms to effectively address the issues of nuclear disarmament, the elimination of weapons of mass destruction and non-proliferation.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is the backbone of the system of basic principles underpinning the disarmament regime. The Republic of Yemen adhered to this agreement in order to achieve stability and security in our region. However, the Israeli nuclear policy will imperil peace and security and push the region towards a nuclear arms race. The world has remained silent on this issue, thus permitting Israel to continue to refuse to adhere to the Treaty and avoid subjecting all of its nuclear installations to the comprehensive safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The Security Council should implement its resolutions on nuclear disarmament, including resolution 687 (1991), which was adopted pursuant to Chapter VII and includes the goal of establishing a

nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. This also includes Israel's nuclear weapons.

In past years, the Republic of Yemen has taken steps to implement the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, including the recommendations of the 2010 international report. At the national level, my Government is working to establish a national unit as a focal point for coordinating all policies concerning these weapons and related activities, including their illicit trade and specific legislation regulating firearms and other weapons.

My Government has submitted new legislation to the current session of Parliament that will regulate firearm policies in cities and rural areas and permit the confiscation of all unauthorized weapons, with a view to totally eradicating this phenomenon. This national effort calls for intensified international support.

My Government calls for greater efforts and practical measures to constructively address the negative effects of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on domestic peace and security; prevent their access to or transport by organized criminal or terrorist groups; and impede other illegal entities from acquiring such weapons. All of these activities linked to the illicit trade risk hindering development efforts, including the fight against poverty and efforts to combat disease. Efforts must also continue to address the root causes of terrorism, including their negative impact and the increased violence and instability they engender, which transcend national or regional borders.

My country supports international measures to end the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, including effective international monitoring to combat this trade. My Government is in favour of holding countries that manufacture and export these weapons responsible for all aspects of providing technical and financial support to countries where the weapons are dumped. That would fulfil their moral responsibility to address the negative impacts of those weapons on all socio-economic activities and the resulting economic harm and instability.

The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones will contribute greatly to the non-proliferation regime. We emphasize that the Middle East should become a nuclear-weapon-free zone as a primary step towards the achievement of the universality of the NPT and the

realization of total nuclear disarmament, in accordance with the resolution adopted at the 1995 NPT Review Conference on the indefinite extension of the Treaty. The importance of that resolution to the maintenance of international peace and security has been underscored in both Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, as well as in other forums.

My country expresses its deep concern that this resolution, adopted 15 years ago, has not yet been implemented. We believe that this has an impact on the credibility of all other resolutions, as well as on the Treaty itself. We call for concrete measures to implement the resolution. We must begin to implement the practical measures that were agreed to and included in the final document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference (see NPT/CONF.2010/50), especially those related to the Middle East.

In conclusion, my delegation reiterates its support for all international measures aimed at nuclear disarmament and the eradication of all weapons of mass destruction, so as to ensure that they do not fall into the wrong hands. We will work constructively in the Committee to create a world free of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, as well as to guarantee international peace and security so that future generations may live in peace, security and cooperation.

The Chair: I shall now give the floor to the two representatives who have asked for the floor in exercise of the right of reply.

Mr. Kim Yong Jo (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Thank you, Sir, for giving me the floor to speak in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks by the representatives of South Korea and Japan. As this is the first time that my delegation takes the floor, please allow me to express the sincere congratulations of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on your election as Chair of the First Committee. My delegation wishes you great success in guiding the Committee's proceedings. We assure you of our full cooperation.

As everyone is well aware, in our meetings yesterday and today, some delegations have referred, among other things, to the nuclear issue regarding the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the *Cheonan* incident. In our view, with the exception of South Korea and Japan, colleagues have expressed sincere concerns about the heartbreaking situation

concerning the failure to find a lasting solution to the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula. They also encouraged the States concerned to redouble their efforts to solve this issue through political and diplomatic means.

However, the representatives of South Korea and Japan have chosen to loudly stress the nuclear issue, the *Cheonan* warship incident and the Six-Party Talks, while making misleading statements on the realities and truths before us. That is why — in a word — the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea totally rejects their remarks on those issues. Our reasons for doing so are as follows.

First, let me address the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula. In the annals of human history, South Korea is one of the places where the United States has introduced its nuclear weapons, specifically in 1957. Since then, in line with that State's blind acceptance of South Korea's authority, the number of nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea by the United States has exceeded 1,000.

Following the deployment of nuclear weapons in South Korea, the United States has continued to intensify the nuclear threat against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for more than half a century. As everyone is also fully aware, the United States of America has just announced a new Nuclear Posture Review that excludes the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and one other State from the list of States granted negative security assurances. This clearly shows the hostile policies and nuclear threat of the United States against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

As even young children know well, no conventional weapon can ever protect against a nuclear threat or strike. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea's acquisition of nuclear weapons is therefore nothing but nuclear deterrence to cope with the possibility of nuclear war breaking out on the Korean peninsula.

Allow me now to address the issue of the *Cheonan* warship incident, which was mentioned by the representative of South Korea. Personally, let me say that I seem to be sitting in a grand theatre where a drama named "The Cheonan Incident" is being performed. From the beginning of this year's session of the General Assembly, the South Koreans have mentioned these fabrications more than twice. As

already clarified several times on other occasions, in a word, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has nothing to do with the *Cheonan* drama. This case is nothing but fabrications manufactured artificially by the two sides — the United States and South Korea — in order to meet their strategic interests in the north-eastern region.

The United States and South Korea unilaterally fabricated the so-called results of an investigation into this drama, inducing experts from some Western countries to try to present the appearance of an international investigation. But, from the very beginning of its announcement, the investigation raised doubts, criticism and speculation within and outside South Korea. A question that continues to be raised pertains to the issue of why the United States and the South Korean authorities are so hesitant, persistently refusing the peace-loving proposal of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to accept its investigation team at the site of this dramatic incident.

It is well-known to the world that, since this dramatic incident the United States and South Korea have been very busy carrying out a series of large-scale joint nuclear military exercises on the Korean peninsula and beyond, thereby clearly revealing their ulterior political and military motives.

It is also noteworthy that in its presidential statement (S/PRST/2010/13) — which, if my memory serves me, was issued on 9 July — the Security Council took note of “the responses from other relevant parties, including from the DPRK, which has stated that it had nothing to do with the incident”.

In particular, I want to stress that the Chairman's statement of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum meeting held on 23 July in Hanoi, Viet Nam, in which the Foreign Ministers of the United States and South Korea participated, took note of the Council's presidential statement. Moreover, at the Forum, some United Nations Member States recommended turning the page on this dramatic incident.

That is why — before mentioning this case, which at the United Nations has already sunk underwater for good, along with the *Cheonan* warship — South Korea would be well advised to devote itself to accepting our proposal to deploy inspection teams from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the site of the drama.

Please allow me to turn now to the last topics. I am sorry for taking so much time.

The representative of Japan mentioned the Six-Party Talks yesterday, of course. The international community is well aware that the Six-Party Talks collapsed due to United States distrust and its sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which have now lasted more than 60 years. The United States has been sanctioning and putting pressure on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by, for example, branding as a missile test our peaceful satellite launch, which was conducted in line with the relevant international law and procedures. Sanctions and pressure are a typical expression of distrust, which blocks the building of confidence; practical results can never be expected. Nobody can expect anything from talks that are devoid of confidence.

As everybody knows well, the Six-Party Talks is not a supreme court of a State. Were the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to participate in the Six-Party Talks while under coercive sanctions, it would be in contravention of the spirit of the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement, which provided mutual respect and equality as a lifeline. Such talks would be like those between a defendant and a judge, as they would be based on distrust and not on equal footing. This has been proven very clearly by the several rounds of Six-Party Talks held in the past.

The Chair: I am afraid that the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has exceeded the 10-minute time limit.

Mr. Kim Yong Jo (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): I beg you, Mr. Chair, to give me just one more minute. I will be brief.

The Chair: Please be very brief.

Mr. Kim Yong Jo (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): A series of talks involving the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the United States and the Six-Party Talks, which took place beginning on 19 September, produced several bilateral and multilateral agreements. However, those agreements and the effort to implement them were brought to an end halfway through, and rendered worthless on the whole, due to the lack of confidence between both sides, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States. In a word, that was because the talks were held under hostile relations and in the absence of

mutual trust between both sides, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States. In the light of that situation, early this year, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea proposed concluding a peace agreement between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States that would objectively guarantee confidence-building to establish a peaceful situation and the circumstances under which the Six-Party Talks could resume.

The Chair: Before giving the floor to the other speaker in exercise of the right of reply, I would kindly ask the interpreters to stay a little bit longer. The meeting will end after we hear the next speaker.

Mr. Park Chul min (Republic of Korea): I would like to exercise our right of reply in response to the statement we have just heard from the representative of the Democratic People's Republic. The argument of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is not consistent with the facts. We are all aware of that point. I just want to point that out and rectify the distortion of the facts by our colleague from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. There are many points to address, but I shall be very brief. I am in a position to clarify the long falsifications in our North Korean colleague's points. I ask that you, Sir, permit me the time to do so, which could take close to 10 minutes.

First, with regard to the issue of the *Cheonan* — a naval vessel of the Republic of Korea — I am dumbfounded to hear our colleague from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea argue against the truth of the case. On 26 March, North Korean submarines attacked and destroyed the *Cheonan* naval vessel in the territorial waters of the Republic of Korea. That is an undeniable fact.

Immediately after the sinking of the vessel, international experts from the Republic of Korea and five other nations formed a joint investigation group on the cause. They found decisive evidence through thorough objective scientific investigations. The findings clearly showed that North Korea attacked the vessel and destroyed it. The findings were endorsed by the international community in a Security Council presidential statement adopted on 9 July (S/PRST/2010/13). I will not repeat all the points set forth in that statement. But I would like to take this opportunity to urge North Korea to acknowledge, reflect upon and apologize for that unprovoked attack and to refrain from any further provocations against the

peace-loving people of the Republic of Korea, as solemnly requested by the international community.

With regard to the North Korean nuclear issue, the North Korean delegation's argument on its nuclear programme is blatantly absurd and preposterous. If we follow its absurd argument, all sovereign countries should develop nuclear-weapon programmes for their national security. We are pursuing a world free of nuclear weapons. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea should act responsibly as a member of both the United Nations and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

I want to draw the Committee's attention to the final document of the eighth NPT Review Conference (see NPT/CONF.2010/50), adopted last May, which clearly reaffirms that, in accordance with the Treaty, the Democratic People's Republic cannot in any case have the status of a nuclear-weapon State. It also clearly states that the Democratic People's Republic has to fulfil its commitments under the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the fourth round of Six-Party Talks, as well as its obligations under Security Council resolutions 1718 (2006) and 1874 (2009), which demand that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner.

My colleague from the Democratic People's Republic also asserted that the Republic of Korea and the United States of America had accumulated 1,000 nuclear weapons. I would like to take this opportunity to clearly state that our Government has heretofore repeatedly and clearly set forth our position: we do not have a nuclear weapons arsenal on the southern part of the Korean peninsula. I clearly and sincerely ask my colleague from the Democratic People's Republic to please provide us with the evidence.

He also mentioned the United States Nuclear Posture Review report. If I understand correctly, the United States fully acknowledged negative security assurances to the countries that are members of the NPT, as well as countries that are fully compliant with NPT norms. It is clear that this is why the international community is strenuously urging North Korea to return to the NPT and fully comply its obligations under the Treaty.

With regard to joint military exercises between the Republic of Korea and the United States, as we all

know, North Korea has constantly threatened and provoked the national security of the Republic of Korea. The case of the *Cheonan* naval vessel is just one of the numerous instances of provocations from North Korea. The joint military exercises of the Republic of Korea and the United States are conducted to strengthen our deterrence capabilities against North Korean military provocations. They are therefore purely defensive in nature.

My colleague from North Korea also mentioned the United Nations Command. The Command draws its legality from elements in Security Council resolutions. It is carrying out its mission as mandated by those resolutions and the Korean Armistice Agreement. The North Korean attempt to challenge the United Nations Command is simply an attempt to destabilize the peace and security of the Korean peninsula.

Finally, I would like to refer to the Six-Party Talks. As the head of my delegation clearly mentioned this morning in his keynote speech, the Government of the Republic of Korea will continue to exert efforts in favour of a peaceful and comprehensive resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue. We are maintaining a two-track approach by implementing sanctions while leaving the door open. However, we are not willing to engage in dialogue for its own sake, as in the past. Rather, we look forward to talks that will lead to substantial progress on the North Korean nuclear issue. That is why North Korea must first demonstrate its sincerity towards denuclearization by taking concrete actions.

North Korea argued that the Republic of Korea refused North Korea's request to send an investigation team to Seoul on the *Cheonan* case. It repeatedly stresses this point, but it is a ridiculous one. I think that it is like the accused in a capital crime case asking the court to invite him to be on the jury. In addition, a consultation channel on military matters has been established between the United Nations Command and the North Korean army. North Korea's failure to use this official channel when requesting that the culprit be invited to join the jury clearly shows North Korea's intention.

The Chair: As we are well past 1 p.m., interpreters are no longer available. If the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea would like to exercise the right of reply again, he must do so either without interpreters or tomorrow

morning at the beginning of the meeting, which would be my recommendation.

Mr. Kim Yong Jo (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): If you do not mind, Sir, and if other colleagues do not mind, allow me please to continue. I will speak for less than five minutes. We do not object to the lack of interpretation.

The Chair: If everybody agrees, we can stay and hear the representative from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, who will speak for five minutes without interpretation.

Mr. Kim Yong Jo (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): I shall try not to waste time. First, let me ask a question of the representative of South Korea: If there is nothing to hide behind the *Cheonan* incident, why does South Korea hesitate to accept our proposal for investigation teams?

Let me now turn to the second item. The representative of South Korea refers to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's withdrawal from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). That is true. The Democratic People's Republic entered into the NPT with the expectation and hope of benefiting from the Treaty in the form of the removal of the weapons of the United States deployed in South Korea — thereby blocking the United States nuclear threat against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which has been in place for a long time.

But there has been a failure to be faithful to the articles of the NPT when it comes to removing United States nuclear weapons from South Korea. The NPT has also failed to prevent the United States from threatening the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for more than half a century, which aims to isolate, stifle and suffocate the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. But, I want to say that their efforts have failed — and will ultimately fail again.

I also want to stress that the United States abused the NPT to force the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to accept special inspection of a most sensitive military project, which can be considered as a violation of the supreme interests of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In a word, while we were a State party to the NPT, the NPT never met our expectations or desires.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea therefore proclaimed its withdrawal from the NPT in

order to defend its supreme sovereign rights, exercising its right under article X in the event of a violation of the supreme interests of a State party. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea will continue to concretize its nuclear deterrence as long as the United States nuclear threat against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea continues, including that country's continued deployment of nuclear weapons in South Korea. It is not possible for, and no one can expect, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to return to the NPT with the status of a non-nuclear-weapon State.

In conclusion, the NPT has failed to prevent the United States from deploying nuclear weapons in South Korea. Let me stress that, for more than half a century, it has also failed to ban the hostile nuclear threat against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. That is why, as I have just said, as long as those two issues remain unresolved, it is not possible for us to return to the NPT as a non-nuclear-weapon State.

Mr. Rim Kap-soo (Republic of Korea): I thank you, Mr. Chair, for giving me a second chance to reply. My delegation does not want to go into the long list of the many provocations and cases of non-compliance on the part of our colleagues from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. I will be very brief.

Since 1991, the Security Council has adopted four resolutions and six presidential statements with regard to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's violations of international law and provocations against the Republic of Korea. North Korea is now under Security Council sanctions under resolutions 1718 (2006) and 1874 (2009). North Korea has a very long record of provocations and non-compliance.

With regard to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's insistence on its nuclear issues, I once again refer to the international documents adopted at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the fifty-fourth regular session of the International Atomic Energy Agency General Conference.

I want to ask delegations sitting here today whether this is a case of all United Nations Members and International Atomic Energy Agency member States rallying against an innocent Democratic People's Republic of Korea and fabricating facts against it; or whether this is a case of the international community trying to make things right for peace and security? I leave the conclusion up to members' common sense.

The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.