



General Assembly

Sixty-seventh session

First Committee

3rd meeting

Tuesday, 9 October 2012, 10 a.m.
New York

Official Records

Chair: Mr. Percaya (Indonesia)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Introductory statements

The Chair: I would like to warmly welcome to the podium the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms. Angela Kane. I have the honour to invite her to address the Committee.

Ms. Kane (High Representative for Disarmament Affairs): I welcome this opportunity to address the First Committee, and I am especially pleased to greet members of delegations who are joining us for the first time. I am sorry that I could not be with the Committee yesterday. I was travelling on a disarmament-related mission in the Middle East, and I just returned last night.

It is my honour to congratulate the Chair on his election to guide our work. Ambassador Percaya's long experience working on disarmament issues and his personal commitment to that cause will serve the Committee well over the weeks ahead. I also wish to recognize the members of the Bureau and to ensure them and all delegations of the fullest cooperation of the Office for Disarmament Affairs throughout the work of the Committee.

Many delegations, along with many observers in civil society, viewed last year's deliberations of the First Committee with some concern. Words I heard describing that session were "frustrating" and "gravely disappointing", along with comments noting the "atmosphere of tension" and "significant divergencies of views". In particular, the deliberations on nuclear

disarmament resolutions featured an abundance of red lines and a scarcity of green lights. Some of those concerns reflect long-standing difficulties in the United Nations disarmament machinery, including the impasse on the Conference on Disarmament, the chronic inability of the Disarmament Commission to achieve a consensus and the long history of divided votes on certain key resolutions in the First Committee. Other concerns reflect an abiding impatience over the slow rate of progress in nuclear disarmament and the persistence of nuclear proliferation concerns in at least three regions.

We are continuing to see very high levels of global military expenditure, despite the global financial crisis, as pressing social and economic needs go unaddressed. We see greater efforts to perfect weaponry than to refine the instruments of peace.

On a larger dimension, we are encountering new challenges to the growth of the rule of law in disarmament. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has still not entered into force. Significant obstacles and competing interests have continued to delay the conclusion of an arms trade treaty and even the start of negotiations on a multilateral fissile material treaty.

None of the major treaties addressing weapons of mass destruction has yet achieved universal membership. Allegations of non-compliance persist over each of the key obligations in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, relating to nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

12-53887 (E)



Please recycle

peaceful uses of nuclear energy. There remains strong resistance to commencing negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention, despite the support for such a goal voiced by over 140 Member States. Several protocols to treaties establishing regional nuclear-weapon-free zones have yet to be ratified. And there are no multilateral disarmament treaties addressing nuclear-weapon delivery systems, missile defence or space weapons.

After surveying such concerns, one is tempted to conclude that the entire process of multilateral cooperation to advance disarmament and non-proliferation goals has come to a halt. None of those concerns should come as a surprise, given the complexity of the issues on the Committee's agenda, including some that have preoccupied the Committee for decades.

Future generations may well inherit some of those challenges. In that regard, I am pleased to remind delegations that this year marks the tenth anniversary of the Secretary-General's first report on disarmament and non-proliferation education (A/57/124). According to that report, the purposes of education in these fields is to empower citizens to make their own contributions to the achievement of concrete disarmament and non-proliferation measures. In considering the many difficulties we have encountered in pursuing these ends, I think it is indisputable that they are due far more to differences among the policies and priorities of Member States than to any flaw in the organization or mandate of this Committee. The essential challenge is to harmonize national efforts to achieve common ends.

Year after year, the Committee has laboured to make incremental progress by solving parts of larger problems, while never forgetting our fundamental shared objectives. Here is how former Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld once described this process:

“[T]he tendency in the United Nations is to wear away, or break down, differences, thus helping toward solutions which approach the common interest and application of the principles of the Charter.”

It is just such a pursuit of the common interest that must remain the primary focus of the deliberations of this Committee, which must not become just another arena for the competitive advancement of one State's interests

over another. There are already too many such arenas elsewhere.

We have much to learn from our predecessors, who established strong foundations upon which we are expected to build. Speaking shortly after his election as President of the first General Assembly, in January 1946, Paul-Henri Spaak called upon all delegations to remember, in advancing their own particular national interests, that those interests must, in his words, “take their place in the wider setting of the general interest” (*see A/PV.2, p. 48*).

This Committee and the rest of the United Nations disarmament machinery will regain its momentum and will continue to advance disarmament norms when Member States recognize that there is in fact a harmony between national interests and the general interest. That is what Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon meant when he once called nuclear disarmament a “global public good of the highest order”. By advancing the interests common to all States, we advance the interests of each State. That is the spirit that has the potential to revitalize global disarmament efforts. And what could be a better time and place for that to start occurring than in this sixty-seventh session of the deliberations of the General Assembly's First Committee?

A business-as-usual approach may well be the easiest to pursue, but it will not suffice to solve the problems we face in achieving disarmament goals and will only aggravate the global crisis we are facing in this field, especially with respect to nuclear disarmament. Let us recall that the Chinese word for crisis combines two characters, one representing “danger” and the other “opportunity”. We all know the dangers if this particular crisis is not resolved soon. So the real challenge facing this Committee is to discover or to create new opportunities for progress across the full range of challenges we are facing. Together let us convert those dangers into new common opportunities.

The Chair: I thank Ms. Angela Kane for her statement, which has given us a comprehensive overview and a description of the state of play of disarmament and the challenges ahead of us.

Agenda items 86 to 102 (*continued*)

General debate on all disarmament and related international security agenda items.

Mr. Maung Wai (Myanmar): I have the honour and privilege to take the floor on behalf of the member

States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN): 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, Mr. Chairman, allow me to warmly congratulate you, a fellow ASEAN brother, on your assumption of office as the Chair of the First Committee. We are confident that under your able guidance and leadership our deliberations will reach a successful conclusion. I would also like to congratulate other members of the Bureau on their well-deserved election. ASEAN, for its part, will extend its full support and cooperation in implementing your important responsibilities.

ASEAN, with its sustained development, strategic geographical location and values in the region, plays a vital role in maintaining and promoting peace and stability in the region and also contributes to international peace and security.

At the 18th ASEAN Summit, in May 2011, the ASEAN leaders agreed to commence the process for establishing an ASEAN institute of peace and reconciliation, which is one of the priority areas under the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint. They adopted the modality with a view to officially launching the institute at the 19th ASEAN Summit and also recalled that decision at the 20th ASEAN Summit. At the 45th ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting, on 9 July 2012, ASEAN declared that the institute would be launched in November 2012, during the 21st ASEAN Summit.

The ASEAN leaders at the 20th ASEAN Summit, in Phnom Penh in April this year, also welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Network of Nuclear Regulatory Bodies or Relevant Authorities with the objective of enhancing regulatory activities and further strengthening nuclear safety, security and safeguards in ASEAN. It is expected that the Network will be established by the end of this year. The Network will also support and contribute to ASEAN's purpose of preserving South-East Asia as a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

ASEAN acknowledges the significant role of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia as a code of conduct governing inter-State relations in the region. In that connection, ASEAN welcomes the accession by the European Union and the United

Kingdom to the Treaty in July 2012. We look forward to an early accession by Brazil, and we are also encouraged by the continued interests of other non-ASEAN member States in acceding to it. We take it as a positive signal and commitment to strengthen their cooperation with ASEAN and to maintain peace and security in the region.

Nuclear disarmament remains the highest priority on ASEAN's disarmament agenda. We stress that multilateralism and multilaterally agreed solutions, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, provide the only sustainable method for addressing disarmament and international security issues.

ASEAN emphasizes the need to implement the outcomes of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and reiterates its call for the full and effective implementation of the action plan set out in the conclusions and recommendations for follow-up actions in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference (see NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)), particularly the 22 actions on nuclear disarmament. While welcoming the success of the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference, the ASEAN States parties to the Treaty call for the full implementation of the actions adopted in 2010 on nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East.

ASEAN member States stress the significance of achieving universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). We reaffirm that the Treaty is a core instrument that prohibits all nuclear testing on Earth and the modernization of existing nuclear weapons, thus preventing the development of new nuclear warheads and their delivery systems and leading to nuclear disarmament. While welcoming the recent ratification of the CTBT by Indonesia, Guatemala and Guinea, we reiterate our call on all States, particularly those whose ratification is needed for the Treaty's entry into force, to sign and ratify the CTBT at an early date.

ASEAN member States are committed to the cause of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation and will continue to contribute to it in the work of the First Committee. In that spirit, two draft resolutions will be submitted by ASEAN member States again this year. We are convinced that the mere existence of

nuclear weapons on Earth and the absence of a legal regime for the total elimination of such weapons pose a threat to humanity.

Malaysia will once again submit a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*". It captures the unanimous conclusion by the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996 that there exists 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.

In line with our highest priority in the disarmament agenda, Myanmar will also submit a draft resolution on nuclear disarmament at the current session. The resolution was first introduced in the First Committee in 1995. It is co-sponsored by the ASEAN member States and many other like-minded countries. The draft resolution urges, inter alia, the nuclear-weapon States to immediately cease the qualitative improvement, development, production and stockpiling of nuclear weapons with a view to taking immediate measures leading to their total elimination within a specified framework of time.

Both draft resolutions underscore the priority and importance that ASEAN member States attach to nuclear disarmament. There may exist different views on the approaches towards our common goal. We sincerely hope that States Members of the United Nations will support and co-sponsor our draft resolutions.

ASEAN continues to believe that the nuclear-weapon-free zones created by the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba, the Central Asian nuclear-weapon-free zone and Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status contribute significantly to strengthening global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regimes.

ASEAN notes the progress made in concluding negotiations between ASEAN and the five nuclear weapon States on the Protocol to the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone and look forward to the signing of the Protocol to the Treaty and its related document by the five nuclear-weapon States as early as possible.

In strengthening our efforts in favour of global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, ASEAN underscores the importance of the establishment of

nuclear-weapon-free zones where they do not exist, especially in the Middle East. ASEAN supports the conference on the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction to be held in Helsinki in December 2012. We would like to stress that it is necessary, in the context of nuclear-weapon-free zones, that nuclear-weapon States provide unconditional assurances that they will not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against any State in a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

ASEAN further reaffirms that 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 also play a major role in combating weapons of mass destruction, which pose a serious threat to mankind. For that reason, we again urge the States that have not yet done so to join those Conventions at the earliest opportunity with a view to their achieving universality.

ASEAN member States share the concerns on the negative impact of illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on security, human rights and social and economic development at the national, regional and international levels. As such, we are seriously concerned about the illicit manufacture and transfer of and trade in small arms and light weapons and their excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread in many regions of the world. It is therefore essential to promote full and effective implementation of the 2001 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, ASEAN welcomes the outcome document produced at the Second Review Conference of the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4, annex I), held in New York from 27 August to 7 September 2012.

ASEAN Member States are of the view that the scope, criteria and parameters, and the international cooperation and assistance involved in and the implementation and final provisions of the Convention concerning customs clearance of international goods traffic with road vehicles, known as the AGT Convention, are useful components of a draft arms trade treaty. The proposed arms trade treaty should be universal, while taking into account the agreed categories of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, together with the important elements raised by the United Nations Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms.

ASEAN underscores that every nation has the right to self-defence and the protection of its sovereignty and territorial integrity. In that context, States have the primary responsibility to prevent the illicit arms trade and transfers in their own territories. We are of the view that the outcome of the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty fell short of the expectations of ASEAN.

ASEAN recognizes the adverse humanitarian impact caused by the use of land mines and cluster munitions. In that regard, we note that 160 countries have ratified and acceded to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. We welcome the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, held in Phnom Penh from 28 November to 2 December 2011. ASEAN looks forward to the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties to that Convention, to be held from 3 to 7 December in Geneva. We also recognize the important work done at the Third Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, held in Oslo from 11 to 14 September.

ASEAN Member States reaffirm the importance and validity of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community. We are disappointed by the continued stalemate in the Conference during its session this past year. In that regard, ASEAN invites all Conference on Disarmament members to demonstrate their maximum political will to move the Conference forward. We reiterate our call upon the Conference to adopt and implement a balanced and comprehensive programme of work on the basis of its agenda, which should deal with, among other things, the four core issues, in accordance with the rules of procedure and while taking into consideration the security concerns of all States. We also call upon the Conference to establish, as soon as possible and as a matter of the highest priority, an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament. ASEAN also supports the appointment of a special coordinator on the expansion of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament.

In conclusion, ASEAN further emphasizes the necessity of redoubling our efforts to reach the goal of general and complete disarmament, with particular

attention to a nuclear-weapon-free world as a matter of the utmost priority.

Mr. Román-Morey (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): Allow me first to express the satisfaction of my delegation and of myself on seeing my dear friend, Mr. Desra Percaya, chairing the work of the First Committee. As I have had both the pleasure and the honour to share prior experience with the Chair in the area of disarmament when we both worked in Geneva, I can testify to his professionalism, dedication and deep knowledge of matters of disarmament. Therefore, we can certainly count on concluding a successful session of the First Committee.

Peru has had the great honour of representing the group of Latin American and Caribbean countries in the coordination Bureau that Indonesia chairs. Please count on my delegation's full support in order to fully implement the tasks entrusted to the Chair by the General Assembly. I would also like to welcome and commend the High Representative of the Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, our friend Ms. Angela Kane, to whom we wish every success in her work.

I would like to align myself with what was said earlier by the Permanent Representative of Chile, speaking on behalf of the Member States of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), and I would also like, in general, to align myself with the statements made by the Non-Aligned Movement.

First, I will touch upon those weapons that are considered in practice to be the most dangerous weapons of all, the weapons that cause the greatest damage to humankind, namely small arms and light weapons. It is no surprise whatsoever that the proliferation of small arms and light weapons poses a serious threat to Governments, not only in developing countries but also among developed countries. When it comes to developing countries, the destabilizing effect of those weapons when they fall into illicit hands is notorious. They have always contributed to exacerbating armed violence, and they are used daily, not only for the purposes of common crime, but also by transnational organized crime, in particular in connection with the illicit trafficking of drugs.

The phenomenon, in the case of my country, is linked to the remnants of the mindless terrorism that had affected my country for nearly two decades. My region, the Latin American and Caribbean region, is

one of those that has, unfortunately, been most affected by the havoc caused by the proliferation in small arms and light weapons. Newspaper headlines confirm daily that the number of deaths caused by such weapons is extremely high in that part of the world. However, that concern is not exclusive to Latin America alone. We have witnessed the destabilization that such weapons have caused in Africa and the Middle East and in other regions of the world as well. Nor have developed countries escaped the scourge. We have also witnessed the grave and irreparable consequences that the indiscriminate possession of those arms by civilians can have. The sombre cases in North America and in Europe are part of that dark history.

It is not just a matter of trying to ensure that such weapons do not fall into illicit hands but also of ensuring that the legal acquisition of such weapons, their parts and components and their munitions, meets minimum security standards, thus preventing terrifying scenes such as those that we have witnessed in recent months. That is why my delegation supports the expeditious adoption of a treaty to regulate the arms trade. We were very close to achieving that in July. Unfortunately, we were not able all of us to read from the same page, and as the saying goes, we fell at the last hurdle. We believe, however, that we still have time to meet that objective. That is why my delegation supports the convening of a new round of negotiations in 2013, so that, based on the draft treaty that was negotiated in July, we can continue our work and adopt a solid treaty to regulate the arms trade.

The adoption of the outcome document (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4, annex I) at the Second Review Conference of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects is a most positive signal when it comes to the field of disarmament. Therefore, we wish to reiterate our acknowledgement of Ambassador Joy Ogwu, Permanent Representative of Nigeria, whose leadership made it possible to reconcile positions and to agree ultimately on a consensus document.

While we had hoped for a more ambitious document that would include munitions, parts and components, or a clearer reference to the diversion of arms or cross-border trade, we understand that the document agreed upon was the maximum that a number of Governments were able at that time to accept. However, our Government remains baffled by the reluctance of

a number of delegations that, in spite of knowing that the Programme of Action is not legally binding, still oppose progress in areas of common interest, under the pretext of not wishing to reopen negotiations on the Programme of Action. On this occasion, we reiterate our full commitment to the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and will therefore work together with other Member States during the upcoming Review Conference in 2018.

An issue of great interest for my country and many countries throughout the world is that of munitions. We have seen that the subject was raised during the negotiation of the arms trade treaty. It was also included, to a lesser degree, in the discussions on the Programme of Action. However, neither of those forums was able to ensure its inclusion, and we believe, therefore, that it is time for the General Assembly and the First Committee to address that urgent subject in order to ensure that we no longer hear excuses having to do with an alleged lack of appropriate forum or mandate. That is why my delegation will work with all interested delegations to investigate means and mechanisms that will allow us to address that urgent topic within the context of the United Nations.

It will come as no surprise within the First Committee that, as a further sign of our pacifism and our commitment to disarmament, Peru deposited, on 26 September, its instrument of ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Accordingly, that important international instrument of peace entered into force upon Peru's ratification, a further demonstration of my country's commitment to never use, develop, manufacture, acquire, store, conserve or transfer cluster munitions.

Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation represent another issue of great interest to my country, and in particular to your humble servant. In addition to reiterating our commitment to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which established the first nuclear-weapon-free zone in Latin America and the Caribbean, which led in turn to the establishment of a general secretariat for the implementation of that Treaty, the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, which I was honoured to chair for two consecutive terms, my delegation wishes to seize this opportunity to reiterate our call on all States that have not yet adhered to the NPT to do so immediately and without constraints.

We also encourage the nuclear-weapon States and any other States mentioned in the relevant protocols of the treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones that have not yet signed or ratified the aforementioned protocols, to do so as a matter of priority. We further encourage the nuclear-weapon States that have signed or ratified any of the relevant protocols to the treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones and that have indicated reservations or unilateral declarations affecting the denuclearization process in any zone, to modify or withdraw those declarations or reservations.

We therefore look forward to this year's forthcoming conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. Achieving that goal will undoubtedly be a momentous step forward for nuclear disarmament and all forms of disarmament involving weapons of mass destruction throughout the world.

While Peru supports all initiatives aimed at preventing nuclear-weapon proliferation, which should be supported by all countries, we reiterate our call on all nuclear-weapon States, declared and undeclared alike, to progress towards effective and verifiable nuclear disarmament.

With regard to the preparatory work of the 2015 NPT Review Conference, Peru attended the Committee's first session, held in March in Vienna, and will attend the meeting to be held in Geneva in 2013. We hope to make substantial progress and to work towards the implementation of the plan of action adopted during the 2010 Review Conference.

I would be remiss if I were not to briefly mention the disarmament machinery. As the Assembly knows, Member States entrusted me with chairing this year's substantive session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC); this year's session began a new triennial cycle of that deliberative organ. Believe me, I did everything physically possible to be proactive in an attempt to free the UNDC from the morass that it has been caught in for years. Unfortunately – we must be realistic – conditions were not conducive to making progress, even towards agreement on recommendations. Through painstaking efforts, we were able to agree on two agenda items that the UNDC will consider in its deliberations over the next two years, namely, recommendations on achieving nuclear disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and practical confidence-building measures in the field of

conventional weapons. I will expand further on that matter in the meeting on disarmament machinery, where I shall address the Assembly as the Chair of the United Nations Disarmament Commission.

While we were unable to reach agreement in the deliberative organ of the disarmament machinery, the situation in the negotiating organ par excellence, the Conference on Disarmament (CD), is even more desperate. Over the past six years, I have served as the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament. The Chamber of the Council in the Palais des Nations in Geneva bears witness to the efforts that were made there in an attempt to disentangle the Conference's inner workings, which, unfortunately, proved impossible. One year later, that organ remains unable to reach agreement on a programme of work. It has remained tangled in a web of its own making, owing to a lack of political will, dragged down by procedural matters, while sidelining its true mandate, namely, negotiating disarmament agreements. My delegation considers that paralysis untenable. We are, therefore, open to evaluating all proposals placed on the table in an attempt to come up with mechanisms that will allow us to overcome the absurd stalemate.

Peru is convinced that through effective confidence-building measures, States can progress towards the integration and strengthening of mechanisms and cooperation actions that will allow us to tackle, on an urgent basis, extreme poverty, inequality and social exclusion. It is therefore urgent that we continue to promote at all levels a climate conducive to arms control aimed at limiting conventional weapons and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. That will enable each State to allocate greater resources towards economic and social development, taking into account the commitments made to international goals without ignoring legitimate defence and security needs. In that respect, we reaffirm the need to strengthen mutual cooperation and confidence-building measures in the area of defence, as well as the importance of ensuring that defence expenditures are fully transparent and publicly available within each State.

I must also briefly touch upon the work of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC), which my country hosts in our capital city, Lima. While I shall touch upon UNLIREC's work in greater detail during the thematic debate on regional disarmament, I wish to underscore the important role

and support provided by the Regional Centre, along with States of the region, to promoting a series of disarmament initiatives aimed at confidence-building measures and the fight against the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, munitions and explosives, which pose a serious threat to public security in the region. In that connection, the Centre provided assistance for further capacity-building, training, legal support and technical assistance and carried out outreach and publicity efforts to ensure the national implementation of global and regional instruments on disarmament, weapons control and non-proliferation.

I would like to conclude my statement by reaffirming Peru's unwavering commitment to disarmament and non-proliferation. In recent years, the issue of disarmament has returned to the top of the international agenda. Let us not waste this unique opportunity to adopt measures that will contribute in a robust manner towards the strengthening of international peace and security. The efforts that we make in the context of the work of the First Committee must be geared towards achieving that goal. In that regard, please count on Peru's full commitment and support – and that of your humble servant - in your work.

The Chair: I thank Ambassador Román-Morey for his statement and for his generosity in sharing his first experience with me in the field of disarmament.

Mr. Amano (Japan): At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your assumption of the chairmanship of the First Committee of the General Assembly. My delegation is well acquainted with you through your highly regarded work in Geneva, and we are pleased that we can once again engage in disarmament efforts under your leadership. We assure you of our utmost cooperation.

To achieve progress in disarmament, it is valuable to reinvigorate our determination in the First Committee annually in the light of the year's developments. With that in mind, if we look back at the 12 months since the start of the Assembly's sixty-sixth session, we can see there have been a number of achievements, and I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a few of them.

In April and May, the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was successfully held in Vienna. That was the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee since the adoption of the groundbreaking NPT action

plan (see NPT/CONF.2010/50, Vol. 1, Part I) in 2010. As an outcome of the Preparatory Committee meeting, the nuclear- and non-nuclear-weapon States alike gained a common understanding on the necessity of fully implementing the action plan as we move towards the 2015 Review Conference.

In order to draw closer to a world without nuclear weapons, it is patently clear that nuclear disarmament efforts by the nuclear-weapon States are of paramount importance. In that context, we would like to welcome once again the conference of the permanent five (P-5) held in June in Washington, D.C. We strongly hope that the P-5 process produces tangible outcomes in the future.

In addition, Japan regards the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones as an important effort that contributes to the stability not only of regions but of the entire international community. In that regard, we hope that the nuclear-weapon States sign at an early date the Protocol to the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty. We also wish for the successful convening of the 2012 conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, as was agreed at the 2010 NPT Review Conference. To that end, we believe that States outside the region can also contribute to the realization of the goal of establishing such a zone in the Middle East region.

It is not only the nuclear-weapon States that are undertaking disarmament efforts; the non-nuclear-weapon States are also active in that area. The Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI), a cross-regional group of countries that includes my own, held its fifth ministerial meeting here in New York last month. Through such meetings, the NPDI is deepening discussions at a high level with the idea of steadily implementing the 2010 NPT action plan and making practical proposals for medium- to long-term nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In particular, the NPDI emphasizes improving transparency as an indispensable prerequisite for advancing nuclear disarmament, and we intend to carry on our efforts to support confidence-building measures among the nuclear-weapon States.

This year, Japan will once again submit its draft resolution entitled "United action towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons" as a guidepost for disarmament efforts by all States. We strongly hope

that our draft resolution will gain as many sponsors and supporters as possible.

Despite those positive developments, we are still not satisfied. Specifically, Japan was deeply concerned that again this year the Conference on Disarmament failed to meet the expectations of the international community, including the General Assembly, because of its inability to commence substantive work, especially the negotiation of a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT). Japan recognizes that step-by-step nuclear disarmament efforts are essential for attaining a peaceful and secure world free of nuclear weapons and that an FMCT is the next logical step.

We believe that the Conference on Disarmament is the most appropriate forum for those negotiations. However, given the lack of movement in the Conference, we think it necessary for the First Committee to examine at the current session ways to overcome the impasse. Therefore, Japan strongly supports the efforts of Canada, an active NPDI member, to make concrete proposals in order to push FMCT negotiations forward.

Another continuing concern for the international community is the growing risk of nuclear proliferation. In particular, the continuation of the nuclear and missile development programmes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including its uranium enrichment work, is a serious violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions. Those activities are harmful to the stability and security of not only the Asia region but of the international community as a whole. Japan urges the Democratic People's Republic to comply with all its international obligations and commitments, including Security Council resolutions and the 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. We once more strongly urge it to completely abandon, in a verifiable and irreversible manner, all its nuclear-weapon and missile development programmes. Furthermore, we emphasize the importance of all countries complying with the relevant Security Council resolutions related to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Iranian nuclear issue is also of grave concern to the whole international community. Japan urges Iran to comply with the demands of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Japan also calls upon Iran to immediately take substantive actions to restore the confidence of the international community.

Disarmament is not limited to nuclear issues. Intensive efforts are also directed towards conventional weapons, especially for the realization of an arms trade treaty. It was disappointing that the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty in July was unable to adopt a legally binding instrument. Nonetheless, we are currently at the threshold of achieving a landmark new arms control treaty, and thus it is necessary to conclude at an early date negotiations based on the existing draft treaty text. As one of the authors of the draft resolution on the arms trade treaty, Japan will continue to actively and constructively contribute to the negotiations.

In order to advance disarmament, it is indispensable to deepen understanding on disarmament and non-proliferation among a wide range of people regardless of borders or generations, especially younger people, who will be the leaders of tomorrow. To that end, Japan is continuing its mission to pass on to the next generation its experience of the devastating consequences of the use of nuclear weapons. With its firm convictions regarding the importance of achieving a world without nuclear weapons, Japan is determined to carry on its efforts to promote disarmament and non-proliferation education to its citizens and the world.

Mr. Errázuriz (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): The delegation of Chile congratulates you, Mr. Chairman, and the other members of the Bureau on your election to guide the First Committee. We are confident that under your leadership, Sir — which has rightly been recognized in this Committee — our work will be successful.

We associate ourselves with the statement made at the 2nd meeting on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States by its Acting Chair, and the statement made at the same meeting on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Although there have been a number of positive signs with regard to nuclear disarmament in the past two years, we continue to be concerned by the symptoms of stagnation in some areas of focus on the disarmament agenda. We are concerned as well by the slow progress in the implementation of the road map bequeathed to us by the eighth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

On the positive side, the entry into force of the treaty on strategic arms reduction was undoubtedly a

significant step towards that goal. We urge the United States and Russia to implement it speedily and to continue to reduce their nuclear arsenals, as well as to continue and deepen the dialogue initiated in Paris last year with a view to achieving greater transparency, fostering mutual confidence and displaying sustained leadership in this matter. We welcome the recent ratifications of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), including ratification by one annex 2 State.

Although unilateral, bilateral and regional efforts contribute to the goal of disarmament, it is in the area of multilateral negotiations where there are signs of paralysis that we all know and which have been extensively discussed here and in other forums. Progress requires political will on the part of States, but that requires functional mechanisms that enable them to implement it. We reaffirm our commitment to multilateralism in general and in the area of disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in particular. We value effective multilateral institutions for disarmament and security that function to safeguard the security interests of the international community as a whole and of each State.

After more than 10 years of paralysis, the Conference on Disarmament is now in a situation that can be described as untenable. A revitalization process aimed at an agreement allowing the Conference to resume its negotiating functions requires a broad political consensus that can take shape in a framework in which countries feel that they can effectively participate in building a safe world and protect their legitimate national interests.

The Conference on Disarmament ought to be the flagship forum for such negotiations. But given the undefined status quo, it seems increasingly difficult to question the legitimacy of the search for alternative options to make the disarmament machinery really work. We therefore appeal for renewed efforts to achieve consensus so that the Conference can adopt a balanced and comprehensive programme of work, to include negotiations on nuclear disarmament, negative security assurances, the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons, including the question of existing stocks. Approaching those topics can help to unblock the stoppage we see now.

We reaffirm that the NPT is the cornerstone of the system of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and we stress the importance of its universal acceptance and of balanced and non-discriminatory implementation of its three pillars: disarmament, non-proliferation, and the right to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

We reaffirm the need for close follow-up of the eighth NPT Review Conference and its action plan. We support the work that has been carried out towards that end by the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative in promoting concrete initiatives. We also support the joint statement made on 26 September by the Foreign Ministers and representatives of Australia, Canada, Germany, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Poland, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Chile.

As members of the first densely populated zone free of nuclear weapons, under the Treaty of Tlatelolco, we reaffirm the importance of nuclear-weapon-free zones and the contribution they make to peace and security. In that connection, we urge all parties involved to fulfil the commitment made at the NPT Review Conference to advance in the process of implementation for the conference scheduled for 2012 on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. It is essential that all countries in the region fulfil their role in the process, renouncing nuclear weapons and acceding to the NPT as non-nuclear States.

We believe nuclear disarmament should be approached by working simultaneously on the continual reduction of nuclear weapons with a view to their total elimination, the early elimination of non-strategic nuclear weapons, the reduction of the role of nuclear weapons in national security strategies, the consistent application of the principles of irreversibility, verifiability and transparency, and encouraging mutual confidence. We also call for an effective reduction of the operational status of deployed nuclear weapons systems.

In this framework, we see the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty as a fundamental link. For Chile, it is one of the central objectives in the disarmament agenda. We have therefore presented Ambassador Alfredo Labbe as a candidate for Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization.

Chile is in favour of promoting the international safeguards system and strengthening it through the universalization of the additional protocol. The possibility of nuclear weapons being used by non-State actors or terrorist groups is a latent threat to the international community. We therefore support efforts to enhance nuclear security through international cooperation and have actively participated in the nuclear security summits held to date.

Chile reaffirms its commitment to supporting multilateral measures in favour of disarmament, non-proliferation and the prohibition of the use of all weapons of mass destruction. As well as condemning the military use of biological and chemical weapons by any country in any circumstances, we urge universal accession by States to the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The past few years have been a fruitful period for the consolidation and advancement of regulatory instruments in the area of conventional weapons. For example, the entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in August 2010 represents a qualitative step forward in international humanitarian law. In this connection, we also reaffirm our support for and adherence to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the need to move towards the total elimination of such mines.

The delegation of Chile wishes to highlight the efforts to reach an arms trade treaty even as we regret that the conference last July did not succeed in that. We strongly believe in the need for a robust and legally binding agreement on the establishment of the highest standards with regard to transfers of conventional arms. We therefore call for renewed efforts on the matter, on the basis of the significant progress made at the July conference.

Another area in which progress is needed is the issue of small arms and light weapons. They are a scourge whose effects, measured in terms of lives destroyed, are practically equivalent to those of weapons of mass destruction. We support the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. We welcome the final document of the Second Review Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/1, annexes I and II), held from

27 August to 7 September, and we urge all States to continue to work for the Programme's implementation.

We emphasize the need for a resolute commitment and the necessary political will to create the climate of mutual confidence needed for progress in the area of disarmament. In that connection, we hope to make a constructive contribution to the work of the First Committee. We conclude by reiterating Chile's commitment to disarmament.

Mr. Apakan (Turkey): Let me begin by joining previous speakers in congratulating you, Sir, on your election as Chair of the First Committee. I also congratulate the other members of the Bureau on their election. We are confident that the First Committee will successfully complete its deliberations under your able leadership.

We live in a world where security has become indivisible. On the other hand, contrary to the old thinking, we live in an age when one cannot argue that more arms would bring more security. Therein lies the virtue of disarmament. Although we have recently witnessed some promising developments, it is also a truism that there is, unfortunately, an ongoing malaise in the overall sphere of arms control and disarmament. The vision of global zero is nowhere near.

Having shared those preliminary thoughts, allow me to briefly convey the Turkish perspective vis-à-vis the various issues on our agenda. Situated in a region of particular concern with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, Turkey vigilantly monitors developments in that field and participates in collective efforts aimed at producing measures to reverse that alarming trend.

Turkey's security policy excludes the production and use of weapons of mass destruction of any kind. We advocate global and overall disarmament, and we support all efforts to sustain international security through multilateral arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament. Turkey is a party to all of the international non-proliferation instruments and export control regimes and wishes to see the universalization, effective implementation and further strengthening of such mechanisms.

There has been some progress in the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation agenda in recent years. Notwithstanding that progress, the vision of a world free of nuclear weapons and other weapons

of mass destruction is still a long way off. Turkey wholeheartedly shares that vision and supports working towards that goal within the framework established by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). That is the main international instrument in the nuclear sphere and provides for a well-balanced framework, consisting of three complementary and mutually reinforcing pillars: nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Turkey believes that an equal and balanced treatment of those three pillars will reinforce the integrity and credibility of the NPT regime. Unfortunately, however, some countries still remain outside that regime. We support the universalization and effective and consistent implementation of that regime in good faith.

Turkey, together with nine like-minded countries, has joined the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative, which was launched by Australia and Japan in 2010. That Initiative seeks to work towards the implementation of the consensus outcomes of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT. Turkey also participates in the work of the nuclear discussion group, an informal group established under the leadership of Kazakhstan that provides a forum for frank and open discussion on how to achieve progress towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

We acknowledge the comprehensive 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 to further strengthen and universalize the Agency's verification authority. We regard the comprehensive safeguards and their additional protocol as an indispensable verification standard. We call on all States that have not yet done so to sign, ratify and implement the IAEA comprehensive safeguards agreement and the additional protocol as soon as possible.

We believe that strengthening the IAEA safeguards system 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 States in full compliance with their safeguards obligations should have unhindered access to civilian nuclear technology, as provided for under the NPT. In our view, that could only contribute to the further strengthening and

universalization of the NPT regime. That said, we must also ensure that all requisite steps are taken so that there can be no diversion of nuclear programmes from peaceful to military uses.

In the past 12 months, we have seen enhanced political momentum behind the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, whereby the promotion of its entry into force is seen as a matter of priority. We again urgently call on the remaining annex 2 States to ratify the Treaty without delay, as required for its entry into force.

It is our firm belief that nuclear weapons or any other weapons of mass destruction cannot provide additional security for any country in this era. On the contrary, the possession and pursuit of such weapons undermine regional security and stability. Turkey therefore attaches great significance to and 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. We therefore look forward to the convening of a conference in 2012 on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, pursuant to the decision taken at the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

We view such a conference as an initial step in a long process, the success of which will depend on the genuine political engagement and participation of all States in the region. We welcome and support the Facilitator's efforts to convene that conference. We also welcome the efforts of the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Angela Kane, in that regard.

The work of the Conference on Disarmament needs to be revitalized in order for that body to reassume its leading role. While there are many different views as to how the Conference should be revitalized, our preference is for that process to take place within the Conference itself. Other efforts, such as the General Assembly meetings that took place in September 2010 and July 2011, could be useful in building momentum and in conveying the strong expectation of the international community for the resumption of the substantive work of the Conference.

There is no question that the parameters for the negotiation of a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT) are at the core of the current deadlock in the Conference on Disarmament. In considering the Conference's next steps, Turkey will support a resolution that takes stock

of the current situation, endorses ongoing efforts to break the impasse in the Conference and proposes an acceptable way forward. Progress on the FMCT issue might also allow the Conference on Disarmament to make parallel advances in other fields, including on nuclear-weapon-free zones, negative security assurances and the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

The threat of proliferation is not confined to weapons of mass destruction. The proliferation of conventional weapons is also a cause for concern on our part. Indeed, the excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons pose a significant threat to peace and security, as well as to the social and economic development of many countries. There is also a very well-documented relationship between the illicit arms trade and terrorism.

As a country suffering from terrorism, Turkey will continue to actively contribute to all efforts within the United Nations and other forums to foster international cooperation in the fight against terrorism, including through the establishment of effective norms and rules aimed at eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. In that regard, Turkey remains committed to the effective implementation and further strengthening of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. In that context, we are pleased that the 2012 Small Arms Review Conference yielded results.

Turkey also continues to support the conclusion of an arms trade treaty, which should halt the unregulated and uncontrolled trade of conventional arms worldwide and establish strong and robust legally binding common standards for the international arms trade. Even though the 2012 United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty was, unfortunately, not able to conclude successfully, we should not abandon our efforts to achieve our objective. We therefore support the convening of a conference in early 2013, based on the text of a draft arms trade treaty (A/CONF.217/CRP.1) submitted by the President of the Conference on 26 July 2012.

We hope that the deliberations of the First Committee will contribute to revitalizing the United Nations disarmament machinery and help us to eliminate the obstacles standing in the way of a safer and more secure world. I wish to conclude by assuring you, Sir, of our

delegation's full support and cooperation in bringing this session to a successful conclusion.

Mr. León González (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Cuban delegation is pleased to see you, Sir, presiding over the work of the First Committee and wishes to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau on your election. You can count on Cuba's full support in your work. We also fully support the statement delivered by Indonesia, speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, and the statement delivered by Chile, on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States.

In recent years, we have witnessed an increase in the financing of plans to subvert legitimate Governments and the exacerbation of religious intolerance and conflicts through a policy of regime change that supports the geopolitical interests of the main Powers. Those conflicts have been fuelled through illegal arms transfers to non-State actors and the use of mercenaries. All of that has taken place in flagrant violation of international obligations and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

We are witnessing a global economic crisis, where rescue formulas consisting of slashing public spending are being applied, which has led to fewer resources being available to guarantee the fundamental rights of the poorest sectors. Amid that international situation, global military expenditures remain unacceptably and unjustifiably high, with figures estimated at \$1.74 trillion in 2011. That is why Cuba reiterates its proposal to allocate at least half of current military expenditures to addressing the needs of socioeconomic development through a fund that would be administered by the United Nations.

Sixty-six years after the General Assembly, in paragraph 5 (c) of its first resolution (resolution 1(I)), called for "the elimination... of... major weapons adaptable to mass destruction", peace, international security and humankind are still threatened by the existence of more than 20,000 nuclear warheads. It is unacceptable that nuclear deterrence is still the basis for military doctrines, which continue to authorize the possession and use of nuclear arsenals. The only guarantee that nuclear weapons cannot be used by States or by anybody else is their absolute elimination and prohibition under strict international control.

The nuclear Powers continue to fail to meet the obligation they are under, in accordance with

article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to negotiate an international treaty to eliminate nuclear weapons. Moreover, they continue to fine-tune their nuclear arsenals in vertical proliferation, which is very rarely the subject of discussion. We must promote and agree on concrete steps leading to the total elimination and prohibition of nuclear weapons in a binding, non-discriminatory, transparent, verifiable and irreversible manner. It is also important that we begin international negotiations to rapidly conclude work on a treaty that provides universal and unconditional security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of such weapons. The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones is a necessary and important contribution to efforts in the sphere of disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. We support the establishment without delay of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

We note with satisfaction the successful conclusion of the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which took place in Vienna in May. In that regard, we call for renewing the commitment to hold the second session of the Preparatory Committee in Geneva in 2013.

The Non-Aligned Movement submitted a proposal that should be discussed, providing for a plan of action establishing a clear timetable for the gradual reduction in nuclear weapons, leading to their total elimination and prohibition by 2025 at the latest. We support the position reaffirmed by the Non-Aligned Movement at its sixteenth Summit of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, which was held recently in Iran and which underscored that nuclear disarmament was the highest priority in the field of disarmament.

Cuba supports the efforts to improve the disarmament machinery of the United Nations, but is convinced that the paralysis that affects the lion's share of that machinery is primarily due to the lack of political will on the part of a number of States to achieve real progress, in particular in the area of nuclear disarmament. If it is necessary to revitalize the United Nations disarmament machinery, then let us convene the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and let us no longer impede that process. It is for our common benefit that we be able to work with a specialized organ of universal membership such as the United Nations Disarmament Commission, which allows us to deliberate in depth on issues of

great relevance. We are pleased that the Disarmament Commission has reached agreement on the agenda of substantive items for the upcoming three-year cycle, and that it has included the item "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons".

Within the disarmament machinery, the Conference on Disarmament plays an essential role as the only multilateral negotiating forum for treaties in the area of disarmament. We regret that the Conference has been unable to carry out substantive work for over a decade now. Certain parties argue that this is due to its working methods and to the rules of procedure of that organ. Cuba does not share that view, as that phenomenon is not restricted to that organ alone.

We are concerned by the ideas that some have put forward to sideline the Conference on Disarmament and resort to alternative negotiating processes in order to negotiate disarmament treaties in other forums. That would represent a dangerous step backwards. We reiterate that it is still the responsibility of all to preserve and strengthen the Conference on Disarmament.

The Conference on Disarmament must rapidly adopt a broad and balanced programme of work that takes into account real priorities in the area of disarmament. Cuba believes that the Conference is in a position to negotiate in parallel a treaty to eliminate and prohibit nuclear weapons, a treaty to prevent the arms race in outer space, a treaty to provide effective security assurances for States that, like Cuba, do not possess nuclear weapons, and a treaty to ban the production of fissile material for the manufacture of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

My country favours the beginning of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and effectively verifiable treaty that would ban the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices and that would also address the issue of existing stockpiles. At the same time, we believe that the negotiation of a fissile material treaty would be a positive step, but insufficient if it fails to define the subsequent steps to be taken in order to bring about nuclear disarmament.

Given the priority attached to nuclear disarmament at the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, that issue must take priority in the programme of work of the Conference on

Disarmament. The Conference must urgently launch negotiations on a convention to prohibit the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons that would provide for the destruction of nuclear weapons and lead to their total, non-discriminatory and verifiable elimination, in accordance with a specific timetable.

Cuba reiterates its commitment to the rigorous application of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention. The total and verified destruction of chemical weapons arsenals is the most important task of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. That Organization also has an important role in the promotion of the economic and technological development of States parties, especially of the least developed.

The Third Review Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention provides a good opportunity to reaffirm the basic principles and objectives of the Convention and to preserve the balance among its four fundamental pillars, namely, destruction, verification, assistance and international cooperation.

With regard to the Biological Weapons Convention, Cuba reiterates that the only way to strengthen and improve it is through the negotiation and adoption of a legally binding protocol that will resolve the lacunae still existing in that instrument.

This year the international community noted the lack of agreement and consensus in the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty. Cuba will follow up on sustaining the discussions on that matter, as we believe that true success in that process will be the achievement of an instrument that results from an inclusive and transparent process, which duly takes into account the positions and concerns of all States and which can be acceptable to all delegations. That is the only way to achieve a treaty that is solid, universal and, therefore, effective.

Furthermore, we are satisfied that the second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in 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 adopted by consensus its outcome documents (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4, annexes I and II), which reaffirmed the full validity of the Programme of Action as the appropriate instrument to tackle that scourge. More tangible progress is required for the promotion and strengthening

of international assistance and cooperation in that area, elements that we deem essential for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action.

Allow me to conclude by reiterating the full support of the Cuban delegation for your work, Mr. Chairman, and for ensuring a successful outcome of this Committee's work.

Mrs. Niang (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I extend to you, Sir, my warm congratulations on your election as Chair of the First Committee and assure you at the same time of the support and full and complete cooperation of my delegation. I also congratulate all the members of the Bureau.

Senegal aligns itself with the statements made at the 2nd meeting by the representatives of Nigeria and Iran on behalf of the African Group and the Non-Aligned Movement, respectively.

Despite the positive momentum and renewed enthusiasm generated by the negotiations for an arms trade treaty, which took place in New York in July, the international community has still not reached an agreement to regulate the trade in conventional weapons. Several hotbeds of tension throughout the world are continuing to experience grave security and stability problems resulting from the illicit circulation of conventional weapons. The negotiations offered us an opportunity to have a robust, universal and legally binding instrument on the arms trade that would have allowed us to control the illicit trafficking of arms, a scourge that threatens peace.

We hope that the extended negotiating deadline requested by the United States and Russia will be very brief, since we are determined to achieve that arms trade treaty as soon as possible. It will therefore be up to our Assembly to decide and, if necessary, inscribe on the agenda of the sixty-seventh session the adoption of the current text of a draft arms trade treaty, submitted by the President of the Conference (A/CONF.217/CRP.1).

A month after the failure of the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in 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 achieved only limited success. It resulted in the adoption by consensus of what to our mind were lackluster outcome documents (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4, annexes I and II), which do

not take into account specific concerns, especially with regard to the question of munitions, as an integral part of strengthening the implementation of the Programme of Action.

However, my delegation would like to pay a heartfelt tribute to Ambassador Joy Ogwu, Permanent Representative of Nigeria, for her tireless efforts as President of the Conference with a view to adopting an inclusive outcome document, one able to reflect all our concerns with regard to the scourge of the illicit trade in small arms.

Furthermore, last April, the Disarmament Commission, which had just opened a new three-year cycle of work, did not provide a single recommendation, even though, through the adoption of its report (A/67/42), it decided to submit to the General Assembly the recommendations of its Working Groups I and II on, respectively, achieving nuclear disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and practical confidence-building measures in the field of arms.

All of those failures raise important concerns, while the challenges multiply in the field of international security and disarmament.

Since the High-level Meeting on Revitalizing the Work of the Conference on Disarmament, convened on 24 September 2010 at the initiative of the Secretary-General, we have known the reasons for those failures. Indeed, the suspension of the work of the Conference on Disarmament stems from political antagonisms that improvements in the working methods will not be able to resolve. My delegation therefore calls on Member States to show the flexibility and political will needed to create an environment sufficiently conducive to a consensus in order to accelerate progress on disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation issues.

Speaking of implementation, my country welcomes the invaluable contribution of non-governmental organizations in that field. We reiterate here that an appropriate place should be granted to those organizations, including during our own deliberations.

The situation in the area of non-proliferation is also deadlocked. The New START treaty, while it does indeed anticipate a reduction in strategic nuclear-missile launchers, in no way limits the number of stockpiled operational warheads. It maintains a high state of alert and weapons-modernization programmes, but does

not resolve differences over the imbalances between anti-missile shields and conventional weapons.

Discussions on new arms reductions are also at an impasse due to the lack of urgency exhibited by some nuclear-weapon States. The 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was considered a modest success, since it did not end in total failure, as had the previous Conference in 2005. In that regard, we call on all actors to engage in equal good faith in working for the proper implementation of the conclusions of the last NPT Review Conference regarding the convening in 2012 of a conference on creating a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

The negotiations on another key disarmament and non-proliferation pillar, in this case a treaty banning the production of fissile materials for military purposes, are also bogged down, despite a certain amount of progress. Meanwhile, we need to ensure that the fissile material stocks scattered around various places in 32 countries do not fall into the wrong hands, and that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty goes into effect as soon as possible.

In that context, the Seoul Summit, held last March, made new commitments possible, thus strengthening efforts against terrorism and for non-proliferation, while building on the success of the Nuclear Security Summit of 2010. However, the positive momentum generated in Seoul must be maintained at the next Nuclear Summit, to be held in the Netherlands in 2014. Just as essential is recognition of the legitimate right of countries to engage in research on and production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, under the vigilant eye of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

I appeal once again to all delegations to demonstrate flexibility and political goodwill during this negotiation session of the First Committee. For my part, I would like to assure the Committee once again of my delegation's willingness to participate fully and constructively in all our work.

Mr. Sadykov (Kazakhstan): At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Sir, on your election as Chair of the First Committee and to assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

Kazakhstan is committed to further promoting international peace and security and giving the highest priority to the issues of nuclear disarmament

and non-proliferation. We view the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. It is vitally important that we ensure the universality and full implementation of the Treaty, as well as the balance of all three of its pillars.

We are of the view that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only guarantee that they will never be used. In that regard, I would like to recall the initiative of President Nursultan Nazarbayev of the Republic of Kazakhstan on adopting a universal declaration on the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free world. We believe that the drawing up and adoption of such a document would demonstrate the unequivocal commitment of all States Members of the United Nations to the cause of building a world free of nuclear weapons.

The early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) would aid the process of nuclear non-proliferation, and we therefore urge all States that have not yet done so to ratify the CTBT, particularly those States listed in its annex 2. In 2009, at Kazakhstan's initiative, the General Assembly adopted resolution 64/35, declaring 29 August — the day the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site was shut down — the International Day against Nuclear Tests. On that notable date this year, Kazakhstan, in cooperation with the global network Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament, hosted an international parliamentary conference entitled "From a Nuclear Test Ban to a Nuclear-Weapons-Free World", in Astana and Semey. Conference participants unanimously adopted a declaration calling on all Governments and parliamentarians to take concrete actions aimed at supporting the early entry into force of the CTBT.

The Conventions on Biological and Chemical Weapons are important instruments for the global non-proliferation regime, and Kazakhstan calls for the full and effective implementation of all their provisions. We are convinced that further promotion of national mechanisms aimed at implementing both Conventions is vital. Also, various international organizations should encourage and assist in developing international and regional cooperation in this area.

Establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones in various areas of the planet is an essential step towards achieving a world free from weapons of mass destruction. The

Central Asian States have undertaken joint efforts to institutionalize the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, under the Semipalatinsk Treaty, and stand ready to continue constructive dialogue with the Permanent Five States to ensure the signing of the Protocol on negative security assurances as soon as possible. In that context, I would also like to express our strong support for the creation of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. The convening this year in Finland of a conference on the Middle East, with the participation of all States of the region, should remain in the focus of the international community.

In accordance with the generally recognized principle of equal access to the peaceful atom, Kazakhstan has submitted to the International Atomic Energy Agency an application to host the international low-enriched uranium bank. This will provide guaranteed access for all States to nuclear fuel and in no way affects the legitimate and inalienable right of each State party to the NPT to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, provided they comply fully with the provisions of that Treaty and its additional protocol.

We commend the activities of the Group of Eight's Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction. Kazakhstan's active participation in multilateral non-proliferation and export-control regimes, including the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Australia Group and the Wassenaar Arrangement, represents yet another contribution by my country to our common goal.

I reaffirm that Kazakhstan views the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral negotiating forum on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. It is our deep-seated belief that all that is required to resume the substantive work of the Conference is political will. Kazakhstan sincerely hopes that the States members of the Conference will be able to bridge their differences and get down to work on the agenda.

Kazakhstan is disappointed with the failure of the 2012 United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty and hopes we will reach a mutual understanding that will enable us to finalize in the nearest future a legally binding treaty that will prevent the irresponsible transfer of arms.

Being deeply concerned about the high volume of the illicit trade and transfer of small arms and light

weapons, we welcome the successful conclusion to the second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in 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. We stand ready to make every effort to encourage implementation of the Programme.

In conclusion, I would like to stress that our delegation is fully committed to work actively with all Member States to promote the work of this Committee.

Mr. Andanje (Kenya): At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Sir, on your election as Chair of the First Committee at this session. You have an onerous task before you, but I am confident you will ably steer our deliberations to a successful conclusion. I would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate members of the Bureau. I assure them of my delegation's support and cooperation.

Kenya aligns itself with the statements made by the representatives of Nigeria and Iran at the 2nd meeting on behalf of the Group of African States and the Non-Aligned Movement, respectively.

We meet once again in New York at a time when the disarmament machinery has virtually ground to a halt. In the context of policy, that is not encouraging. The Disarmament Commission has been unable to adopt any consensus recommendations or guidelines. Meanwhile, the long-standing deadlock in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva continues. This year, the Conference was unable to adopt and implement a programme of work to enable it to resume substantive work.

The lack of movement in multilateral disarmament negotiations is a source of frustration and great disappointment for Kenya and, I believe, many other delegations. In spite of our efforts to advance our collective disarmament goals, in particular the elimination of nuclear weapons, those goals still seem too distant. Despite the setback, Kenya is fully committed to the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum for the international community. That is especially so, given the fact that nuclear weapons, particularly the threat of their use, pose a grave danger to global security. Kenya believes that the cessation of the production of all types of nuclear weapons and gradual reduction of their stockpiles until their complete destruction is not just an

option. We are convinced that disarmament is our best protection against the dangers of nuclear proliferation.

Kenya recognizes the statements of support and concern expressed by various dignitaries at the 2012 session of the Conference on Disarmament. We commend successive Presidents of the Conference for their intensive and sustained consultations during the session aimed at reaching consensus on a programme of work. In spite of that, and with the benefit of hindsight, we know the outcome.

After a 13-year impasse in the Conference on Disarmament, Kenya is convinced that the failure to commence negotiations has little to do with the lack of political will, institutional issues such as the rules of procedure, or even the impediment of a single Member State, as some contend. We believe Ms. Angela Kane, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, aptly identified the problem in her remarks at the close of the 2012 session of the Conference on Disarmament, on 13 September. She stated:

“The stalemate continues and I believe its deeper roots lie in the CD's external political environment. It is difficult to commence negotiations when key policy priorities and perceived interests of States are in conflict, especially when some of these differences might also reflect domestic political considerations.

“Overcoming this stalemate will therefore require a lot more than the institutional reforms inside the CD or simply finding a new venue for negotiations. It will require a genuine commitment by Member States to build upon shared interests — and to recognize that cooperative multilateral diplomacy focused on establishing global norms offers far greater potential to advance national security interests than self-help alone. Until this bridge is crossed, the ‘rust’ in the United Nations disarmament machinery will likely continue to accumulate — but if this impasse persists, we should not blame the machinery”.

It is our conviction that this statement captures the essence of the problem in the Conference on Disarmament. Although the High Representative failed to elaborate clearly the issues in the Conference's external political environment that impact its deliberations, there is no doubt the body conducts its deliberations as if it were in a vacuum. Sitting in its sessions can be quite a surreal experience.

I will briefly highlight the issues that my delegation believes contribute to the deadlock in the Conference, especially its failure to adopt a programme of work and commence substantive negotiations on nuclear disarmament.

First, the issue of the ongoing integration of tactical nuclear weapons and the incorporation of the doctrine of nuclear deterrence in the defence strategies of nuclear weapons States and military alliances is a major stumbling block.

Secondly, and equally disturbing, are policy statements justifying and legitimizing nuclear weapons and nuclear deterrence, contrary to stated commitments and assurances. The fact that the use of nuclear weapons is discussed as an option is very disconcerting. It demonstrates that the dangers of nuclear war are not diminishing but are significantly increasing.

The use of nuclear weapons is prohibited by conventional and customary international law, including the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. It would also violate resolutions of the General Assembly that have repeatedly condemned their use as an international crime. Kenya believes the threat of the use of nuclear weapons is counterproductive. It provides the strongest incentives for nuclear proliferation. As regards nuclear deterrence, which actually threatens mass extermination, it is a crime. In its advisory opinion on nuclear weapons, the International Court of Justice ruled that the threat stands or falls on the same legal grounds as the actual use.

The third issue of concern is the continuing development of a new generation of nuclear weapons and the modernization of weapons production facilities and delivery systems that are under way in the nuclear-weapon States. That includes the introduction of a new generation of land-based ballistic missiles, new fleets of nuclear-armed submarines and strategic bombers. The continued escalation of programmes has reached levels that are truly alarming.

The issues I have highlighted are topical. They relate to the external environment of the Conference on Disarmament but nevertheless have an impact on its deliberations. We cannot negotiate if the requisite political climate and goodwill are absent. We all know the issues. Let us address them. We have to face reality and deal with the world as it is rather than trying to design it in our own image. As human beings, we have

an extraordinary capacity to be delusional. Let us not live up to it.

I would now like to touch on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. The conclusion of the Treaty 14 years ago was a milestone. However, there are very strong, documented indications that nuclear-weapon States have resumed subcritical nuclear tests. That is a very worrying development for the rest of us. It could lead to a resumption of the nuclear arms race and risk a global disaster. It is apparent that the test-ban Treaty may, after all, not be comprehensive enough.

As for the issue of conventional weapons, to which we attach great importance, Kenya welcomes the recent adoption by consensus of the outcome documents of the second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4, annexes I and II). We believe this has enhanced the central role that the Programme of Action plays in implementing practical measures for combating the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

The Committee will recall that in July, after days of negotiations and having covered a lot of ground, we were unable to go the extra mile and conclude an arms trade treaty. Although we were disappointed with the lack of an outcome, we are nevertheless determined to build on the progress made thus far towards adopting a strong and robust arms trade treaty. Support for moving the process forward is overwhelming and consultations are under way. Kenya fully supports the draft resolution, to be introduced later this month, aimed at reviving the treaty negotiations. We appeal to Member States to show flexibility and accommodation on this matter.

Finally, Kenya urges all delegations to rededicate themselves to achieving real and substantive progress in multilateral disarmament. It is incumbent on us to create an enabling political environment conducive to effectively addressing the challenges of disarmament. We should be able to accommodate one another's concerns in our common endeavour to realize a world free of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Al-Yafei (United Arab Emirates) (*spoke in Arabic*): I have the pleasure of congratulating you, Sir, on behalf of the United Arab Emirates, on your election to the Chair of this important Committee. We are confident that your long diplomatic experience will

contribute to the success of our deliberations, which aim to help to bring closer together the various viewpoints on the issues of disarmament and international security. We wish you and the members of the Bureau every success. We also thank the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs for her statement at the beginning of this session of the Committee.

I would like to express my delegation's support for the statements made at the 2nd meeting by the representatives of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and of Egypt on behalf of the Group of Arab States on the items on the Committee's agenda.

We consider the work of the First Committee to be an integral part of the global disarmament architecture. As we begin our work, we would like to reiterate the importance of strengthening these efforts. In essence, countries must demonstrate serious political will and the necessary flexibility during deliberations if we are to respond to the increasing calls for strengthening disarmament negotiations and the various criteria at a time when our world sees hotbeds of tension and regional conflicts that are spreading, thanks to the proliferation of weapons.

The United Arab Emirates is troubled by the international community's lack of real progress in the area of disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. We urge the international community to continue the positive consultations held in the last two years on reinforcing disarmament mechanisms and on ways of implementing commitments and conventions on disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, at the Nuclear Security Summits held in Washington, D.C., and Seoul.

We reaffirm that strengthening the universality and comprehensiveness of the disarmament treaties dealing with weapons of mass destruction requires that each country, without exception, honour its commitments, in accordance with the provisions of those treaties. Non-party States should work to accede to those treaties as soon as possible and without preconditions.

We firmly believe that progress in disarmament is hampered by the continuing inability of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva to agree on a full programme of action that will allow it to continue its work on the substantive issues on its agenda. Intensifying international negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or

other nuclear explosive devices is a first essential step. We therefore call on Member States to resolve their differences regarding the items on the Conference's agenda, so that we may address all the issues relating to disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament.

We believe that eliminating every threat and every danger of catastrophe that such weapons may pose requires reactivating negotiations among nuclear-weapon States themselves with the goal of reducing the size of their arsenals and encouraging them to implement balanced global policies based on confidence-building measures that guarantee a complete halt to the development and improvement of deployed and non-deployed nuclear weapons and their delivery systems. We must also work towards the gradual reduction of such weapons with a view to their eventual total elimination, or to making their use for peaceful purposes verifiable and transparent, according to a firmly established timetable, as laid down in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

The international community must commit to respecting multilateralism in the field of disarmament and to respecting the principles agreed on within the relevant international treaties and arrangements. We must ensure that the goals of vertical and horizontal non-proliferation are realized, without at the same time forgetting those relating to strategic disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament.

We call for the issuance of a legally binding instrument that would guarantee that the nuclear arsenals that certain countries possess would not be used and that no one would threaten to use such weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States. The United Arab Emirates adopts a clear and firm national policy characterized by our accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1995. My country ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) in 2000, signed the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement in 2003, and adopted the Additional Protocol in 2010.

My country has worked tirelessly in terms of diplomacy at the international, regional and subregional levels, and on a multilateral basis, including as part of the efforts of the countries of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative, which aims at building confidence in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation with a view to reaffirming the universality of treaties on the prohibition of various

weapons of mass destruction. Once again, we pledge to cooperate as part of all the good offices aimed at resolving common problems in the field of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament in order to spare the world all the dangers that I have just described.

We look forward to finding a peaceful solution to the nuclear problems presented by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in order to avoid further tensions or confrontations in the world. We call for greater international efforts to be made to bring all Israeli nuclear facilities under the surveillance of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). We call on Israel to accede to the NPT, as other countries in the region have done, with a view to implementing all relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, as well as other resolutions calling for a zone free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, including the resolution adopted at the sixth NPT Review Conference in 2000. To that end, we hope that the work of the conference on the Middle East, due to be held in Finland in December, will be crowned with success.

We firmly believe in the legitimate right of countries, without discrimination, to participate in research on nuclear energy and its production and use for peaceful purposes under criteria defined by the IAEA safeguards. We call on nuclear-weapon States to support the needs of developing countries for nuclear scientific and technical facilities and materials to be used for the purposes of development and for other peaceful purposes.

My country will continue adopting further tangible measures to that end to develop its nuclear programme for peaceful purposes in order to meet its energy needs in the future, within the framework of the IAEA supervision and safeguards system. We will adopt the highest criteria of transparency, security and safety, and non-proliferation in the area of nuclear disarmament. We hope to cooperate with the IAEA and friendly countries that have long experience in that field with a view to contributing to mitigating the concerns and fears of the international community regarding disarmament. We want to prove that it is possible to adopt peaceful nuclear energy in a transparent, secure, safe and responsible manner.

The United Arab Emirates is disappointed by the fact that the international community has not yet been

able to reach an arms trade treaty, but we reiterate the importance of continuing negotiations on that subject so that we can agree on common parameters that might allow us to achieve that goal.

We welcome the positive results achieved by the Member States in New York when they reached a consensus on the outcome document of the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4, annexs I and II). My country hopes for greater international cooperation in order to reach the goals of the Programme of Action, since cooperation and coordination at the international level between Member States, as well as international assistance to countries that need it, are needed, so that ultimately we can reach the anticipated goals of the Programme, whose implementation will put a definitive end to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

In conclusion, we hope that our deliberations in the First Committee will allow us to strengthen our shared expectations so that we can realize the aspirations of our people for peace, security, development, and international and regional stability.

Mr. Al-Sallal (Yemen) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to sincerely congratulate the Chairman on his election to the chairmanship of the First Committee. We are certain that his experience and that of the other members of the Bureau will successfully contribute to the work of the Committee, thus ensuring that we will be able to meet the goals that have been set. We wish him and the other members of the Bureau every success in their work.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Egypt on behalf of the Group of Arab States. We also align ourselves with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who spoke on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

We would like to reiterate that the Republic of Yemen believes firmly in the goals and principles of disarmament, especially with regard to weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. We believe that multilateral collective action and the principles of dialogue, transparency, confidence-building and trust between States and political will are the best means for bringing about universal and total disarmament,

preventing proliferation, and creating a world of peace, understanding and stability.

My country is concerned about the current complex disarmament and international security situation. We therefore call for further efforts in order to overcome the impasse in the disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation field. I call for increased efforts for the adoption of practical and tangible measures that provide the best opportunity to make progress on the international agenda of complete disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation.

The Republic of Yemen has adopted firm positions on the disarmament of weapons of mass destruction and on nuclear non-proliferation. In implementing our country's political commitment to disarmament, we reiterate the importance of international peace and security, in which we firmly believe. That is why we have ratified or acceded to a considerable number of international disarmament treaties and conventions. My country will always seek to implement those international commitments, in accordance with the provisions of such treaties and conventions.

We reaffirm our principled position on the need to completely eliminate all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, in order to prevent nuclear proliferation. We commend the Secretary-General on his significant efforts and good offices in that regard, and we are keen not to see such weapons and their components cross our borders. To that end, we have set up national commissions and have adopted appropriate laws to prevent the proliferation of such weapons. Those laws also provide for sanctions against those involved in illicit activities. We call on nuclear-weapon States and States with nuclear arsenals to seriously do their utmost to eliminate those arsenals and to establish disarmament mechanisms for weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, in order to prevent proliferation.

We underscore the importance of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty as my country seeks to enhance its relationship with the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization. We recently appointed a national focal point to work with the Preparatory Commission. We therefore hope that we will receive the necessary technical support in order to ensure better coordination with the work of the Vienna International Centre.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is the cornerstone of the non-proliferation regime. My country acceded to the NPT in order to achieve security and stability in the world, in particular in the Middle East. However, the fact that Israel has continued its nuclear policy will push the region into an arms race, which threatens regional stability and security. International silence on the Israeli nuclear programme encourages that country to continue its policy, in defiance of the international community. Israel refuses to accede to the NPT, which poses a glaring threat to peace and security in the Middle East.

The nuclear facilities in the Middle East must be placed under the comprehensive safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). We again demand that all Israeli nuclear facilities be placed under the IAEA comprehensive safeguards system.

The Republic of Yemen has adopted a series of measures and actions to ban the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in 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. We are planning to establish a national committee to coordinate policies regarding such weapons and related activities. The committee will serve as the national focal point for combating the illicit trade in those weapons. Moreover, we have also recently adopted legislation that provides a legal framework to combat the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons. Aware of the scale of the threats posed by that phenomenon, my Government has introduced in the parliament a bill that regulates the possession of such weapons and that bans them in the capital and the main cities and authorizes the confiscation of unlicensed weapons. Eradicating this phenomenon requires redoubling of international efforts, to complement national ones.

We again call for the implementation of the Programme of Action with regard to strengthening national capacities so that countries are in a position to better implement the ideal measures provided for by the Programme, as well as those of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons. In this context, we welcome the adoption of the outcome documents of the second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action

to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4, annexes I and II).

My Government reiterates its call for further efforts towards the adoption of practical and specific measures to combat the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons. That phenomenon threatens peace and security in many countries and makes it easier for terrorist and transnational organized crime groups, as well as those seeking to destabilize countries, to obtain such weapons. It impedes development efforts and exacerbates poverty, violence and instability. The negative consequences of illicit trafficking go far beyond regional and national boundaries. My country therefore calls for international efforts to establish a legally binding instrument that includes international criteria restricting the trade in small arms and light weapons and that provides for effective international controls to combat and eradicate the phenomenon.

My delegation affirms that all efforts towards drafting a treaty on conventional weapons must be made pursuant to the spirit and letter of the Charter of the United Nations. It must be a balanced treaty that is adopted by consensus and free from political exploitation.

The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones will contribute positively to the further strengthening of the non-proliferation regime. The Middle East must be free from nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. That is a prerequisite for advancing the universality of the NPT and for implementing all its provisions, without exception. That would also be in implementation of the resolution on the Middle East that was adopted by the Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT in 1995 (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I), annex). No effort has been made over the past 17 years to implement that provision, which is a cornerstone and pillar of the Treaty. We therefore call for the adoption of all agreed practical measures within the plan of action adopted by the 2010 NPT Review Conference on the Middle East.

We welcome the initial preparations for the upcoming 2012 conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, and call for further international and regional efforts to be sustained to ensure that the 2012 conference is convened with the

support of all parties. Work on the first steps must begin in order to meet that objective.

We must also respect the choices made by Member States as regards the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We must seek to adopt a transparent approach based on full cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency. Obstacles that prevent Member States from developing their nuclear capacity for peaceful purposes must be overcome. Developed countries must also facilitate the transfer of technology to developing countries and provide necessary technical assistance to them in keeping with the NPT safeguards and guarantees.

Finally, my delegation wishes to cooperate with the Chair and with all participating delegations in order to make substantial progress in the work of the Committee on comprehensive and total disarmament, with security assurances for our people and with our support for peace, security and stability worldwide.

Mr. Al-Mouallimi (Saudi Arabia) (*spoke in Arabic*): It is an honour for me, on behalf of the Saudi Arabian delegation, to extend to our true friend, the Permanent Representative of the sister Republic of Indonesia, our most sincere congratulations and best wishes on his election to chair the First Committee at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly. Thanks to his experience and exceptional qualities, we are certain that the work of our session will be a success. We would also like to express our congratulations to the other members of the Bureau.

My delegation endorses the statements made at the 2nd meeting on behalf of the Group of Arab States and the Non-Aligned Movement.

Saudi Arabia, as one of the founding countries of the United Nations and first signatories of its Charter, has always been mindful of working diligently to ensure international peace and security, to improve the functioning of the United Nations and to move it towards the noble purposes and principles defined by the Charter. Those are goals to which we all aspire. We remain profoundly convinced that the capacity of the United Nations to discharge its duties depends, on the one hand, on the political will to implement its principles and, on the other hand, on its ability to modernize and improve its principal organs so that the Organization can become more representative, more adapted to the changes and developments on the international scene in the period before us.

The world is suffering various international crises at the moment, particularly in the Middle East, which has been undergoing drastic transformations and has been confronted with challenges requiring tireless efforts to prevent the situation from spiralling out of control. That can be done effectively only through concerted international action and true partnership. No State can confront those crises in isolation. The challenges that we are facing are international by nature and thus require international solutions.

Saudi Arabia expresses its conviction that the security assurances defined by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) are non-existent in the Middle East as long as Israel refuses to accede to the Treaty and to subject its nuclear facilities to the safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Israel has persisted in using various pretexts in refusing to accede to the NPT and ignored the appeals of the international community, thereby contributing to stoking tensions in the Middle East. As a result, Saudi Arabia believes that it would be useful to allay the concerns of the States of the region as to the wisdom of indefinitely extending the NPT — a sentiment that is amplified by Israel's refusal to sign the Treaty. Moreover, the great Powers — that is, the nuclear-weapon States — have the primary responsibility of restoring trust in the NPT and in removing the obstacles and challenges to its implementation.

Saudi Arabia reaffirms its belief in the importance of creating a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. Saudi Arabia calls on all States parties to the NPT, on the one hand, to seek to implement fully the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I), annex).

On the other hand, Saudi Arabia calls on them to support the decisions of the 2010 Review Conference regarding practical steps to be taken to implement the resolution of the 1995 Conference, including the holding of a conference in 2012, with the participation of all the States in the region, on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

We therefore call on the Secretary-General and those States that adopted the 1995 resolution to consult and cooperate closely with States in the region and to

make all the necessary preparations for a conference to be held in 2012. In that context, we welcome the efforts of the facilitator, Ambassador Jaakko Laajava, and we congratulate the Finnish Government for having offered to host the conference in Helsinki. We hope that all the parties will respond to the call to participate in the work of that conference.

The Iranian nuclear crisis is one of the greatest challenges facing international peace and security, impacting security and stability in the Arab Gulf region in particular. That is why my country supports the efforts of the five permanent members of the Security Council and Germany to resolve that crisis peacefully. We urge them to continue those efforts with a view to guaranteeing for Iran and all States in the region the right to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, in keeping with the criteria and procedures, and under the control, of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). We call on Iran to respond to those efforts, implement the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and cooperate with the IAEA and allow its inspectors to supervise its nuclear sites to put an end to the crisis. Saudi Arabia believes that all States have an inherent right to obtain nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

I must express my appreciation for the efforts of the Security Council, and in particular of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), to ensure the control and prevent the proliferation, transfer or use of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery, especially their provision to or possession by non-State actors. I reiterate the importance of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) to prevent weapons of mass destruction from falling into the hands of terrorist groups, and the need to step up controls on providers of nuclear services and technologies to prevent them from dealing with illegitimate parties.

My country has been active in a great many efforts to ensure international peace, security and stability. We presented our report to the 1540 Committee. This year, we contributed \$500,000 to support the work of the Committee and signed the safeguards agreement and small quantities protocol, as per the 2005 annex. We ratified that agreement, which came into force for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2009.

Finally, let me reaffirm that Saudi Arabia will remain firmly committed to all international efforts

to safeguard international peace and security and to achieve our aspirations for security, stability and prosperity.

The Chair: I shall now give the floor to those representatives who wish to speak in exercise of the right of reply. May I remind delegations that statements in the exercise of the right of reply are limited to 10 minutes for the first intervention, and to five minutes for the second intervention.

Mr. Kang Myong Chol (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): The delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in exercising its right of reply, rejects the statement made by the Japanese delegation, which seeks to mislead public opinion by distorting the realities of the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula.

My delegation would like to clarify and reiterate its long-standing position on the following issues. First, the nuclear and missile issue on the Korean peninsula is a product of the hostile policy of the United States of America towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The United States has defined the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as an enemy since the day it was founded, and has refused to recognize its sovereignty. It has designated the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as a target for pre-emptive strikes and as part of the axis of evil. With its nuclear weapons it has threatened the very existence of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for over half a century and continues to step up its hostile moves against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with the ultimate aim of overthrowing its political system.

One typical example was seen when United States troops in South Korea recently fired live ammunition at the Democratic People's Republic of Korea flag, which is a symbol of its sovereignty. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea possesses nuclear weapons for the purpose of deterring nuclear attack by the United States and defending its sovereignty. If the United States had not threatened the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with its nuclear weapons, the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula would never have arisen in the first place.

Secondly, the uranium-enrichment programme of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is intended solely for the peaceful use of nuclear energy, which is an inalienable right of all States. With regard to United Nations resolutions on the topic, the Democratic

People's Republic of Korea has never recognized them and has indeed totally rejected them because they are the product of high-handed arbitrariness and double standards in the Security Council, with the United States spearheading a slander and pressure campaign against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Security Council should have taken issue with the hostile nuclear threats against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea instead of remaining silent on the large-scale United States war exercises that take place annually in South Korea against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Japanese representative mentioned the need to comply with the 2005 joint statement of the Six-Party Talks. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea would like to place on record its understanding, or rather the understanding of all six parties concerned, as enshrined in the 2005 joint statement of the Six-Party Talks, that each party has an equal share of obligations to be fulfilled, and all parties agree to take coordinated steps to achieve the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in line with the principles of commitment-for-commitment and action-for-action.

The notion that the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula depends on a unilateral undertaking on the part of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons is very much mistaken. The joint statement calls for the harmonious settlement of the issues of denuclearization, the normalization of relations, energy compensation and the establishment of a peacekeeping regime. Important here is the joint undertaking of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States to exist peacefully together and take steps to normalize relations. Japan is the only party of the six that has failed to meet its obligations under the Six-Party agreement, posing obstacles and hindering the process of coordinated implementation of the agreements.

Thirdly, Japan has no right to talk about the risk of nuclear proliferation, because it is none other than Japan that poses the gravest threat of nuclear proliferation in the region. The three non-nuclear principles of Japan are just a deception. Japan is under the United States nuclear umbrella. Japan and the United States signed a nuclear pact in the 1960s under which United States nuclear submarines and aircraft carriers can freely enter Japan's territorial waters. Plutonium is piled up in excess in Japan, a total of more than 40 tons. Japan is

ready to produce nuclear weapons at short notice, since it has the material and know-how for manufacturing them. Politicians in Japan do not hesitate to speak out in calling for the country's nuclear weaponization. The reality clearly indicates that it is Japan that is a real threat to peace and security in north-east Asia and the region as a whole.

Mr. Amano (Japan): I would like to exercise the right of reply to address the groundless allegations just made by the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

First, the Government of Japan's adherence to the three non-nuclear principles — namely, not possessing, manufacturing or permitting the introduction of nuclear weapons into the territory of Japan — remains unchanged, and Japan's determination to work towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons, with a view to achieving a world without such weapons, is unshakeable.

Secondly, Japan maintains an exclusively defence-oriented policy, and therefore the exercises conducted by our self-defence forces do not target any particular country or area. Moreover, the ballistic missile defence system that Japan has decided to introduce is purely defensive and does not threaten any country or the area surrounding Japan.

Thirdly, there is no evidence that the Government of Japan has ever allowed the introduction of nuclear weapons by the United States into Japanese territories, based on United States nuclear policy expressed to date, such as the announcement in 1991 that it is the judgement of the Government of Japan that there is currently no introduction of nuclear weapons by the United States, including vessels and/or aircraft calling at ports in, landing on or transiting through Japanese territories. I reiterate here that Japan continues to maintain a policy of adhering to the three non-nuclear principles.

Fourthly, Japan has strictly complied with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the safeguards obligations of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as a party to the NPT. Japan's peaceful uses of nuclear energy have been confirmed by the IAEA, which asserts in its annual conclusions that all Japan's nuclear materials have continued to be used for peaceful activities. Moreover, beyond our legal obligations, following international transparency measures, Japan has regularly reported the amount of its plutonium holdings in accordance with guidelines for the management of plutonium, most recently on 17 September.

Finally, regarding the resumption of the Six-Party Talks, the international community must be reminded that it was the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that continued developing its nuclear and missile programmes, including its uranium -enrichment programme, in violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions and the September 2005 joint statement of the Six-Party Talks. It is imperative that the Democratic People's Republic take concrete action to demonstrate its genuine commitment to complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization so that the Six-Party Talks can be resumed. Based on that recognition, Japan, the United States and the Republic of Korea have been urging the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to take such concrete actions.

Mr. Kang Myong Chol (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): The Japanese delegation has again made provocative remarks. Japan is a cancer in North-East Asia that endangers regional peace and stability. Japan's Self-Defence Forces continue to arm themselves with sophisticated military hardware that goes beyond the scope of self-defence. Japan is reviving its long-cherished dream of militarization. It has territorial disputes with Asian neighbours. Japan would be well advised to realize where it stands right now and behave itself.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.