



# General Assembly

Sixty-eighth session

## First Committee

4<sup>th</sup> meeting

Tuesday, 8 October 2013, 10 a.m.  
New York

Official Records

Chair: Mr. Dabbashi ..... (Libya)

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

### Agenda items 89 to 107 (continued)

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

**The Chair** (*spoke in Arabic*): Before I open the floor, I should like to remind all delegations once more that the rolling list of speakers for this segment of our work will close today at 6 p.m. All delegations intending to take the floor in the general debate, therefore, should make every effort to inscribe their names on that list before the deadline.

**Mr. Arias González** (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): First of all I wish to congratulate you, Sir, on your election as Chair of the First Committee. I wish you all the best. You can be certain that you will be able to count on Spain's support to help you achieve a successful outcome to this session.

The work to promote non-proliferation and disarmament is essential to enhancing the possibilities for peace. Spain has been working with other members of the international community to attain these objectives. Our security policy attaches great importance to multilateralism and to international cooperation, in particular in the framework of the United Nations. We have no doubt regarding the crucial and irreplaceable role that the United Nations plays in tackling the challenges of international security, disarmament and non-proliferation.

In recent years there have been relevant successes in the nuclear sphere, such as the 2010 Review Conference

of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the entry into force of the New START Treaty. Promising progress has also been made on conventional weapons. The adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty and its opening for signature in June were milestones to which Spain contributed with a clear decision and resolute support. Spain was one of the first signatory States, and we can state with satisfaction that the Spanish system for the control of exports of defence material already complies with the provisions of the Arms Trade Treaty and in some aspects goes beyond what is established in the Treaty.

However, there are other areas where no progress has been made. The ongoing stalemate in the Conference on Disarmament — one of the key engines of the United Nations disarmament machinery — and the inability of the international community to launch negotiations regarding a treaty that would prohibit the manufacturing of fissile material, remain grounds for serious concern.

The effective functioning of multilateral institutions for disarmament is a guarantee for collective security, and no individual perception regarding one's own security can serve as a pretext for impeding the functioning of an international institution. Consensus as a functioning norm in areas as sensitive as those of disarmament and non-proliferation was conceived so as to consider and respect all opinions in the decision-making process. However, using consensus as a virtual veto undermines its very nature.

Much more serious was the verification of the use of chemical weapons in the war in Syria. Spain

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has sent three letters to the Secretary-General urging the investigation of all credible allegations of the use of these weapons of mass destruction, which, given their particular cruelty, have been prohibited under international law for almost a century now. Spain welcomes the adoption of Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), which establishes the procedures and the deadlines for the destruction of the Syrian chemical arsenal. I reiterate Spain's support for the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in eliminating these weapons in time. The commission of these crimes must not go unpunished and their perpetrators must be held accountable under international justice.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons continues to serve as the axis of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime. Therefore we must continue to work for its universalization and to implement, firmly and resolutely, the 2010 action plan, with a view to the upcoming 2015 Review Conference.

The establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East is a central issue. To achieve this, Spain believes it necessary to adopt a pragmatic and realistic approach, with an agenda based on gradual steps. It is essential to adopt measures to ensure that weapons of mass destruction do not fall into the hands of terrorist groups. We wish to underscore the importance of compliance with obligations and commitments arising from Security Council resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1887 (2009).

Spain wishes to offer its support to those countries that are developing their nuclear capacities in a responsible and transparent manner, in strict compliance with their international commitments and in keeping with the requirements of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Furthermore, once the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty enters into force, a further fundamental component of the disarmament and non-proliferation architecture will have been added. Once again we call upon those States that have still not done so — in particular the annex 2 States — to ratify this instrument as promptly as possible.

The international community must tackle two serious challenges in particular when it comes to nuclear proliferation, namely, the nuclear programmes

of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and of Iran.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea must stop flouting the will of the international community by making threats and provocations and must comply with Security Council resolutions. Pyongyang must accept the need to engage in good-faith negotiations on an arrangement that will remove the nuclear threat from the Korean peninsula.

As regards Iran, we welcome the conciliatory statement of President Rouhani. We hope it will be followed by actions that deliver a satisfactory solution to the Iranian nuclear matter. Spain does not doubt the legitimate aspiration to work in the context of a nuclear programme for peaceful purposes, and we call upon the Iranian authorities to allay the doubts raised by its nuclear programme, as they themselves have announced.

We also attach great significance to the matter of small arms and light weapons. These cause more than half a million victims every year and represent a further type of weapons of the mass destruction of human beings that requires this forum's urgent attention. Security Council resolution 2117 (2013), on small arms and light weapons, which was sponsored by Australia and co-sponsored by Spain, represents a significant step towards greater control by States over small arms and light weapons.

The First Committee will address a great number of items in its debate at this session. The Spanish delegation hopes that the Committee will be the scene of debates and ambitious results that can provide valid responses to the growing challenges that we face in the sphere of security, disarmament and non-proliferation.

Yesterday the representative of the European Union spoke (see A/C.1/68/PV.3), expressing the common position resulting from agreement among its member States, including Spain. His constructive arguments should be duly taken into account.

**Mr. Simon-Michel** (France) (*spoke in French*): First, allow me warmly to congratulate you, Sir, on your election to the Chair.

I shall read out an abridged version of my written statement, which shall be distributed to delegations.

France aligns itself with the statement made yesterday by the observer of the European Union (see

A/C.1/68/PV.3). I should like to make the following supplementary comments in my national capacity.

This was a year marked not only by major successes for the international community, but also by unacceptable new developments. Allow me to begin with the successes. The adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty in April was a historic step forward for international law. In our sector, it is the first major treaty adopted within the United Nations since 1996. It is the best illustration of the effective multilateralism to which France aspires and for which it calls. Universal standards governing legitimate trade and preventing illicit trafficking have at last been approved, and it is therefore essential that we move quickly towards the universalization of the Treaty. In Paris the parliamentary ratification procedure is under way; the French Senate is in fact deliberating on this matter today.

The secretariat established under the Treaty should be set up quickly. Several criteria will need to guide the choice of headquarters, including the presence of expertise in the field of disarmament and arms control and in international humanitarian law and human rights, and the proximity of organizations that operate in the field. The city of Geneva fully meets all these criteria.

The Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in April was another major success that should be welcomed. But at the same time that the 188 States parties to that Convention adopted an ambitious report by consensus, that barbaric weapon, banned for a century by international law, was used in Syria.

The use in Syria of a weapon of mass destruction by a Government against its own people is intolerable. The firm and determined reaction of several countries, including France, permitted the adoption of a decision by the Executive Council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons on 27 September and of Security Council resolution 2118 (2013). That resolution clearly condemns the chemical attack of 21 August. It refuses impunity and calls for those responsible to be tried. It acknowledges the existence of a threat to international peace and security and imposes important, legally binding decisions, with a view to destroying Syria's chemical weapon stocks. Finally, it decided that in case of non-compliance, the Security Council would impose new measures under Chapter VII.

The massacre committed on 21 August using chemical weapons was terrifying, but we must not forget the other sufferings of the Syrian people and the other violations of international humanitarian law, including the use of other unacceptable weapons, particularly cluster munitions and, according to certain allegations, incendiary weapons.

Nuclear proliferation has also brought its share of bad news. A new nuclear test was carried out by North Korea in February. That test was a serious act, a major threat to international peace and security. It was also, following the launch of a long-range missile on 12 December 2012, a new and unacceptable violation by North Korea of its international obligations. Those acts were condemned in Security Council resolutions 2087 (2013) and 2094 (2013). Pyongyang must end this escalation and its warmongering rhetoric.

The Iranian proliferation crisis remains a central concern for us. The new report by the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) confirms once again the violation by that country of its obligations under the resolutions of the IAEA Board of Governors and of the Security Council. Its stock of enriched uranium, including uranium enriched to more than 20 per cent, is still growing, and its heavy water activities continue.

We hope that the declarations of Iran's new President mark an overture. The President of the French Republic met him two weeks ago here in New York. He informed him of our availability for dialogue but also of our firmness regarding nuclear proliferation. We are awaiting tangible gestures to restore confidence, showing that Iran is truly prepared to address the expectations of the international community.

France continues to hope that full light will be shed on Syria's nuclear activities, past and present. We regret that the IAEA has had to postpone indefinitely a verification mission in 2013, and we call upon Syria to allow that inspection mission as soon as possible.

We must look to the future and address its challenges. An important debate has emerged in recent months on the issue of fully autonomous lethal robots. This is an important debate, as it raises the fundamental question of the place of man in the decision to use lethal force. It is also a difficult debate, as it highlights many ethical, legal, operational and technical issues. It deals with technologies that are not yet fully developed and are dual use. The terms of this debate must be clarified.

To be useful and to allow progress, this discussion should be held in an appropriate disarmament forum that brings together the necessary military, legal and technical expertise and all the States concerned.

Nuclear disarmament remains central to our commitment. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is the keystone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and the foundation of our nuclear disarmament efforts. The action plan adopted by consensus in 2010 is our road map. It is important to implement that road map and to stick to it without deviating from the chosen route. That means that nuclear-weapon States must live up to their commitments, and France is aware of its responsibilities as a nuclear-weapon State. With our Permanent Five partners and at national level, we are working in this direction. I will have an opportunity to return to this point in greater detail during the nuclear issues debate.

But the road map decided by the 2010 NPT action plan is also a common approach that commits all the States parties. It is a step-by-step approach. It is also a sequence for multilateral action, with the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the launch of negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT). This is a logical sequence.

The 2010 NPT action plan is very clear in this respect. Action 15 calls for negotiation of the FMCT to begin without delay in the Conference on Disarmament, in accordance with document CD/1299 and the mandate it contains. It is therefore urgent that the Conference adopt a work programme based on document CD/1864, agreed by consensus in 2009. We still wish to begin these negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament without delay. To this end, however, we supported resolution 67/53 so as to promote progress in talks on this treaty, which should be negotiated in the Conference on Disarmament. We believe that the Group of Governmental Experts, which will meet in 2014 and 2015, will make important progress possible.

To undermine the priority accorded to negotiating the FMCT would be to deviate from the route laid out in the 2010 road map, and would thus risk wasting more time. Last year France had to warn this gathering of the probable consequences of certain initiatives that created parallel forums. We must point out that, as we feared, this led to the reopening of discussions on the step-by-step approach and on the next negotiating priority. In the end, this endangers the road map of the 2010 NPT action plan.

Permit me to finish by affirming my country's commitment to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), an integral part of the disarmament machinery. France, which is traditionally the author of the five-yearly resolution on UNIDIR, is committed to the independence of the Institute and its mode of governance, based on the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters. It is essential that UNIDIR be able to continue its activities while maintaining its autonomy, as established by the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and confirmed by resolution 65/87.

**Mr. Çevik (Turkey):** At the outset, I should like to congratulate you, Mr. Chair, and the other members of the Bureau on your election. We are confident that the First Committee will successfully complete its deliberations under your able leadership, given your experience and diplomatic skills.

We are meeting today against the backdrop of a world in which, after nearly two decades of decline, the number of conflicts has begun to rise once again. Political instability and insecurity severely affect certain parts of the world, causing mass suffering and devastating the lives and futures of ordinary people. We are also faced with increasing common global security challenges due to new technologies and globalization. World military spending is not relenting, even with the economic difficulties that many nations face. To make matters worse, the mechanisms we have put in place to balance those challenges are not performing as they should. I do not wish to paint a bleak picture, but there is an existential malaise that we need to address expeditiously.

Our common aspiration remains a world without nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. We all expressed our views on this important matter during the fruitful High-level Meeting of The General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament, organized by the Non-Aligned Movement, two weeks ago. We were encouraged by the strong expression of support for this aspiration, but that support needs to be complemented by concrete steps.

The centrepiece mechanism of that aspiration — the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) — unfortunately does not function as effectively as we would wish. Turkey believes that an equal and balanced treatment of the three mutually reinforcing



pillars will solidify the integrity and credibility of the NPT regime.

The extent to which nuclear-weapon States are able to fulfil their disarmament commitments impacts its success. In this context, Turkey welcomes President Obama's Berlin call for further reductions. At the same time, the strict adherence of all NPT States to their non-proliferation obligations also affects the credibility of the regime. Finally, the right to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy needs to be carefully upheld. Naturally, this right comes with relevant international obligations. However, some countries, unfortunately, still remain outside this regime. We support its universalization, as well as its effective implementation in good faith and with consistency.

We acknowledge the international safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as the fundamental tool of global non-proliferation efforts. In this context, Turkey recognizes the need for the further strengthening and universalization of the Agency's verification authority. We regard the comprehensive safeguards and additional protocol of the IAEA as indispensable verification standards, and we call on States that have not yet done so to sign, ratify and implement them as soon as possible. We believe that strengthening the safeguards system and promoting the Agency's role and finances are also essential for the long-term sustainability of the NPT regime.

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 in the NPT. In our view, that would only contribute to the further strengthening the universalization of the NPT regime. Having said that, we must also ensure that all requisite steps are taken to ensure that there is no diversion of nuclear programmes from peaceful to military uses.

On the other hand, Turkey strongly believes that the cessation of all nuclear-weapon tests constitutes an indispensable measure to achieve both nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We stress the centrality of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in achieving these objectives. The international community has spent enough time waiting for the Treaty to enter into force. Once again we encourage all States, especially annex 2 States, to ratify the Treaty as soon as possible.

Creating conditions for a world without nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction is a major investment towards a safer world and undiminished security for all. Turkey remains deeply concerned by the possible humanitarian catastrophe for humanity should those lethal weapons ever be used, either intentionally or accidentally. We therefore supported and actively participated in the Oslo Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons. We are looking forward to making further contributions at the upcoming meeting in Mexico.

Turkey is part of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI), along with 11 other countries from around the globe. The NPDI is proving to be a middle-Powers initiative that promotes the implementation of the consensus outcomes of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT. We continue to contribute our share to the advancement of the goals of non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament.

We are past the halfway mark of the current NPT review cycle, and the next Review Conference is approaching fast. But we are not yet able to build on the basis of the existing Treaty. Commitments are overlooked and promises for the present review cycle are not upheld. I am specifically referring to our promise to the world to hold an international conference for the establishment of a Middle East free from all weapons of mass destruction in 2012. Despite the negative conditions in the region, the international community, in particular the conveners, should spare no effort to organize this conference as soon as possible. We should not turn a blind eye to the fact that the success of the review cycle is very much dependent on the realization of this project.

The Conference on Disarmament has a special responsibility in the contemporary disarmament agenda. We should strive to maintain the relevance of the Conference by fulfilling its fundamental task. We still hope that the Conference will resume substantive work as early as possible. The CD needs to be revitalized in order to resume the unique negotiation role for which it is mandated. Turkey believes that the Conference possesses the mandate, membership and rules of procedure to effectively discharge its duties. We see the recently established informal working group as an indication of a shared recognition of the need to come up with a consensual programme of work urgently.

Moreover, it is our firm belief that starting negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty will be a significant building block. It will further pave the way for parallel advances in the other core agenda items, including disarmament, negative security assurances and the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and Biological Weapons Convention are important components of the global system against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Turkey does not possess any such weapons and reiterates its call for a wider adherence to and effective implementation of these Conventions. We actively support efforts to promote the implementation and universalization of these instruments.

We view Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), on the verification and elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons inventory, as a significant step forward, further strengthening the universal normative framework established by the CWC, by determining that the use of chemical weapons anywhere constitutes a threat to international peace and security. The Syrian regime must abide by its promises. Non-compliance will have consequences.

Very often, we speak about the threat posed by nuclear and chemical weapons. However, there is another type that is equally threatening, and that is conventional weapons, particularly small arms and light weapons. Due to the mass suffering they cause, these weapons are even regarded as weapons of mass destruction in many parts of the world, namely, in Africa.

The illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation, uncontrolled spread and misuse 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 a well-documented relationship among their illicit trade, terrorism and organized crime. In this connection, Turkey was heartened by the conclusion and signing of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which was a momentous achievement. Since the outset Turkey supported and actively participated in the process, thereafter signing the ATT. The Treaty's real strength will be in its universalization and implementation. We therefore invite all States, in particular the leading exporters, to sign and ratify the Treaty so that it can enter into force without delay.

Turkey will continue actively to contribute to all efforts within the United Nations and other forums for the establishment of effective norms and rules aimed at eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. Turkey remains committed to the effective implementation and further strengthening of the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons. We were therefore pleased that the 2012 Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action yielded results.

Early in my statement, I mentioned the malaise in the system. I touched upon the many challenges facing us. The First Committee is an important place where all of us can address those challenges and influence the future. We should uphold this responsibility. We hope that these deliberations will contribute to eliminating the obstacles standing in the way of a safer and more secure world. I wish to conclude by assuring you, Mr. Chairman, of our delegation's full support and cooperation in bringing this session to a successful conclusion.

**Mrs. Ledesma Hernández** (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Cuban delegation congratulates you, Sir, on your election to chair the work of this Committee and extends its congratulations to the other members of the Bureau.

We fully endorse the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (NAM) (see A/C.1/68/PV.3).

On 26 September, we had the historic opportunity to participate in the first High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament. That was a Cuban initiative, embraced and promoted by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. The high-level meeting provided an excellent opportunity to exchange views, advance nuclear disarmament, send a message of the political commitment of the States Members of the United Nations to a world free of nuclear weapons, and boost the coordination of the efforts of the international community to prohibit and fully eliminate nuclear arsenals.

Several proposals were submitted during the meeting. Among them, we highlight the proposal of the Non-Aligned Movement and of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). In the First Committee, NAM will present a draft resolution on the follow-up to the high-level meeting, which will

include, inter alia, a propose to proclaim 26 September the international day for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. At that meeting, the CELAC member States presented a declaration presenting our priorities, and we agreed, among other things, to continue coordinating positions and contributing to the implementation of practical actions in follow-up to the High-level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament.

Cuba supports the NAM proposal for the urgent launching of negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament on the prompt conclusion of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons, banning the possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use of such weapons and stipulating their destruction. In the same vein, we reiterate our commitment to working for the convening of an international high-level conference by 2018 at the latest to identify ways and means of eliminating nuclear weapons in the shortest possible period, with the goal of agreeing upon a phased programme for their complete elimination within a specific time frame.

It is unacceptable that nuclear deterrence remains the foundation of military doctrines that authorize the possession and use of nuclear arsenals. The only guarantee that these weapons will not be used by States or by anyone else will be their complete elimination and prohibition under strict international control. Nuclear Powers continue to fail to meet their obligation, under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to negotiate an international treaty to eliminate nuclear weapons. Instead, they continue to enhance their nuclear arsenals in vertical proliferation, which is seldom discussed.

We should promote and agree upon concrete steps that will lead to the complete elimination and prohibition of nuclear weapons in a binding, non-discriminatory, transparent, verifiable and irreversible manner. We must also initiate international negotiations to conclude, as soon as possible, a treaty that will offer 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 disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation efforts. We support the establishment without delay of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Cuba considers troubling and unjustifiable the failure to comply with the agreement

to convene in 2012 an international conference for the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. The convening of that conference is an important and integral part of the final outcome of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. We call for its convening without further delay and before this year ends.

Our country reaffirms the inalienable right of States to undertake research, production and development of the peaceful use of nuclear energy without discrimination. With regard to non-proliferation, we believe that the manipulation that is based on double standards and on political interest that seeks to limit the inalienable right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy by developing countries should stop. Multilateralism that is based on strict respect for the Charter of the United Nations is the only way to achieve relevant and lasting results in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.

Cuba supports efforts to optimize the United Nations disarmament machinery but is convinced that the paralysis that affects a large portion of that machinery is chiefly due to the lack of political will by some States to make real progress, in particular on nuclear disarmament. We are satisfied that the Disarmament Commission has agreed on the agenda containing substantive items for the current three-year cycle and that the item "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons" has been included.

The Conference on Disarmament has an essential role as the world's single multilateral negotiating forum for treaties in the field of disarmament. We are concerned by the ideas voiced by some that the Conference on Disarmament should be set aside, using the argument that it is a useless body. Cuba does not endorse that position. We reiterate that it is a responsibility of all to preserve and strengthen the Conference on Disarmament.

The Conference on Disarmament should promptly adopt a comprehensive and balanced programme of work that takes real disarmament priorities into account, starting with nuclear disarmament. Cuba considers that that body is prepared to negotiate in parallel a treaty that would eliminate and prohibit nuclear weapons, prohibit an arms race in outer space, provide effective security guarantees for States, such as Cuba, that do not possess nuclear weapons, and prohibit the production

of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

Cuba welcomes the outcomes of the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, which enabled a reaffirmation of the basic principles and objectives of that Convention and the preservation of the balance of its four fundamental pillars — destruction, verification, assistance and international cooperation. The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons has an important role in the promotion of the economic and technological development of States parties, particularly of those less developed. It is urgent that a plan of action be adopted to ensure the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of article XI of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Our country reiterates its commitment to the strict implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention. Cuba believes that there is a great deal to be done to promote the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of article X of this important instrument. The only way to strengthen the Convention is by adopting a legally binding protocol that resolves the gaps remaining in this instrument and which covers the fundamental pillars of that Convention, including international cooperation.

In March this year, the international community confirmed the lack of agreement and consensus in the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty. The Conference provided a historic opportunity to provide an effective response to the serious consequences of the illicit and unregulated trade in arms that affects many people and States worldwide. Nevertheless, that opportunity was not duly taken. Unfortunately, the agreement to work on the basis of consensus in that process was disregarded, and that forced a vote on a text that did not meet the just claims and needs of the international community.

The Arms Trade Treaty is marked by numerous ambiguities, uncertainties, inconsistencies and legal voids. It is an unbalanced text that favours arms-exporting States, which are provided with privileges to the detriment of the legitimate interests of the other States, including interests concerning national defence and security. The Treaty favours the interests of certain exporting States over the human suffering caused by the illicit and unregulated trafficking in arms. Cuba

will continue to implement all necessary measures to prevent and combat the illicit trade in arms.

Furthermore, we are pleased 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 final documents, wherein the full effect and validity of the Programme of Action as the suitable instrument to address this scourge are reaffirmed.

Amid an international panorama marked by economic crises and cuts in public expenditure, global military expenditure continues to increase, with the 2012 figures estimated at \$1.75 trillion. Similarly, last year we witnessed an increase in the funding to subversive plans targeting legitimately established Governments as part of a policy to bring about regime change that supports the geopolitical interests of major Powers, and conflicts that have been fuelled by illegal arms transfers to non-State actors and the use of mercenaries, all of which are in flagrant violation of international norms and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

The international scenario as described reflects the importance of the work of this Committee, dedicated to matters of disarmament and international security. We call for the achievement of concrete results.

Allow me to conclude by renewing the full support of the Cuban delegation for your work, Mr. Chair, and for the successful work of this Committee.

**Mr. Khalil (Egypt)** (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I am pleased to extend our congratulations to you, Sir, on your election as Chair of the First Committee. I assure you of our cooperation in supporting your efforts to bring about the success of the Committee.

(*spoke in English*)

My delegation associates itself with the statements of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Group of African States and the Group of Arab States delivered, respectively, by the representatives of Indonesia, Nigeria and Bahrain (see A/C.1/68/PV.3).

The First Committee meets this year at an important juncture in global nuclear-disarmament efforts, where the General Assembly has taken the lead by convening the first ever High-level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament, on 26 September. The meeting



demonstrated the global resolve to rid the world of nuclear weapons. The multilateral disarmament machinery must shoulder its responsibility to achieve this goal.

Egypt believes that we should invest in the momentum created by the High-level Meeting. We believe that the First Committee should, this year during this session, adopt a resolution to follow up on its results. We support the draft resolution proposed by the Non-Aligned Movement to mobilize efforts in the United Nations system and beyond for the total elimination of nuclear weapons by designating an international day for nuclear disarmament, to invite the Secretary-General to produce a report containing the views of Member States on a nuclear-weapons convention, in preparation for launching negotiations, and to convene a summit on nuclear disarmament in 2018 to review progress.

We call on the entire United Nations membership to support those concrete and incremental measures to reach our common goal of nuclear disarmament. We consider those steps to be a catalyst in support of the multilateral disarmament machinery. They are only preliminary measures among a wider menu of options for further action in the direction of concluding a nuclear-weapons convention to ban the production, development and possession of such weapons and end their threat to humanity. The role and mandate of the General Assembly cannot be underestimated in this regard.

The High-level Meeting showed that international efforts related to the global elimination of nuclear weapons should be pursued through a disarmament perspective, and that any international initiative in the field should have as its aim and main focus the achievement of nuclear disarmament. This is applicable when we discuss a possible fissile material cut-off treaty. It should include the past production of fissile material and lead to a time-bound process for its elimination. This view is shared by many States that truly believe in nuclear disarmament. We hope this will be the focus of the governmental group of experts that the Secretary-General is mandated to form. Egypt stands ready to contribute to the related discussions.

Efforts for global nuclear disarmament are further strengthened by the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones. Nowhere is that more important than in the Middle East, as evidenced by the General Assembly's annual consensus resolution introduced by

Egypt. This global consensus gained an operational dimension through the collective agreement of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to convene a conference in 2012 on the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. The postponement of that conference caused profound disappointment. It contradicts the collective agreement of 2010. Egypt calls for the convening of the conference without delay, to implement the 2010 mandate and to achieve the long-overdue objectives of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East that led to the indefinite extension of the Treaty.

We expect that, at this session, the First Committee will deliver the necessary measures through the two annual draft resolutions introduced by Egypt, entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East" and "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East". To achieve these goals, Egypt has engaged constructively in all forums. Nabil Fahmy, Foreign Minister of Egypt, launched an initiative on 28 September during the high-level segment debate of the General Assembly (see A/68/PV.18). It consists of the following steps, which are complementary to the convening of the Conference.

First, we invite all countries of the Middle East, as well as the five permanent members of the Security Council, to deposit official letters with the Secretary-General stating their support for declaring the Middle East a region free from weapons of mass destruction. Secondly, the countries of the region that have not yet acceded to any of the international conventions on weapons of mass destruction should, before the end of this year, commit to simultaneously signing and ratifying the relevant conventions to which they are not parties. They should also deposit proof of that with the Security Council. Egypt invites all States of the region to respond positively to this initiative. We ask the Secretary-General to coordinate the above steps to ensure their success. We will lend all possible resources and make every effort to ensure the success of this initiative and the efforts of the Secretary-General in this regard.

This session of the First Committee is the first since the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) under resolution 67/234 B. I take this opportunity to reiterate that Egypt is well aware of the effects of the illicit trafficking in weapons. We are fully committed to making all efforts to combat and eradicate the illicit

trade in arms. We urge all countries that decide to accede to the ATT to implement it in good faith in order to achieve its purpose and goals. We will be closely following the developments regarding the accession to, entry into force, and implementation of the Treaty in order to determine our final position.

The international community should continue to work to fill in the remaining gaps. We continue to call for addressing the elements of overproduction and the ever-increasing stockpiles of conventional weapons in major arms-exporting and producing States. We still believe that every effort must be made to bring production and stockpiles in major arms-producing States under international scrutiny. International accountability is the only guarantee against the possible abuse of the existing imbalance between major arms producers and the rest of the world.

That imbalance is exacerbated by advancements in conventional weapons. Egypt reiterates that technology should not overtake humanity. The potential or actual development of lethal autonomous robots raises many questions about their compliance with international humanitarian law as well as issues of warfare ethics. Such issues need to be fully addressed. Regulations should be put in place before systems such as lethal autonomous robots are developed and/or deployed.

While the increasing sophistication of weapons is an added challenge, the continuing threat posed by the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons is one that should be addressed adequately. Egypt has twice facilitated the review of the International Tracing Instrument as part of the review processes of the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Finally, we trust, Sir, that your able stewardship of the activities of the First Committee will lead us to make further progress on a balanced agenda of disarmament and international security on the fronts of both weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons. We reiterate our support to you in this regard and stand ready to contribute our part.

**Mr. Sergeyev (Ukraine):** On behalf of the delegation of Ukraine, allow me to congratulate you, Mr. Chair, and other members of the Bureau on your election and express our confidence that you will lead our deliberations to a successful outcome.

The full version of my statement will be posted on the website, but let me say a few words to contribute to our discussion.

My delegation considers the issue of disarmament to be critical to global peace, security and development and believes that general and complete disarmament is the cornerstone of international peace and security. Ukraine has consistently supported a multilateral approach to the disarmament and international security agenda. While recognizing the difficulties in the implementation of existing international treaties and in bringing new ones into force, as well as the deadlock in the disarmament negotiations, we fully reaffirm our commitment to maintaining and strengthening the current disarmament machinery and international cooperation in order to reinforce the existing international disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

We share the view that the use of nuclear weapons is the most serious threat faced by humankind nowadays. For many years Ukraine has been consistent in its call for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. We believe that it is essential to strengthen international cooperation in order to reinforce the existing international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. In pursuing that goal, my country has demonstrated a proactive approach. It set a pattern to follow by abandoning its nuclear capability and acceding to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in November 1994, and it took concrete steps to eliminate the use of highly enriched uranium for civilian purposes by removing all of its existing stocks from our national territory in March 2012.

Ukraine regards the NPT as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and comprehensively supports its effective implementation, further strengthening and universalization. We emphasize the importance of strict adherence by the States parties to the provisions of the Treaty and call for the application of effective measures in all its three pillars.

My country welcomes the successful start of the preparatory cycle for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT and notes with appreciation that States have demonstrated their goodwill by taking stock of the activities of recent years and consolidating the successes achieved in this field by

bridging the differences and finding common ground for collaboration in the true spirit of multilateralism.

While emphasizing the importance of implementing the decisions of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, Ukraine would also like to support the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. We consider the convening of a conference on this issue to be one of the priority tasks, the successful implementation of which will increase the level of regional and international security and strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

In this context, we also encourage the universalization of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) with the view that its entry into force will constitute a tangible step towards attaining the noble objective of a safe and peaceful world free of nuclear weapons. It is of the greatest importance that the integrity of the norms set out in the CTBT be respected. The current voluntary moratoriums on nuclear-weapon tests are valuable, but they are no substitute for a binding global ban. We call on the relevant Member States urgently to ratify the CTBT.

Ukraine continues to support the development of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards system and calls on all NPT parties that have not yet done so to conclude and strictly implement comprehensive safeguards agreements with the IAEA and to conclude and put into effect additional protocols.

We also continue to insist that negotiating and concluding a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT) will be essential both to constrain nuclear proliferation and to advance the goal of nuclear disarmament. Ukraine issues a strong appeal to find common ground on the issue of existing fissile material stocks and the immediate commencement of negotiations on the FMCT within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament.

Ukraine considers the total elimination of nuclear weapons to be the only absolute guarantee against the scourge of nuclear warfare and supports the call for the immediate adoption of a comprehensive international agreement on the banning of nuclear weapons. However, we must admit that that goal cannot be achieved in a short period of time. It therefore requires that the international community take a long-term approach, with practical steps and effective disarmament measures in a transparent, non-discriminatory, verifiable and irreversible manner, to build a system of

mutually reinforcing instruments for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.

As the total elimination of nuclear weapons remains an unattainable goal, we continue to insist on the granting of legally binding security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States in order to protect them from the use or threat of use of this type of weapon of mass destruction. The issue of negative security assurances is one of the veritable priorities on the international disarmament agenda and is widely supported by the vast majority of members. Numerous consultations in various international forums have repeatedly acknowledged an urgent need to conclude a relevant binding instrument and have demonstrated the ripeness of this issue for negotiation. As a country that has declared non-bloc and non-nuclear-weapon status, Ukraine continues to insist that legally binding security assurances be granted to non-nuclear-weapon States. This issue remains of particular importance, given that some States still refuse to give up the development of new types of weapons and the upgrading of existing nuclear arsenals.

The elaboration of a draft legal international agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons will represent an achievable step towards the fulfilment of the commitments undertaken under action 7 of the 2010 NPT action plan and will strongly promote a further non-proliferation agenda. States Members of the United Nations should utilize all existing institutional mechanisms, including the Conference on Disarmament, to promote the consideration of this issue. We believe that the convocation of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations, as well as the establishment of a United Nations group of governmental experts to conduct a relevant thematic study, would contribute to the elaboration of a mutually acceptable solution for the provision of security assurances to non-nuclear States.

Moreover, we are of the opinion that in order to provide pertinent support to the entire process of disarmament and to overcome persistent discord, there is a need to conduct parallel negotiations on negative security assurances and the FMCT. Consideration of both disarmament and non-proliferation objectives on an equal footing, and granting them the same level of our attention, would contribute to confidence-building

and would mutually reinforce both concerns, building a new quality of regional and global security.

In speaking about strengthening safety and security in outer space, we welcome the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities (A/68/189), requested pursuant to resolution 65/68. In May, together with the European Union, Ukraine hosted open-ended consultations on a draft code of conduct, which enabled an extensive exchange among participants. We hope that serves as a step forward toward the next round of open-ended consultations in November 2013 in Bangkok.

As the current holder of the chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Ukraine attaches paramount importance to enhancing cooperation among participating States in the sphere of security and non-proliferation. In this regard, we are planning to conduct a regional workshop on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), to be hosted by the Government of Ukraine, in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Conflict Prevention Centre of the OSCE, on 5 November in Kyiv.

Ukraine welcomed the investigation launched by the Secretary-General into the alleged use of chemical weapons in Syria, and the report on events in Damascus on 21 August. The investigation illustrates the viability of the Secretary-General's mechanism as an important instrument. Ukraine also welcomes Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons Executive Council decision of 27 September on the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons, as they represent a major step towards a robust, sustainable and unified international response to the crisis in Syria.

Finally, revitalization of the multilateral disarmament institutions and negotiations is among the ultimate tasks of the international community. We therefore welcome the important step forward taken by the international community through the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty on 2 April in New York by an overwhelming majority of Member States from all regions. The Treaty sets new international standards and provides a forum for transparency and accountability in the conventional arms trade. In this context, we also draw particular attention to the resumption of the activities of the Conference on Disarmament,

which we believe is an indispensable instrument for achieving ultimate disarmament and building a nuclear-weapon-free world.

I wish also to use this opportunity to invite all members to the round table discussion entitled "Twenty years of renunciation of nuclear weapons by Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine: lessons learned and prospects for nuclear disarmament", to be held this Thursday.

**Mr. Donoghue** (Ireland): May I congratulate you, Sir, on your election as Chair of the First Committee and assure you of my delegation's full support throughout this session.

Ireland associates itself with the statement delivered by the representative of the European Union (see A/C.1/68/PV.3) and with the statement to be delivered by the representative of Egypt on behalf of the New Agenda Coalition. I should like to add the following remarks in a national capacity.

The recent use of chemical weapons in Syria offers us a stark and horrific reminder of why the international community has a duty to work proactively to eliminate weapons of mass destruction in all their forms and from all military arsenals.

The Chemical Weapons Convention stands as a successful treaty instrument by any standards. It enjoys near-universal adherence and, only 15 short years since it entered into force, it has almost reached its goal of eliminating an entire weapons category from global arsenals. The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons is already contemplating its role in a chemical-weapons-free world.

And yet, the appalling scenes that emerged from Syria in August demonstrate clearly that there can be no room for complacency with regard to chemical weapons. Television images of the immediate humanitarian consequences of their use on innocent civilians in Damascus, including children, stand as testimony to that fact. The international community has rightly conveyed its sense of complete revulsion at those events and its abhorrence of any use of chemical weapons under any circumstances. For the vast majority of Member States, the days of these weapons as weapons of war are over. They must never be allowed to re-enter military arsenals, and we must therefore continue to press ahead in our efforts to achieve universal adherence to the Chemical Weapons Convention and full implementation of its provisions.



Ireland believes that, as with chemical weapons, the days of nuclear weapons are also over. Yet, 43 years on from the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the global nuclear arsenal stands in excess of 17,000 weapons as the international community remains mired in discussions about the conditions that must prevail before those weapons can be consigned to history, along with the other weapons of mass destruction that humanity has already prohibited. This is no longer sustainable and no longer acceptable.

One of the most important outcomes that flowed from the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT was the re-emergence of the humanitarian consequences narrative on nuclear weapons. It has offered a means of stepping beyond the constraints of traditional treaty discussions to return to first principles and to examine, first and foremost, the practical consequences for mankind of any nuclear-weapons detonation. Those consequences can be described as calamitous for men, women and children who are caught up in a nuclear explosion. The International Committee of the Red Cross has clearly established them as unmanageable and beyond the control of individual administrations and agencies. The extent to which Governments would be overwhelmed in such a situation was made clear by the very useful discussion last March in Oslo regarding the humanitarian impact of a nuclear-weapons detonation. We are grateful to the Government of Norway for hosting that meeting and to the Government of Mexico for agreeing to host a follow-on meeting next February.

Meanwhile, a statement acknowledging the catastrophic consequences that would flow from any nuclear-weapons detonation offers us both a basis for reframing our debate about nuclear weapons and an impetus for making progress. This vital debate cannot be dismissed as a distraction from the work of negotiating the elimination of nuclear weapons. On the contrary, it must be among the foremost precepts that inform and guide that process. For far too long, we have allowed process to trump progress in nuclear-disarmament negotiations. Now we must put the emphasis instead on making progress.

Last November, at its sixty-seventh session, the General Assembly expressed very clearly its dissatisfaction with the lack of progress on disarmament. By overwhelming majority votes, it established two new initiatives to facilitate new discussions on nuclear

disarmament: the Group of Governmental Experts to examine possible aspects of a fissile material treaty, and the open-ended working group on taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations. The Assembly also decided to convene its first-ever High-level Meeting On Nuclear Disarmament, which took place last month. These were clear signals from the General Assembly that in the view of the overwhelming majority of countries, time cannot stand still on nuclear disarmament.

There is in particular a growing impatience that the Conference on Disarmament, which was designed to be the world's multilateral disarmament negotiating body, has been unable to perform its role for more than 15 years, despite the many pressing arms-control challenges facing us today.

We have seen the effective role that the General Assembly can play, for example, with regard to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). A comprehensive and robust arms trade treaty has long been a major foreign policy priority for Ireland. Its adoption is a significant achievement, and its effective implementation would be a triumph for the international community. This demonstrates the vital contribution that the United Nations can make towards international peace and security.

However, we must not now lose momentum. We must concentrate our efforts on encouraging States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Arms Trade Treaty at the earliest opportunity so that it can enter into force and begin saving lives. Nationally, we are working swiftly towards ratification in the coming months. For too long the unregulated trade in arms has exacted a heavy toll on lives, has crippled economies, and has deflected precious resources away from sustainable development. The ATT has the potential to make a real and lasting difference.

In the past year, we have seen deeply worrying reports of the use of anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions and incendiary weapons against civilian targets. Indeed, recent images of the aftermath of what appears to be the use of fuel air explosives on a school in Syria are deeply shocking. We must never forget that what we do or do not do in this room and in all disarmament forums has a very real impact on people across the world. Ireland remains deeply committed to achieving disarmament, not just as a political goal, but as a humanitarian one.

**Mr. Haniff** (Malaysia): On behalf of the delegation of Malaysia, I wish to extend my congratulations to you, Sir, on your election as Chair of the First Committee, and to the other members of the Bureau. My delegation pledges its full support and cooperation to you, and we trust that your experience and wisdom will guide these proceedings to a successful conclusion.

At the outset Malaysia wishes to associate itself with the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (see A/C.1/68/PV.3).

The current state of affairs in the field of disarmament and international security is disappointing. The high priority accorded to nuclear disarmament remains on the agenda of the United Nations, while the lack of actual progress remains a sad reality for the international community. The report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (A/68/1) presents this clearly — no disarmament negotiations, no fissile material treaty, no entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and no conference mandated for 2012 on establishing a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

Following a draft resolution from the First Committee last year, the General Assembly was recently able to convene its high-level meeting on nuclear disarmament. The Prime Minister of Malaysia joined many other Heads of State and Government in calling for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. That was a signal at the highest level, which we trust has been received in its entirety.

We strongly believe there is an urgent need for the First Committee to continue to develop innovative approaches, similar to what it did last year with the open-ended working group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, the establishment of the group of governmental experts on aspects of a fissile material treaty, and the convening of an organizational meeting for an open-ended working group on the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

Another significant development in the field of disarmament is the increasing recognition of the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. That is a position to which Malaysia firmly subscribes, and we are pleased to note the growing interest among Member States.

The Secretary-General has identified the deadlock in the Conference on Disarmament (CD) as the greatest institutional challenge on the disarmament agenda. After 17 years of stalemate we could not agree more. Malaysia believes that it is vital for Member States to exercise flexibility and political will to rejuvenate the negotiations. In this regard, we welcome the establishment of an informal working group to produce a programme of work, which we feel is a small step in the right direction.

Malaysia also supports the ongoing efforts to negotiate a treaty banning the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices. We believe such a treaty is essential in preventing the vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons. However, my delegation deeply regrets the continuing inflexible postures of some of the nuclear-weapon States, which continue to prevent the CD from establishing an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament. Malaysia calls on the Conference to establish, as soon as possible and as the highest priority, an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament.

Malaysia's vision of a nuclear-weapon-free world is also pursued through the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Achieving such a world rests on fulfilment of the basic bargain embodied in the three pillars of the NPT, namely, disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. This year's Preparatory Committee meeting in Geneva showed that much work is still required, given the divergent views and approaches with respect to the three pillars. My delegation fears that the NPT regime itself may not be sustainable if important issues continue to be relegated to an indefinite holding pattern. Malaysia calls on the nuclear-weapon States to use this current cycle to substantiate their commitments to eliminate their nuclear arsenals in the run-up to the 2015 Review Conference.

Malaysia also deeply regrets the failure to convene the Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, which was scheduled for last year. Malaysia strongly urges the Secretary-General, as well as the concerned States, to convene the conference at the earliest possible opportunity, with the active participation of all States in the region. We welcome the recent announcement by Ambassador Jaakko Laajava regarding the proposed meeting on 21 and 22 October 2013 in Montreux, Switzerland to discuss the agenda

and modalities of the conference. My delegation believes the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction will enhance not only regional but also global peace. It will also spur non-proliferation efforts among countries in the region that are parties to, or outside of, international weapons-of-mass-destruction regimes.

On the topic of nuclear-weapon-free zones, my delegation welcomes the adoption of the revised Plan of Action 2013-2017 to strengthen the implementation of the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, which we hope will intensify negotiations between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the five nuclear-weapon States on the Protocol to the Treaty. Malaysia looks forward to the signing of the Protocol and its related documents as soon as possible.

The catastrophic effects of a nuclear-weapon detonation, whether by accident, miscalculation or design, cannot be adequately addressed. It is for this reason that Malaysia believes that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is a significant element for ridding the world of nuclear weapons. Malaysia urges countries that have not signed or ratified the Treaty to do so at the earliest.

My delegation is concerned at the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic. We condemn without reservation the use of chemical weapons, and we call on the international community to intensify efforts to explore all possible diplomatic options for peace under the auspices of the United Nations. We also welcome the Syrian Government's recent signing of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction.

Turning to conventional arms, Malaysia welcomes the General Assembly's adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). I am pleased to announce that Malaysia joined the ranks of signatory States to the ATT on 26 September, when the honourable Prime Minister of Malaysia affixed his signature to the landmark document. Malaysia has always supported the ATT process. Together with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, we hosted a regional disarmament meeting entitled "Asia Regional Meeting to Facilitate Dialogue on the Arms Trade Treaty" in Kuala Lumpur 26 and 27 February. My delegation recognizes that although the ATT may not satisfy all the concerns of all States, it will develop and evolve as common understandings

and interpretations are made, as implementation moves forward, and as the conference of States parties develops.

Finally, I am pleased to inform Member States that Malaysia will be submitting its traditional 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". We will introduce this year's draft resolution, which will incorporate technical updates, during the next segment of the work of the Committee beginning on 17 October. While we will be elaborating further on the draft resolution at a later stage, at this point I would like to invite all Member States to support this draft resolution and to consider joining the growing number of States co-sponsoring it.

**Mr. Ulyanov** (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Allow me to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election to this responsible position and to wish you every success in the upcoming work. Needless to say, you can count on the support of the Russian delegation.

For this statement, we have chosen from the broad agenda of the First Committee the topics that we consider to be the most critical today.

First is the matter of nuclear disarmament in the context of maintaining strategic stability. Since signing the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), Russia and the United States, in carrying out their obligations under article VI of the Treaty, have achieved and implemented a number of fundamental agreements on reducing their nuclear arsenals. Among these we note the 1987 Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, the 1991 Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START I), and the 2002 Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty, known as the Moscow Treaty, and finally in 2010 the Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, the so-called New START Treaty.

So as not to burden everyone with numbers, we will note figures from just one of these treaties. Under the 1991 START I Treaty, Russia reduced almost sixfold the number of its deployed strategic warheads, from 9,000 to 1,700, and eliminated more than 3,000 intercontinental ballistic missiles and submarine-launched ballistic missiles. Let me stress once again that these reductions

were carried out under just one Treaty. It is appropriate to note that the destruction of just one strategic missile costs approximately \$1 million. As a result, according to some estimates, the nuclear potential of Russia and the United States has been reduced to the levels that existed in the second half of the 1950s, a decade and a half before the NPT entered into force.

We know that many States are not quite satisfied with the pace of nuclear disarmament, but no one can deny the fact that the two leading nuclear Powers are fulfilling in good faith — not in words, but in acts — their obligations under the first part of article VI of the NPT. Unfortunately, the situation is different with the obligations under the second part of that article, which is inseparable from the first part and envisages negotiations on general and complete disarmament. Moreover, the second part of the obligations is often committed to complete oblivion, while article VI of the NPT is portrayed as the exclusive sphere of responsibility of the nuclear Powers. We cannot accept such interpretation, which is hardly consistent with the letter and spirit of the NPT.

The conclusion in 2010 of the New START Treaty raised new expectations regarding the prospects for nuclear disarmament. In principle that is understandable and perhaps natural. Russia fully shares the noble goal of making this planet free of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear arms. However, tackling that truly epoch-making task requires an adequate, comprehensive and carefully measured approach. It is necessary to scrupulously select priorities and the primary steps to be made. Unfortunately, in our view, not everything goes smoothly in this regard.

Nowadays the main efforts are focused on elaborating various declaratory statements and putting forward far-reaching initiatives that ignore the principle of step-by-step nuclear disarmament. Also, topics such as the humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons are unexpectedly included. As a result, this most complex problem has become mostly an object of public diplomacy, while the strategic context of the problem takes a back seat.

I do not think that is the best or quickest way to achieve our common goal. From the point of view of real policy, we cannot ignore the obvious fact that the general situation in the world today does not facilitate achieving new arrangements in the field of nuclear disarmament. Perhaps the situation today is less conducive compared to earlier decades, for example the

1950s. The balance of international relations, above all in the military-political sphere, has been disturbed. The negative factors that undermine strategic stability are gaining momentum.

The task of building a nuclear-free world has faced the most tremendous challenge in unilateral plans to establish a global missile defence system. The fallacy of those plans in their current form lies in the fact that they contradict the principle of the inadmissibility of strengthening one's own security at the expense of the security of other States. Not upholding these principles, including the direct or indissoluble linkages between strategic defensive and strategic offensive arms, can have extremely negative consequences for the entire system of international relations today, including the disarmament agenda.

In summary, we would like once again to emphasize that the approach of the international community to the task of further nuclear-arms reduction should be suited to actual requirements and priorities. For the Russian Federation, for example, the catastrophic character and unacceptability of any use of nuclear weapons is absolutely clear and requires no further discussion. If this issue is not absolutely clear for someone, then we may continue holding international meetings on the humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons. It is important, however, that they do not distract our attention from the greater goal of creating more favourable conditions for further nuclear-stockpile reductions.

Along with the issue of anti-ballistic missile defence it is necessary to focus on the problems associated with the plans to implement the concept of prompt global strike, imbalances in conventional weapons, insufficient progress towards the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and other issues.

Another factor that adversely influences strategic stability and complicates the achievement of new arrangements on nuclear weapons is the absence of a legally binding prohibition on the placement of weapons in outer space. The Russian-Chinese draft treaty intended to fill that gap has long been lying on the table of the Conference on Disarmament, unfortunately without any progress having been made so far. Nevertheless, the task of preventing an arms race in outer space is becoming increasingly relevant with each passing year. Technologically, the possibility of the placement of weapons in outer space is growing,



while the absence of consensus about launching negotiations on the Russia-China draft is evidence that some capitals have certain plans, or at least intentions to keep their hands totally free to manoeuvre.

In such circumstances, the intermediate steps to keep outer space weapon-free are becoming more important. First and foremost, we would refer to the results of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities. We thank all the experts for their constructive support for the Group's Russian chair. Thanks to their joint efforts, the Group managed to adopt, on a consensus basis, a substantive report (see A/68/189). Russia, together with the People's Republic of China, intends to submit for the Assembly's consideration an updated draft of the traditional resolution in this area, and we hope it will be adopted by consensus.

We believe that moving forward with the initiative for States not to be the first to place weapons of any type in outer space is a promising area for our future work. We recall that Russia was the first to make a relevant political commitment in this area nine years ago. Almost all States parties to the Collective Security Treaty Organization have joined this. Within the past year the same decision was made by Brazil, Indonesia and Sri Lanka. Interest in signing corresponding statements has been expressed by a number of States. We hope that this initiative will become universal through the adoption of a General Assembly resolution either during its current or next session.

Coming now to the issue of non-proliferation, we would like to stress the need to convene as soon as possible a conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. It is very unfortunate that the conference did not take place in 2012, even though Russia spared no effort and continues to spare no effort to fulfil that mandate. We believe that it is necessary to give the process, to the maximum extent possible, some additional momentum towards that goal, which became possible thanks to the responsible decision on the part of Syria to abandon its chemical weapons, as well as the Russian-American arrangements on the elimination of those arsenals, as recorded in the decision of 27 September by the Executive Council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and Security Council resolution 2118 (2013). We believe that in practical terms, the holding of preparatory

consultations without delay in Geneva involving all countries of the region would contribute to the earliest possible convening of that conference.

In conclusion, I should like to say just a few words on the Conference on Disarmament. It has been said that consensus on the programme of work would be more probable if we were guided by the adoption of a streamlined programme with a discussion mandate on all four key agenda issues. That would allow us to start substantial work and preserve the prospect of starting negotiations when conditions allow. We would like to call on all the partners in the Conference to demonstrate their flexibility and readiness to make compromises in that respect.

**Mr. Ben Sliman** (Tunisia) (*spoke in French*): On behalf of Tunisia and my delegation, I should like to congratulate you, Sir, on your election as Chair of the First Committee and also to express the appreciation of my delegation for the work of Mr. Desra Percaya during the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly. I also guarantee you the support and cooperation of my delegation in carrying out your task to ensure that our work is crowned with success.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), the Group of Arab States and the Group of African States.

Our Committee meets at a crucial time to review the progress made in disarmament and international security matters so as to be able to tackle the various challenges to the non-proliferation and disarmament regimes in the interests of international peace and security. We must all make new efforts to promote nuclear disarmament so as to free up resources that are currently allocated to the production and maintenance of such weapons and which should instead be earmarked for social and economic development, the promotion of democracy and the protection of the environment.

We acknowledge the progress made over the past two years in disarmament and non-proliferation. Tunisia attaches great importance to the multilateral efforts made in the disarmament field and will continue to support all efforts to limit nuclear weapons and reduce the risk of nuclear proliferation. Indeed, general disarmament would be the best way to ensure that nuclear weapons do not fall into the hands of terrorists or non-State actors.

I should like to congratulate the Secretary-General on having made disarmament one of the priorities of his second term and for having taken part in the discussions. We welcome the NAM initiative regarding the proclamation of an international day for the total elimination of nuclear weapons on 26 September.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is the pillar of the disarmament machinery. It has slowed nuclear proliferation but has not stopped it. The accession to the Treaty by almost all States and its indefinite extension in 1995 allowed for the strengthening of the Treaty. In spite of the shortcomings of the Treaty, Tunisia takes this opportunity to reiterate its belief that the NPT continues to be a *sine qua non* for international security. As there are no other alternatives but to support and strengthen the NPT, the nuclear-weapon States should draft a legally binding international document on security safeguards to non-nuclear States and even sign the general safeguards agreement of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and its optional protocols, with a view to promoting “nuclear zero” and creating a world free of nuclear weapons.

The Middle East continues to be an area of greatest concern, given the refusal of some parties to accede to the NPT and to place their nuclear installations under the safeguards system of the IAEA, in spite of the many appeals of other States of the region and of the General Assembly in its many resolutions to that effect. In that connection, we call on the international community, and in particular those countries with the most influence, to take urgent and practical measures for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in that region. We think that the establishment and implementation of a new statute for the regulation of such areas would be the best way to make progress on nuclear disarmament. Tunisia strongly backs such an approach and calls for the holding of a conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

With globalization, the trade in weapons has indeed changed in nature. Insufficiently regulated international flows of weapons fuel civilian conflicts, destabilize regions and strengthen terrorism and criminal networks. Along those same lines, an unregulated flow of light weapons endangers peace processes and reconciliation, and undermines international efforts to bolster the rule of law, social justice and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

In that regard, Tunisia welcomes the adoption on 2 April 2013 of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which makes explicit reference to light weapons, their munitions and their range. We also welcome the adoption on 26 September of the first Security Council resolution on light weapons (resolution 2117 (2013)), which supports the efforts of peacekeepers to limit the impact of light weapons on societies emerging from conflict, and illustrates the priority attached by the Security Council to the issue of the protection of civilians and full respect for international humanitarian law and human rights. Tunisia stresses that the adoption by the Security Council of that first resolution on small arms and light weapons will complement the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty.

We are aware that, in spite of the efforts of United Nations peacekeeping operations as well as other mechanisms to help States to uphold arms embargoes, the trade in small arms and light weapons continues to grow at an alarming rate, because it is lucrative and there is a lack of regulation and oversight, including the oversight of Government reserves or stockpiles, which often are hardly secure. Tunisia would therefore like, at this time, to reiterate that comprehensive policies that emphasize the role of international organizations, and regional and subregional organizations, should be accorded priority.

We are also pleased with the positive outcome of the United Nations Conference to Review Progress 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, held from 27 August to 7 September 2012. We call upon all States to submit national reports, on a voluntary basis, every two years.

In that context, my delegation backs the recommendations aimed at breathing new life into the implementation of the Programme of Action, and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons. We are nevertheless concerned that an increasing number of small arms and light weapons are circulating throughout the world today.

Africa suffers the lion's share of the negative impacts of excessive and uncontrolled flows of small arms and light weapons. Africa is also the continent that is most affected by conflicts of all types. Our continent continues to be one of the largest platforms

for illicit trafficking in weapons of all kinds, all calibres and origins, which in turn strengthens the activities of terrorist groups. That is why all members of the international community must maintain their commitment to carrying out the Programme of Action, which we think is the basic framework for the activities to prevent, combat and eliminate the illicit trade in these weapons in all its aspects.

In that context, my delegation wishes to stress the efforts that should be made, regionally and subregionally, in order to tackle the supply side and the demand side of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and stem the transborder flows of illicit arms, including aspects such as brokering, while preserving a country's right, under international law, to legitimate defence, which is enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

Before concluding, I should like to congratulate the Secretary-General and thank him for his report on small arms and light weapons (S/2013/503), which takes stock of the efforts made to combat the trafficking of light weapons in Africa within the framework of United Nations special political missions and peacekeeping operations. I take this opportunity to reiterate the commitment of my country to ensuring the success of the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which will be held in New York from 28 April to 9 May 2014, as well as the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, which will take place in New York from 16 to 20 June 2014.

**Mr. Wu Haitao** (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): At the outset, please allow me to congratulate you, Sir, on your election to the Chair of the First Committee at its sixty-eighth session. I am confident that with your rich diplomatic experience and wisdom, the current session will be successful. The Chinese delegation would like to cooperate with you and other delegations.

The international situation is undergoing profound and complex changes. There is extensive support for a multipolar world and greater democracy in international relations. Economic globalization and information technology are changing the world in a profound way. Countries are more interdependent. At the same time the international community still faces many

challenges. Various traditional and non-traditional security threats are intertwined. There is still a long way to go to maintain international security.

To address difficult global issues and challenges requires the joint efforts of all United Nations Member States. All parties should abandon the Cold-War mentality and zero-sum-game approach, promote equality, mutual trust, inclusiveness and mutual learning and mutually beneficial cooperation, pursue collective and common security through cooperation, consolidate the multilateral security system with the United Nations at its core, resolve disputes peacefully through dialogue and negotiation, and join hands to build a peaceful, harmonious and stable international and regional security environment.

Some progress has been made in the nuclear disarmament process, but the continuous further promotion and eventual attainment of a nuclear-weapon-free world remain an arduous task. Nuclear-proliferation issues are still prominent. Security areas such as outer space and cyberspace are facing challenges. The multilateral disarmament machinery is in urgent need of revitalization. Countries should make joint efforts to further promote the processes of international arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation.

First, nuclear disarmament should be advanced gradually and proliferation risks reduced comprehensively.

Nuclear-weapon States should abandon the nuclear deterrence doctrine based on the first use of nuclear weapons and make an unequivocal commitment of no-first-use and to not using or threatening to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States or nuclear-weapon-free zones. They should negotiate and conclude a legally binding international instrument to that end at an early date. Countries with the largest nuclear arsenals should continue making drastic and substantial reductions in their nuclear weapons. When conditions are ripe, other nuclear-weapon States should also join the multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament. Nuclear disarmament should stick to the principles of maintaining global strategic balance and stability and undiminished security for all. Countries concerned should abandon the development of missile defence systems that undermine the global strategic balance and stability.

China has always stood for the complete prohibition and destruction of nuclear weapons. China is firmly

committed to its nuclear strategy of self-defence and has adhered to the policy of no-first-use at any time and under any circumstances. It has made the unequivocal and unconditional commitment that it will not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States or nuclear-weapon-free zones.

China supports the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. In August, Mr. Lassina Zerbo, Executive Secretary of the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, paid a working visit to China, during which the two sides discussed and reached consensus on deepening cooperation.

Dialogue and negotiation are the only right way to resolve regional nuclear issues. China hopes that the parties concerned should step up diplomatic efforts and promote the permanent-five-plus-one dialogue process with Iran so as to create conditions for a comprehensive, long-term, and appropriate solution to the Iranian nuclear issue.

The Six-Party Talks remain a pragmatic and effective mechanism to achieve the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and maintain peace and stability there. China is ready to work together with the parties concerned and to make unremitting efforts to relaunch the Six-Party Talks without delay and realize the denuclearization of the peninsula and lasting peace and stability on the peninsula and in North-East Asia at large.

China supports the efforts of regional countries to establish the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone and the Central Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone. China supports the early convening of the international conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction.

The third Preparatory Committee session for the ninth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) will be held next year. China is willing to work with the international community to promote the implementation of the Final Document of the eighth Review Conference with a view to advancing the purposes and objectives of the Treaty in a comprehensive and balanced manner.

In September, China successfully held in Beijing the second experts' meeting of the P-5 working group on the glossary of definitions for key nuclear terms. China will also host a P-5 conference in April next year

in Beijing to exchange in-depth views on important issues, including the implementation of the outcome of the NPT Review Conference through cooperation.

Secondly, the obligations of the relevant international arms control treaties should be strictly fulfilled and the arms control process for chemical and conventional weapons should be pushed forward in an active and stable manner.

The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction has been playing a significant role in removing the threat of chemical weapons and preventing their proliferation. Currently, the destruction of chemical weapons in Syria is an important task facing the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). China welcomes the decision on the issue of chemical weapons in Syria adopted by the Executive Council of the OPCW and the resolution on the subject adopted by the United Nations Security Council (resolution 2118 (2013)). We support the OPCW in launching the verification and destruction of chemical weapons. China stands ready to send experts to participate in the relevant work and to provide financial support.

China is a victim of chemical weapons. Last month, at the joint invitation of China and Japan, the Director-General of the OPCW and a delegation of its Executive Council conducted a transparency visit to the destruction facility in Haerbaling for chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in China. Those weapons pose grave threats to the lives and property of the Chinese people and the environment. At this stage, although some progress has been made, the overall process of destroying such weapons is lagging far behind schedule. Deeply concerned and dissatisfied with the slow pace of destruction, China urges Japan to fulfil its obligations as the abandoning State party in order to complete the destruction at an early date.

China attaches great importance to the humanitarian concerns caused by the illicit trade in conventional weapons. China strictly implements its domestic arms export laws and regulations and relevant Security Council resolutions, and does not transfer weapons to conflict regions or non-State actors. China took part in the process of negotiating the Arms Trade Treaty in an active and constructive manner. China will remain engaged with all parties on the follow-up work on that Treaty and will join in efforts to build a regulated and rational international arms trade order.



The Chinese Government earnestly fulfils its obligations under the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or To Have Indiscriminate Effects, along with its additional protocols. China has been dedicated to the cause of international humanitarian assistance. So far, China has provided various forms of demining assistance to more than 40 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Thirdly, international norms should be formulated at an early date in order to prevent cyberspace and outer space from becoming new battlefields. Cyberspace is an interconnected space where countries have shared interests and a common destiny. All countries should safeguard the common security through practical cooperation on the basis of mutual respect. Cyberspace is neither an enclave without law nor a place where the law of the jungle applies. The top priority is to formulate international rules of cyberspace within the United Nations framework. To that end, China, Russia and some other countries jointly put forward an international code of conduct for information security to the General Assembly in 2011, and it has been continuously improved. China stands ready to work with other parties to achieve an early consensus on the code of conduct and jointly to build a peaceful, secure, open and cooperative cyberspace.

Preventing the weaponization of and an arms race in outer space, the negotiation and conclusion at an early date of a legal instrument aimed at preventing an arms race in outer space, and safeguarding the security of outer space, would serve the common interests of all countries. In 2008 China and Russia jointly submitted to the Conference on Disarmament a draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects. China is ready to work with all parties to continue in-depth discussions to further improve that draft treaty and facilitate an early start of the negotiations.

Transparency and confidence-building measures provide a useful complement to efforts to prevent an arms race in outer space. China constructively participates in the work of the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on Outer Space Transparency and Confidence-building Measures and is deeply involved in the discussions on the international code of conduct for outer space activities.

Fourthly, the authority of the multilateral disarmament machinery should be robustly safeguarded and the work of the Conference on Disarmament should be revitalized. Over the past years, various proposals have been put forward on issues including reforming the multilateral disarmament machinery, promoting the fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT) negotiations and advancing the nuclear-disarmament process. China believes that the Conference on Disarmament, the United Nations Disarmament Commission, the First Committee and the review process of the NPT are appropriate venues for deliberations and negotiations on nuclear disarmament, the FMCT, and so on. To set up separate new machinery to deal with nuclear disarmament issues would only weaken the authority of the existing mechanisms, drain valuable resources and not help to effectively move forward the multilateral nuclear disarmament process.

China has always believed that the Conference on Disarmament is the single and only appropriate venue for FMCT negotiations. The group of governmental experts on the FMCT, which will be established next year, should stick to the mandate spelled out in resolution 67/53, and its members should include the major producers of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices. The group of governmental experts should strictly comply with the principle of consensus, and its work should be incorporated into the framework of the Conference on Disarmament, once the Conference on Disarmament reaches consensus on its programme of work.

China's new central Government leadership has put forward the Chinese dream of a renaissance for the Chinese nation. The Chinese dream is about peace, development, cooperation and win-win results, and it is closely connected to the dreams of peoples throughout the world. China's development seeks to enhance the power for peace in the world. China will unswervingly move forward on the road of peaceful development and deepen cooperation with all countries on the basis of mutual respect and mutual benefit. China stands ready to join hands with all sides to push forward the international arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation processes and to contribute to international and regional peace and stability.

**Mr. Ntwaagae** (Botswana): Allow me to join preceding speakers in extending congratulations to you, Sir, on your election to preside over the Committee during this session. We are confident that under your

leadership the deliberations of the Committee will have a fruitful outcome. We extend our support and cooperation to you and members of the Bureau in the execution of your functions. Let me also take this opportunity to thank your predecessor, Ambassador Desra Percaya of Indonesia, for the very effective manner in which he led the First Committee during the sixty-seventh session of the Assembly.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of African States (see A/C.1/68/PV.3).

Botswana is a non-nuclear-weapon State and is fully committed to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, specifically with respect to the prevention of threats to international peace and security. We believe that the issue of disarmament and international peace and security should remain high on the agenda of the United Nations for as long as peace and stability are not realized.

The sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly is being held at a time when the world is experiencing continuing conflicts resulting in gross violations of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of innocent people. Nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons and terrorism continue to pose serious challenges and have devastating effects on peace, stability and development. The various platforms presented to us during past sessions and at this particular session continue to provide us with the opportunity to assess the achievements and identify the challenges that we face on issues of disarmament and international peace and security.

My delegation, like all concerned parties, is extremely concerned at the lack of progress in achieving a world free of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons, which is due to non-cooperation on the part of some Member States that refuse to destroy their nuclear arsenals. Sustained efforts by the international community in that regard will remain in vain as long as the Member States concerned do not cooperate and change their actions. The effective implementation of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is of paramount importance in that regard.

The total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against their use or threat of use. It is against that background that my delegation

welcomed the convening of the first High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament, which was convened on 26 September this year (see A/68/PV.11). It is through platforms such as those that exchanges of views on achievements, challenges and best practices can take place among countries for the betterment of the world we live in.

My delegation totally supports the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones and believes that regional approaches of that kind will bind States to respect denuclearization of the respective territories. Botswana is proud to be associated with the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, the Treaty of Pelindaba. We therefore urge other regional blocs to work together to establish zones free of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

Illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons also remains one of the greatest challenges of our time. Such weapons pose the gravest danger to peace and security, not only in Africa, but in the world at large. They also have an adverse impact on the socioeconomic development process, especially in developing countries.

It is for that reason that my delegation recalls with pleasure and satisfaction the adoption of the landmark Arms Trade Treaty in April this year. We express our deep appreciation of the strong spirit of compromise demonstrated by the international community during the conference on the Treaty. We specifically welcome the fact that upon entry into force that Treaty will regulate the transfer of conventional weapons in order to avoid the risk of having them fall into the wrong hands.

Botswana fully supports efforts towards 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, as well as the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (see A/60/88). We fully appreciate, however, that owing to resource limitations and the differing capacities of States, the realization of the goals of the Programme of Action remains a challenge. We therefore appeal to cooperating partners to provide technical assistance and capacity-building in order to boost national implementation efforts.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes all members of the Committee fruitful deliberations. It is our hope and

expectation that under your very effective leadership, Sir, the Committee, with its usual positive spirit and determination, will be able to reach consensus on as many resolutions as possible.

**Mr. Benmehidi** (Algeria): At the outset, I am pleased to congratulate you, Sir, on your election as the Chair of the First Committee at its sixty-eighth session. We look forward to a productive and fruitful session under your able leadership. You can count on my delegation's full support and cooperation. Let me also congratulate the other members of the Bureau on their election.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by the representatives of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Nigeria on behalf of the Group of African States, and Bahrain on behalf of the Group of Arab States (see A/C.1/68/PV.3).

Algeria attaches the utmost importance to general and complete disarmament as a means of ensuring international peace and security, and reiterates its commitment to multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament and international security. In 2013, we have seen renewed efforts, proposals and initiatives devoted to addressing a wide range of issues in that area. Some of them will be discussed in depth during this session of the Committee.

As a State party to the main treaties relating to nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction, Algeria reaffirms that nuclear disarmament remains its highest priority and expresses its serious concern over the danger to humanity posed by the existence of nuclear weapons and by their possible use or threat of use. There is therefore a need for substantive progress in multilateral nuclear disarmament.

My delegation takes this opportunity to stress again the need to universalize the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regimes, and to ensure compliance with each of its three pillars: disarmament, non-proliferation and the promotion of the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

A majority of States have chosen to use atomic energy for exclusively civilian applications in accordance with article IV of the NPT. Indeed, nuclear energy represents for many developing countries a strategic choice for their economic development and energy security needs. Accordingly, my delegation

reaffirms the legitimate right to develop, research, produce, and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes under the non-proliferation regime.

Concerned at the lack of progress towards the implementation of the 2010 action plan, as expressed during the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference, held in Geneva earlier this year, Algeria calls on all States parties to the NPT to implement that action plan, adopted by consensus at the Eighth Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT in May 2010. According to the terms of the NPT, nuclear-weapon States in particular have to fully comply with their special obligations.

Convinced that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against their use or threat of use, Algeria supports, in that regard, the road map proposed by the NAM during the High-level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament held a few days ago (see A/68/PV.11), which calls mainly for the early commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons.

Until that goal is achieved, my delegation wishes to reiterate the need for the conclusion of a legally binding instrument on negative security assurances to all non-nuclear-weapon States. Algeria wishes also to stress the importance of achieving universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in order to allow its entry into force. The achievement of such an objective will contribute to the process of nuclear disarmament. Algeria welcomes the convening of the Oslo Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, held in March, which will be followed by a second conference to be held in Mexico in February 2014.

As the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones is an important measure towards achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation objectives, the entry into force on 15 July 2009 of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, known as the Treaty of Pelindaba, establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa, represents an important contribution in that regard. Algeria, which was among the first countries to sign and ratify the Treaty of Pelindaba, calls on States, in particular those with nuclear weapons, that have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the relevant annexes of that Treaty.

The example of the Treaty of Pelindaba and other existing nuclear-weapon-free zones should also be followed in the Middle East. In that context Algeria expresses its disappointment at the fact that the conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, which was due to have been held in 2012, has not yet been convened. Algeria therefore calls on the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the three sponsors of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East to exert maximum efforts, in accordance with the consensus decision of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, with a view to convening the conference without any further delay and stresses the importance of the participation in the conference of all States in the Middle East.

While we share the disappointment of other member States at the continuing impasse in the Conference on Disarmament and in the Disarmament Commission, my delegation considers that that deadlock is caused by a lack of political will on the part of some States. In that regard, Algeria reaffirms the importance of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral negotiating body on disarmament. At the same time, while recalling decision CD/1864, adopted by consensus on 29 May 2009 under the Algerian presidency, Algeria calls on the Conference on Disarmament to agree on a balanced and comprehensive programme of work. My delegation looks forward to the deliberations of the Conference on Disarmament's informal working group on that matter.

With a view to strengthening the various parts of the United Nations disarmament machinery, Algeria reiterates its position that a fourth special session of the General Assembly on disarmament should be convened. Algeria considers that the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention are important components of the international legal architecture related to weapons of mass destruction, and calls for their balanced, effective and non-discriminatory implementation.

Regarding the issue of conventional weapons, Algeria supported resolution 67/234 B, by which the General Assembly adopted the Arms Trade Treaty. The adoption of that instrument on the international transfer of conventional arms will certainly strengthen the multilateral architecture in the field of disarmament.

The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons continues to threaten peace and stability in many

countries and regions, particularly in the Sahel region, as a source of supply to terrorist groups and organized crime. Concerned over that illicit trade, my delegation reiterates the importance of the full, balanced and effective implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, as well as the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons. We wish also to stress that international cooperation and assistance is essential in that area.

The commitment to regional peace and security is one of the basic guidelines of Algeria's foreign policy. In that connection, the Algerian delegation will introduce, as in previous years, a draft resolution entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region", for which we seek the sponsorship and support of all States members of the Committee.

In closing, Algeria considers the First Committee to be an essential component of the United Nations disarmament machinery and is committed to working constructively with you, Sir, and all delegations in order to conclude its work successfully.

**Mr. Sadykov** (Kazakhstan): At the outset I congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the functions of Chair of the First Committee. Let me assure you of our full support and cooperation in the implementation of your mandate.

Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are issues of the highest priority for Kazakhstan. Our many initiatives within the framework of the United Nations vividly demonstrate the firmness of our stand. The two issues are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. That is why there is a need to advance them concurrently through collective efforts and in the spirit of multilateralism.

The past few years have been marked by some tangible developments in nuclear disarmament, such as the New START treaty between Russia and the United States, and unilateral nuclear-weapon reduction initiatives on the part of the United Kingdom and France. However, on a global scale, nuclear disarmament remains an aspiration rather than an achievement, as we find ourselves under the pressure of arsenals that have thousands of nuclear weapons. Kazakhstan calls upon the nuclear Powers to pledge



that they will make sincere efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons in accordance with article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), and will take practical measures in that field. Compliance with nuclear abolition should be adhered to not only by States parties to the NPT but also by States that are not party to the Treaty.

It is our strong conviction that the total elimination of all nuclear arsenals is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of such weapons. We take the opportunity to note that Kazakhstan's initiative to draft a universal declaration on a nuclear-weapon-free world within the United Nations is one means to foster the political commitment of the world community to a shared goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. The declaration could remind the world that, while disagreements may persist on ways to achieve it, there is no dispute over the goal itself. It could serve as an inspiration for action and promote accountability in fulfilling disarmament commitments. It could inspire new efforts to end the stalemates that have crippled the multilateral disarmament machinery.

The catastrophic humanitarian and environmental consequences from nuclear tests in Semipalatinsk and other nuclear-test sites around the globe demonstrate that the aftermath of any use of nuclear weapons is uncontrollable in time and space. The recent Oslo Conference underscored the potential for humanitarian approaches to the problem. We hope that similar deliberations in Mexico next year will result in concrete recommendations in that regard.

As a State that has long suffered from nuclear tests, Kazakhstan supports such initiatives and hopes that all members of the international community will contribute to the creation of a broader front with resolute actions against the nuclear threat.

Kazakhstan is deeply concerned about the long-lasting deadlock in the United Nations disarmament machinery, including the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament. Starting multilateral negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to the cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament are crucial for us. The failure of the international community to seize the momentum in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and violations of the moratorium on nuclear tests again remind us of the urgent need for the United Nations disarmament triad to get back on the main track.

The Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral negotiating forum, must live up to the expectations of the world. The Conference on Disarmament members should bridge their differences and find a way out of the existing stalemate. Given the importance of multilateral talks characterized by robust substance and progress over time in implementing a programme of work, Kazakhstan stands ready actively to engage in the work of the informal working group mandated to produce a programme of work — a group established in accordance with the proposals made by the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament, Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, on 18 June.

At this critical stage, we are of the view that we should preserve all existing resources of the Conference on Disarmament, including the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, especially given the essential role played by those forums and their importance.

The NPT has an indispensable role to play in alleviating contemporary nuclear-proliferation challenges. Although the Treaty was not able to avert the further spread of nuclear weapons, we want to believe that there exists the necessary political will and sincere aspiration to ensure that the provisions of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons are not exhausted.

A voluntary moratorium on nuclear testing observed by the nuclear Powers, though an important factor of nuclear security, cannot substitute for a legally binding document such as the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). The early entry into force of this Treaty is essential for the effective implementation of the NPT.

We also call on all Member States to aid in the implementation of a General Assembly resolution on the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, which to Kazakhstan is yet another factor in keeping a high alert on nuclear threat reduction.

The Abolish Testing: Our Mission project launched by Kazakhstan last year in Astana is continuing its campaign and is making gradual progress. Citizens from more than 100 States have already joined this campaign by signing a nuclear-weapon test-ban petition to be forwarded to the Heads of States possessing nuclear weapons, as well as to the countries that have not yet joined or ratified the CTBT or NPT.

The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones is a step towards a safer world. This kind of initiative should be encouraged by providing unconditional assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Although nuclear-weapon-free zones now cover more than half the world, most of the nuclear-security-assurances protocols are still under negotiation or have not yet been ratified by some nuclear-weapon States, including the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia.

The Semipalatinsk Treaty is considered by Kazakhstan and other Central Asian States as a step meant to foster regional peace and security. The launching of the consultations on this subject between the five Central Asian States and the five nuclear-weapon States during the second session of the NPT Preparatory Committee in Geneva this year is a good move forward. We are satisfied with the level and pace of engagement of the nuclear five in their dialogue with the five Central Asian States. Kazakhstan, as the coordinator of the Central Asian States, hopes that the practicability and effectiveness of the Treaty will be ensured soon through constructive consultations among the parties involved.

The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various parts of the world is an important contribution to nuclear non-proliferation and peace and security, and these kinds of initiatives should be encouraged and supported by the nuclear-weapon States.

Principal among our current challenges remains the convening of the conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction, as was stipulated by the 2010 action plan. The weight of that conference is dictated by its pivotal role of ensuring both regional and global security, and we call upon all interested parties to demonstrate the political will to convene it as soon as possible.

Given the contemporary nuclear renaissance, Kazakhstan, as one of the world's biggest suppliers of uranium products, stands ready to add to our common cause. Astana's talks with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and its member States on establishing an international bank for low-enriched uranium under the auspices of the IAEA and its safeguards are advancing successfully. We believe that this initiative will be yet another practical input to guarantee access for all States to nuclear fuel. At the same time, the establishment of the low-enriched uranium bank in no way undermines the inalienable

right of every NPT State party to the peaceful use of nuclear energy and technology.

Kazakhstan expresses its deep concern about the recent use of chemical weapons in Syria. The accession of Syria to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction and the elimination of its stockpiles, as set out in the decision of the Executive Council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the relevant Security Council resolution, will preclude the possibility of their repeat use. We call upon the Government of Syria to comply fully with the chemical -weapons-elimination programme.

We have consistently stood for the universalization of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, and for ensuring international control. The establishment of an effective verification mechanism would strengthen mutual confidence and security.

We welcome the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty by the General Assembly in April. Kazakhstan is confident that the Treaty will make a significant contribution to our joint efforts to prevent the illicit trade in such weapons. I wish to inform the Committee that we are actively concentrating our efforts on finalizing our national procedures to ensure Kazakhstan's earliest accession to this important Treaty.

In conclusion, let me underline that political will is crucial to achieving tangible results in the outstanding issues on disarmament. Kazakhstan is firmly committed to achieving a world free from nuclear weapons and assures you, Mr. Chairman, that our delegation will render every support and cooperation to make your mission a success.

**Mr. Mwinyi** (United Republic of Tanzania): On behalf of the United Republic of Tanzania, I wish to congratulate you, Sir, and the Bureau on your election. I believe that you will lead our work to a successful conclusion, and I assure you of the cooperation of our delegation. I also commend your predecessor for his tireless efforts and dedication to the work of the First Committee.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement of the Group of African States delivered by the representative of Nigeria and that of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) delivered by the representative of Indonesia

(see A/C.1/68/PV.3). We also welcome the statement by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms. Angela Kane.

The United Republic of Tanzania advocates total, complete and irreversible disarmament of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction. Just as we oppose the possession and development of nuclear weapons, we oppose all efforts to wage war by whatever weapons, nuclear or conventional. The First Committee was established to assist the Organization in discharging its primary responsibility of ensuring peace, security and human development. To date that goal has not been fully met, owing to various challenges that are yet to be overcome and those that have received partial or wrongful answers.

Upon the end of the Second World War, the arms race ensued — not because the world wanted more weapons, but because some Member States wrongly perceived that military might would guarantee them absolute security. That was not to be, so an arms race developed among the victorious nations, instead of preventing the defeated nations from developing unnecessary weapons.

The use of nuclear weapons in the last days of the Second World War gave rise to the beginning of disarmament. The General Assembly embarked on the disarmament process in order to save the world from the scourge of another war. The failure of that process reduced that zeal for disarmament, turning it toward arms control. That made a loose hole in the disarmament process, and Member States developed other weapons with which to wage biological and chemical warfare when they did not want to use nuclear weapons. The decision to do so was not prompted by military might but by political and self-aggrandizement considerations. Decisions to wage war were therefore not made by the defence authorities but by law-making bodies of the State and supreme offices thereof. At the heart of these high offices were human beings with certain ambitions, both political and strategic.

Have political and strategic ambitions ceased to exist? No. Thus in order to address the issue of general and complete disarmament we need, at the bottom of our hearts, to address our political and strategic ambitions with a view to bridging gaps between nations and ultimately establishing harmony between them. We are not advocating a world without competition. On the contrary, we seek a world with cooperation

and competition for human development, not human destruction. With the debates and resolutions on general and complete disarmament we will come up only with fixes, not durable solutions.

But all hope is not lost. After the Second World War, the United Nations resolved that

“they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” (*The Holy Bible, Isaiah 2:4*).

Let us therefore translate the resolutions we make this month into development processes and enable the world population to live in larger freedom, as enshrined in the Charter.

**The Chair** (*spoke in Arabic*): I now call on those representatives who have asked to speak in exercise of the right of reply. May I remind representatives that the number of interventions to be made by a delegation at a single meeting is limited to two on the same subject or agenda item. The first intervention is limited to 10 minutes and the second to five minutes.

**Mr. Ibrahim** (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): I should like at the outset to reaffirm that my country's Government firmly condemns the use of chemical weapons. We believe that this is an abominable crime and that its perpetrators in Syria — the terrorist groups and the States that are supporting them — must be held accountable. Syria recently acceded to the Chemical Weapons Convention and is deeply convinced that such weapons must be abolished. We therefore accepted the programme for their destruction as a further step towards freeing the Middle East region of all weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons.

We would have expected the delegation of France to welcome that positive decision of the Syrian Arab Republic instead of making negative comments. In its capacity as a permanent member of the Security Council, it should welcome positive developments that are conducive to helping find a political solution to the crisis in Syria rather than seeking to hamper the solutions. Indeed, we do not understand the unjustified arguments put forward by the representative of France. We did not invade his country or seek to colonize it, as France did to Syria and other countries. We would therefore ask France to apologize for the colonization of Syria and its people.

We would also like to remind the French delegation that France carried out nuclear tests on human beings in the Algerian Sahara and that those tests caused great damage to that region and parts of the Pacific. France was one of the very first countries to use chemical weapons worldwide. Moreover, France is the only country responsible for having introduced nuclear weapons to Israel in 1955 at the Dimona nuclear centre.

Finally, the representative of France has sought to impose an outcome on the report issued by the committee of inquiry, and has made accusations against the Syrian Government that are baseless and not credible. It is quite clear that France has become a part of the problem in Syria rather than a part of the solution.

**Mr. Sano** (Japan): I would like to speak in exercise of the right of reply to the intervention made by the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at the end of yesterday's meeting (see A/C.1/68/PV.3). I will be very brief.

The development of outer space by Japan is conducted in conformity with international obligations such as relevant treaties on the development and use of space. It is based on the policy enshrined in the Japanese Constitution and is strictly limited to peaceful uses. It is therefore extremely inappropriate to compare Japan's space activities with those of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which continues to launch missiles in clear violation of relevant Security Council resolutions prohibiting any kind of launch using ballistic-missile technologies.

The nuclear tests conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, together with its further development of missile capability enabling delivery of weapons of mass destruction, are not only a violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions but are also a grave challenge to the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime centred on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Such provocative activities by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are totally unacceptable, since they undermine the peace and security of North-East Asia and the international community as a whole. It is, rather, the Democratic People's Republic that has not complied with the commitment made on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula agreed upon in the Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. Japan

urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea again to fully comply with the obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions and its commitment under the Joint Statement of the Six Parties.

**Mr. Kim Ju Song** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Once again, we strongly reject the comments made by the representative of Japan. Japan has no qualification or reputation to talk about the elimination of nuclear weapons. The three non-nuclear principles of Japan are just a deception. Japan currently possesses more than four tons of plutonium, which is enough to make nuclear weapons whenever it should decide to. Japan is also currently going far beyond the limits of desiring the renewal of its militarism in the North-East Asia region. I would say that Japan is a cancer that threatens the peace of North-East Asia and the peace and stability also of the Korean peninsula.

**The Chair** (*spoke in Arabic*): I call on those delegations wishing to make additional statements in exercise of the right of reply.

**Mr. Sano** (Japan): First, the Government of Japan's adherence to the three non-nuclear principles — not possessing, not manufacturing and not permitting the introduction of nuclear weapons into the territory of Japan — remains unchanged. Japan's determination with regard to the total elimination of nuclear weapons with a view to achieving a world without nuclear weapons is unshakeable.

Secondly, there are no facts showing that the Government of Japan has ever allowed the introduction of nuclear weapons by other countries into Japanese territories. Based on the United States nuclear policy expressed to date, such as the announcement of 1991, it is the judgement of the Government of Japan that there are currently no nuclear weapons introduced by the United States, including by vessels and/or aircraft calling at ports in or on Japanese territories or transiting through them. I reiterate that Japan continues to maintain the policy of adhering to the three non-nuclear principles.

Thirdly, the peaceful orientation of Japan will never sway. Japan is proud to be held in high regard by the international community for its path to peace after the Second World War.

Fourthly, Japan has been in strict compliance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Weapons (NPT) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards obligations as an NPT State party. Japan's peaceful use of nuclear energy has been confirmed



by the IAEA in its annual conclusion that all nuclear material remained in peaceful activities. Moreover, beyond legal obligations and international transparency measures, Japan has regularly reported the amount of plutonium holdings in accordance with the guidelines for the management of plutonium.

Finally, the international community must be reminded that it is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that continues to develop 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 for the Democratic People's Republic to take concrete action to demonstrate its genuine commitment to complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization in order to resume the Six-Party Talks. Based on this recognition, Japan has been urging the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to take such concrete actions.

**Mr. Simon-Michel** (France) (*spoke in French*): I will be very brief. In the statement just made regarding my country, there were two aspects I should like to pick up on — the things we have heard for many years now, and some that are new. Regarding the unfounded allegations we hear every year, I would just refer, as in previous years, to the updates that were made some

years ago. On the new aspects, I invite our colleague to simply reread my statement and the report that was drawn up in the framework of the commission of inquiry set up by the Secretary-General regarding the allegations of the use of chemical weapons and published some weeks ago.

**Mr. Kim Ju Song** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Our delegation regards the comments just made by the representative of Japan as full of prejudice, distortion and hypocrisy. The three non-nuclear principles of Japan are just a deception. Every year, United States nuclear aircraft carriers and submarines freely go in and out of the territorial waters of Japan. Plutonium is piled up in excess. Political figures raise their voices calling for the nuclear weaponization of Japan. We have already clarified our position regarding Japan participating in the Six-Party Talks. We made it clear that Japan has no moral or legal obligation or posture to participate in the Six-Party Talks.

**The Chair** (*spoke in Arabic*): I remind members again that the rolling list of speakers for the general debate will close at 6 p.m. today. Delegations wishing to take the floor who have not yet inscribed their names on the list have just five hours left to do so. In the meantime, the list has been posted on the First Committee's QuickFirst web portal.

*The meeting rose at 1 p.m.*