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First Committee

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Official Records

Chair: Mr. Llorentty Solíz (Bolivia (Plurinational State of))

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Agenda items 89 to 105 (continued)

General debate on all disarmament and international security agenda items

The Chair (*spoke in Spanish*): Before I open the floor for statements, I would like to remind all delegations that the list of speakers for the thematic discussion segment will remain open until 6 p.m. on Tuesday, 22 October.

We will now turn to today's list of speakers. I once again urge all delegations taking the floor to keep to the time limit of eight minutes when speaking in a national capacity. I also want to remind delegations that due to adjustments to the schedule, tomorrow's meeting will take place in the afternoon.

Mr. Yakut (Turkey): I would like to join others in congratulating you on your election, Mr. Chair, as well as the other members of the Bureau, and to express our delegation's full support for your endeavours.

Turkey aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union (see A/C.1/74/PV.3), and I would like to add the following remarks in my national capacity.

We believe in the importance of the First Committee and are pleased that it has been able to start its work. We hope that the issue that brought us to a vote will be resolved soon. We are once again meeting during a time of ever-increasing risks. We believe that international cooperation is crucial to addressing global challenges.

The security environment has deteriorated, and that has led to an erosion of the non-proliferation and disarmament architecture. Trust among the parties in the outcomes of agreements and treaties negotiated long ago has been eroded. The use of chemical weapons has re-emerged, and with no accountability. Our efforts must be directed to bringing an end to our differences on how to proceed with disarmament. Despite those challenges, our collective task is to find ways to advance disarmament while taking differing views into account. The First Committee is the platform for doing exactly that.

Next year, the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons will convene on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), and Turkey will work to ensure its successful outcome. Along with the NPT's three pillars, we support its strengthening and universalization. We need concrete progress on the full implementation of article VI of the Treaty in order to achieve our ultimate goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons. We should bear in mind the repercussions that the existing situation between nuclear- and non-nuclear-weapon States is having for the fragile security environment. It is important to avoid inflammatory rhetoric when discussing the use of nuclear weapons, especially in crisis situations. Turkey strongly supports the progress that has been made with the decision to convene the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction. Together with our Non-Proliferation and

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Disarmament Initiative partners, we are committed to strengthening the NPT's implementation based on the 2010 Review Conference action plan.

We affirm that a universal and effectively verifiable Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) constitutes a fundamental instrument in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and we also affirm the vital importance and urgency of its entry into force. We urge the remaining annex 2 States whose ratification is necessary for the CTBT's entry into force to sign and ratify it without further delay.

Turkey will continue to support the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). We are determined to continue working with the international community to preserve the JCPOA, which was unanimously endorsed in Security Council resolution 2231 (2015). We reiterate that we are concerned about the ongoing developments in the framework of the JCPOA. We believe that challenges to its full implementation do not serve either regional and international security or the non-proliferation regime.

We reiterate that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's ballistic-missile launches are violations of the relevant Security Council resolutions, and we support a diplomatic solution to the problem of its nuclear and ballistic-missile programme. Turkey welcomes the inter-Korean talks and the dialogue between the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We hope that the recent talks will bring full and verifiable denuclearization and lasting peace to the Korean peninsula. In that context, we urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to sign and ratify the CTBT as a priority. We also reiterate our call for the commencement of negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.

Nuclear-weapon States have a special responsibility in the area of arms control and nuclear disarmament. The two nuclear-weapon States with the largest arsenals had concluded major bilateral treaties, but the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty has unfortunately ceased to function, owing to the continued development and deployment of weapon systems. The INF Treaty was an important element in the security and stability of the Euro-Atlantic region. We would like to encourage the United States and the Russian Federation to work to further reduce their arsenals, and we hope the discussions about the next

steps to be taken with regard to an extension of the New START Treaty will be successful.

Turkey emphasizes that the use of chemical weapons is a crime against humanity and a violation of the 1925 Geneva Protocol, the Chemical Weapons Convention and various Security Council resolutions. The firm and wide rejection of impunity for the use of chemical weapons resulted in the holding of a fourth special session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention during which the Technical Secretariat of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) was called on to put in place arrangements to identify the perpetrators of the use of chemical weapons in Syria. In that context, we welcome the establishment of the OPCW Investigation and Identification Team and fully support it in its work. We also commend the work being conducted by the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011.

We should strive to strengthen international cooperation in the field of conventional weapons. More than 500,000 people are killed by small arms and light weapons every year. We are committed to effectively implementing and strengthening the International Tracing Instrument and the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. The Arms Trade Treaty is an important instrument in that area as well.

In this environment, it is essential that we return to a security understanding based on cooperation. As President Erdoğan stated in his address to the General Assembly during the general debate (see A/74/PV.3), until all of us are safe, none of us will be safe. In that respect, our deliberations here should focus on ways to find common ground. We must make a sincere effort to understand one another and reach compromises for the benefit of international security. Upholding our existing treaties, agreements and Security Council resolutions remains key to the success of our endeavours.

Mrs. Imnadze (Georgia): At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chair, on your assumption of the leadership of the First Committee, and to assure you of my delegation's full support. I will read a shortened

version of my statement, the full text of which will be available on the PaperSmart portal.

The existing disarmament, non-proliferation and security architecture has served global security well, but today we are facing a reality in which the challenges and threats to security have become more and more complex, asymmetrical and transnational in nature. We believe that multilateralism and the rules-based order remain the only effective ways to solve problems and advance our work on disarmament, non-proliferation and other contemporary security challenges. The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction poses a serious threat to international peace and stability at both the national and international levels. Unconditional compliance with obligations under relevant international arrangements such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention and the resolutions of the Security Council must stand out as a main priority of the international community.

Georgia is focused on ensuring a successful outcome for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. On its fiftieth anniversary, we must reinforce the NPT as a key multilateral instrument for achieving international peace, security and stability, promote its universalization and enhance its implementation. Georgia has harmonized its national legislation with the Chemical Weapons Convention and remains committed to its full, universal, effective and non-discriminatory implementation. We condemn in the strongest terms the heinous acts involving the use of chemical weapons and fully support the efforts of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to investigate them. We are seriously concerned about the fact that since 2012 we have seen chemical weapons and chemical warfare agents used in Iraq, Malaysia, the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Kingdom.

Georgia is fully committed to the implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention. In 2018, in a demonstration of the transparency and openness of our efforts, Georgia conducted a peer-review exercise at the Richard Lugar Centre for Public Health Research and invited all the States that are party to the Convention for a peer-review compliance exercise. The report of the exercise stated that the facility demonstrated significant transparency in its research and diagnostic activities, and the visiting team observed nothing that was out of the ordinary.

Georgia reiterates its full confidence in the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) verification regime, which does work that no single country could do on its own. Ensuring the CTBT's entry into force and universalization as soon as possible should be a top priority for all of us. We regret that the Conference on Disarmament, the international community's main disarmament forum, is still unable to fulfil its mandate. It should exercise a significant influence and have a larger impact on the area in its purview, especially in the light of the current international security situation. If we are to achieve that we will have to spare no effort in promoting this unique forum's revitalization.

At the national level, Georgia has continued its work on nuclear and radiation safety and security. Last year we joined the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency. On 29 May, we acceded to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Our regulatory system is being improved and our national regulatory infrastructure and radioactive waste-management systems are being strengthened annually, while our independent regulatory body is conducting its responsibilities effectively. Those efforts and initiatives were welcomed by the IAEA's Integrated Regulatory Review Service mission in its visit to Georgia last year, during which it also provided useful recommendations and suggestions for improving the effectiveness of our national regulatory system. We also appreciate the contribution of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, whose support made it possible for us to carry out major reforms. Georgia appreciates the valuable support and active cooperation of the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority. Its substantial support and that of the European Union have made our plans for establishing new and upgraded radioactive waste storage and processing facilities possible. The project and cooperation agreements have already been signed and aim to establish a unified repository.

We have seen several recorded incidents of the smuggling of nuclear and radioactive materials through occupied territories in Georgia in recent years. Fortunately, those illegal activities were prevented by Georgian law-enforcement agencies. However, in the absence of an international presence in Georgia's occupied territories, it has become virtually impossible

to conduct any type of verification activity on the ground.

Conventional military conflicts continue to be unresolved and are on the rise. The Black Sea region is particularly vulnerable to a threatening wave of militarization, in flagrant violation of international law. The Russian Federation's military aggression against Georgia and Ukraine represents a fundamental threat to the wider region as well as our own countries. The Russian Federation has continued its military build-up in Georgia's occupied territories and is further isolating those regions from the rest of the country, in total disregard of its commitments under the 2008 ceasefire agreement. Russia's illegal military bases in the regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali are equipped with sophisticated contemporary offensive weaponry, including tanks, various armoured vehicles and rocket-launch and missile systems. The force structure and posture of those deployments go beyond any defensive objectives and serve to project power across the entire Black Sea region and the Mediterranean. Russia has also deployed complexes of air-defence missile systems in Abkhazia, as well as powerful anti-access and area-denial capabilities that cover virtually the whole of the Caucasus and a large part of the Black Sea. In parallel, it is conducting regular military drills in the occupied Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions as part of its Southern Military District's exercises.

Multilateralism and the rules-based international system are vital prerequisites for a secure international environment. Our joint efforts and political will to comply with international law and adhere to our non-proliferation, disarmament and arms-control regimes and related commitments will define how we cope with our security challenges today and in the future.

Ms. Kalamwina (Zambia): I would like to align my statement with those delivered by the representatives of Indonesia and my own country on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Group of African States, respectively (see A/C.1/74/PV.3).

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr. Chair, and the members of the Bureau on your well-deserved election.

As we contemplate galvanizing our multilateral efforts to eradicate poverty and focus on climate action while leaving no one behind, we realize that that international vision may not be attainable if the

threat posed by nuclear weapons and other destructive weapons is not addressed through the international security agenda of the General Assembly, and its First Committee in particular. Looking back, the overall picture of international peace and security has changed very little and remains worrisome, since the rate of compliance of States Members of the United Nations with disarmament mechanisms continues to move at a snail's pace. That has been compounded by some Member States' reductions in their assessed financial contributions to the United Nations in various categories. It is crucial that we all meet our obligations under the various international treaties and conventions that ban and prohibit the manufacturing, testing, trading and proliferation of all forms of weapons.

Zambia remains committed to supporting all well-intentioned treaties and protocols, and I am pleased to inform the Committee that Zambia was among a number of States that signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September. We appeal to States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Treaty so that it can come into force after reaching the required ratification threshold. With the prohibition of nuclear weapons on the horizon, allow me to quote the words of former United States President Ronald Reagan,

"Our moral imperative is to work with all our powers for that day when the children of the world grow up without the fear of nuclear war."

The time has come for the world to completely shift the paradigm from armament issues towards concentrating on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, which compel us to work to find lasting solutions that will help us to eradicate poverty and combat the effects of climate change and other negative political, economic and social-discourse-related matters. With that in mind, the colossal sums dedicated to researching, manufacturing and testing nuclear weapons could definitely save many lives if used for poverty eradication and health-care compliance. My delegation has not lost hope and is convinced that the Global Zero campaign and its new No First Use campaign launched by the nine nuclear-weapon States, as well as other disarmament initiatives, will have positive results as we seek to establish a platform for the comprehensive elimination of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction.

These positive and collective disarmament agreements should restrict not only nuclear and chemical weapons but all armaments that are manufactured with

the full intention of fuelling the instability of nations across all regions of the world. As the United Nations heads towards the semi-sesquicentennial deliberations marking the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the General Assembly, we should be getting closer to a world free from armaments designed to destroy the environment, the human race and international peace and security.

Mr. Alshamsi (United Arab Emirates) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I am pleased to congratulate you, Mr. Chair, on your assumption of the leadership of the First Committee for the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly. We assure you of the support of the United Arab Emirates and wish you every success. I would also like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to your predecessor, Mr. Ion Jinga, Permanent Representative of Romania, for his conduct of the work of the Committee during the previous session.

The United Arab Emirates aligns itself with the statements made by the representatives of Tunisia, on behalf of the Group of Arab States, and Indonesia, on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (see A/C.1/74/PV.3).

We are meeting today to discuss ways of finding consensus and strengthening cooperation in order to achieve international peace and security, particularly given the current security threats that have had a negative effect on the achievements of previous years in the field of disarmament and international security. We continue to suffer not only from ongoing conflicts but also from the emergence of new crises, which are compounded by the growing capabilities of extremist and terrorist groups, supported by donations for the financing and weapons that they need to carry out their dangerous plans. In that regard, our region has recently witnessed several unprecedented assaults, such as the recent and widely condemned attacks on vital civil installations in Saudi Arabia, most recently a brazen attack on the facilities of the Saudi oil company Aramco. Such incidents affect the stability of the entire global economy as well as the security of the Kingdom and the region.

The United Arab Emirates supports all efforts aimed at promoting global peace and security, including through the development of international instruments such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). We therefore stress how important it is that countries accede to the international conventions

in the areas of nuclear security and safety, as well as the need for a transparent approach to the peaceful use of nuclear energy. We also note the importance of adhering to the International Atomic Energy Agency's verification programme and emphasize the need for full compliance with its comprehensive safeguards system and additional protocols, which are crucial tools for enhancing confidence among States regarding the peaceful nature of nuclear programmes.

The United Arab Emirates attaches great importance to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and calls on all States that have yet to join it to do so, especially the annex 2 States. We urge them to sign and ratify the Treaty as soon as possible. We also plead for all States to refrain from conducting nuclear tests. In that regard, my country welcomes the diplomatic steps that have recently been taken to reduce tensions on the Korean peninsula and seek the complete denuclearization of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

We emphasize how urgent it is to implement measures to strengthen the NPT and achieve its universality. Establishing a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East is also a priority. We hope that the current review session will see fruitful progress towards the implementation of the 2010 Action Plan on the Middle East. The United Arab Emirates is looking forward to the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction, which will be held in November under the chairmanship of Jordan. We reiterate our continued commitment to supporting all efforts aimed at making progress towards that goal.

Ms. Bonkougou (Burkina Faso), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

Turning to cyber security, the United Arab Emirates stresses the importance of enhancing international cooperation in the field of information and telecommunications security, which is a fundamental component in every sector as well as local and international institutions. We are seeing an increasing number of cyber incidents with a negative impact on the security of States and their economies. My country has therefore established a national cyber-security strategy designed to respond to such incidents and protect business sectors, as well as increasing society's awareness of cyber security and the risks related to the

unsafe use of the Internet. In that context, the United Arab Emirates welcomes the start of the meetings of the Open-ended Working Group on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security established by General Assembly resolution 73/27. My delegation looks forward to continuing to collaborate with other States as part of enhancing the Working Group's efforts in order to achieve the cooperation that is so essential in the area of cyber security.

In conclusion, the United Arab Emirates believes firmly that consensus is key to making progress on issues related to disarmament and international security. That requires an approach focused on strengthening multilateralism under the auspices of the United Nations. We also stress the importance of engaging and promoting the participation of women and young people in issues related to disarmament and international security at all levels of decision-making in national, regional and international institutions, so as to ensure the development of innovative policies that address the pressing issues we face in the field of international peace and security.

Mr. Kolie (Guinea) (*spoke in French*): On behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Guinea, I would like to convey my sincere congratulations to you, Madam, on your election as Vice-Chair of our Committee, as well as to the members of the Bureau, and to assure you of my delegation's commitment to the success of our work. I commend the outstanding efforts of the previous Chair, Ambassador Ion Jinga, and his Bureau. I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President of the General Assembly, and Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, on their outstanding statements to the Committee (see A/C.1/74/PV.3).

The Guinean delegation aligns itself with the statements made by the representatives of Zambia and Indonesia on behalf of the Group of African States and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, respectively (see A/C.1/74/PV.3).

From the creation of our Organization to the present day, the United Nations has laboured tirelessly to promote peace and security around the world. Despite those laudable efforts, wars and conflicts continue in various areas, thereby compromising the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. All weapons, whether weapons of mass

destruction, chemical weapons, heavy weapons, light weapons or small arms, contribute to inflicting terrible atrocities on humankind. That is why my delegation welcomes the implementation of the various mechanisms initiated under the auspices of the United Nations to promote disarmament and consolidate international peace and security. It is important to reaffirm the crucial role of the Conference on Disarmament in the implementation of the international disarmament regime. My delegation welcomes the holding of the various international meetings on disarmament, and in particular the Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament initiative launched by the Secretary-General.

Faithful to the principle of the peaceful settlement of disputes, Guinea is a State party to the relevant international conventions concerning weapons of mass destruction. In that regard, we advocate the promotion of multilateralism for general and complete disarmament, in particular for irreversible, transparent and verifiable nuclear disarmament.

We are convinced that nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction cannot guarantee international security and stability. On the contrary, their existence constitutes a permanent threat to international peace and security, which weighs, in particular, on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Their elimination must therefore be the focus of our concerns, given their destructive capacity.

From that standpoint, Guinea supports any negotiation process on banning the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices in the context of the Conference on Disarmament in 2020. We believe that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons remains the cornerstone and, as such, its universalization can be seen as a guarantee of peace and stability in the world.

The Guinean delegation is convinced that disarmament is above all the primary responsibility of States but that it should be facilitated within the framework of a frank, transparent and trust-based multilateral approach. In the same spirit, Guinea calls for and promotes regional and subregional approaches. My country has always therefore expressed its commitment to the Treaty of Pelindaba, making Africa a nuclear-weapon-free zone, the Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small

Arms and Light Weapons, the Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Arms Trade Treaty. The assistance provided to the States concerned by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa must be supported and encouraged.

For its part, the Guinean Government has taken several initiatives and measures in the field of disarmament. At the legislative level, my country is a State party to several international instruments, for which it regularly submits implementation reports. Guinea adopted the law of 22 July 1996 and its implementing regulations on the arms, munitions, gunpowder and explosives regime in the Republic of Guinea.

Implemented even before the adoption of the ECOWAS moratorium of 31 October 1998, the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials of 14 June 2006 and the holding of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects from 9 to 20 July 2001, demonstrates the Guinean Government's resolve to fight this scourge of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

At the institutional level, the country has set up a national commission to combat the proliferation and illicit circulation of light weapons. In terms of marking, the commission has taken measures to ensure that all small arms and light weapons of the Government's armed forces and security forces are duly marked as soon as they are manufactured. One thousand firearms have also been processed using a mobile marking machine mobile held by the commission. In addition, since 2017, the Mines Advisory Group and the demining section of the General Staff of the armed forces have selected and destroyed nearly 100 tons of obsolete or poorly maintained ammunition in some munition depots. Between 2016 and 2017, more than 1,400 weapons were collected in the country.

In addition, in recent years operations for the voluntary surrender of weapons and ammunition with micro-project financing have led to the collection of 450 weapons. Moreover, to combat the still significant production of homemade weapons on the Guinean territory, the commission has tasked a researcher with

conducting a study, among other things, to identify all the producers concerned.

Peace and disarmament are important. We must demonstrate the political will to overcome our geopolitical and strategic differences in order to build a world free of nuclear weapons. Renouncing the arms race to focus on the fight against poverty, pandemics and environmental degradation would build a better world for future generations.

In conclusion, the Guinean delegation would like to call for solidarity and international cooperation to strengthen international, regional, subregional and national capacities to achieve disarmament goals, particularly in the area of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, which remains a key challenge in West Africa.

Mr. Al Zadjali (Oman) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, allow me to extend my congratulations to the Chair and the other members of the Bureau on their appointments to steer the work of the First Committee. I am sure that their diplomatic skills and experience will guide us towards achieving the desired aims of the Committee. We stand ready to cooperate with the Chair, as well as all other members.

My country's delegation endorses the statements made by the Permanent Representative of Indonesia, on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, and the representative of Tunisia on behalf of the Group of Arab States (see A/C.1/74/PV.3).

There are a number of international agreements and conventions that have helped to ensure stability and security. My delegation supports all the noble efforts of States to achieve peace and stability throughout the world. We would note the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, particularly the peaceful settlement of disputes, non-interference in the internal affairs of others and respect for national sovereignty.

However, among the areas still suffering conflicts, I would highlight the Middle East. We hope that the efforts of the international community will make it possible to achieve a peaceful settlement in that important region of the world. We believe that that is now possible. The region could then resume its pivotal role within the multilateral system in order for peaceful coexistence and cooperation to prevail.

On behalf of my delegation, allow me to express support for the call by Secretary-General António Guterres for a conference to be held in New York with a view to establishing a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. We call on all signatory countries of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) to constructively participate in such a conference, which, we hope, will be the basis for the cooperation, security and development of all countries of the region.

Security cannot be achieved solely by desire. Tangible measures must be taken. Security is interdependent and the security of one State cannot be achieved at the expense of other States. Despite its complexity, the situation in the Middle East could help us to achieve a climate of trust, security and stability in the various countries.

My country attaches particular importance to the NPT as the foundation towards establishing a comprehensive system of non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. The Treaty fully demonstrates the political will of the international community to achieve nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We hope that all countries, including Israel, will adhere to the Treaty so that the world can benefit from peace, security and prosperity. My country believes that we must also respect each country's right to undertake research and to acquire nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

The stagnation in the area of disarmament calls into question the multilateral system, which is in a state of paralysis. We call on all Member States to show the necessary political will and courage in order to achieve disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, so that countries can be spared from that threat, which jeopardizes international peace and security.

We reaffirm the importance of avoiding double standards given the failure in recent years to reach agreement on many areas concerning nuclear disarmament, including, for example, within the Conference on Disarmament and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which has not entered into force, and the inability to adopt a programme of work at the Conference on Disarmament.

We call on all Member States to respect their obligations under all disarmament agreements and treaties, particularly in the area of nuclear disarmament. That would enable us not only to promote international peace and security but also to ensure that significant

resources are made available to support the efforts of Member States, thereby creating an atmosphere of stability and trust among States, particularly given their interdependence.

In conclusion, rest assured of my country's cooperation in order to meet such aspirations so as to establish a more secure and stable world.

Ms. Almojuela (Philippines): The Philippines congratulates the Chair on his election to lead the First Committee and assures him and the other members of the Bureau of its full support. My country aligns itself with the statements made by the representatives of Indonesia on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and of Myanmar on behalf of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (see A/C.1/74/PV.3).

At this year's General Assembly, our main aim is to inspire ambitious action to end poverty, respond to the climate threat and secure healthy, peaceful and prosperous lives for all. Member States have painstakingly developed national agendas aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament has drawn the proper emphasis to the interlinkages between disarmament and development for disarmament that saves lives. All our achievements can be obliterated by nuclear war, the use of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) or the violence engendered by the widespread illegal trade in and indiscriminate use of conventional weapons.

With regard to nuclear weapons, the Philippines firmly believes that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and an essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. The Philippines continues to support the 13 practical steps and the 64-point action plan that was agreed upon at the 2010 NPT Review Conference. Regarding the third pillar of the NPT, the Philippines commends the International Atomic Energy Agency for its invaluable contributions towards the acceleration of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, particularly in developing countries, through its Technical Cooperation Programme, while ensuring a world that is safe, secure and safeguarded. The Philippines believes that the success of the 2020 Review Conference on the Treaty's fiftieth anniversary will rest on both the celebration of the Treaty's positive accomplishments as well as a decisive, uncompromising march towards a world free of nuclear weapons, on the

basis of the commitments and obligations that underpin the Treaty.

We reiterate our call for the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) — a fundamental instrument in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We therefore welcome the Final Declaration and Measures to Promote the Entry into Force of the CTBT, adopted on 25 September by the Article XIV Conference to that end. The CTBT's 168 ratifications thus far clearly demonstrate the broad international support for that instrument.

The Philippines is concerned about recent developments in the global security environment, indicating the deepening of mistrust and the widening of the divide among States parties, the modernization and refinement of nuclear-weapon capabilities and the lowering of thresholds for the use of nuclear weapons. We call on the nuclear-weapon States to fulfil their commitments under the NPT with sincerity and without conditions. We also call on relevant parties to reconsider their withdrawal or suspension of obligations from critical landmark agreements, in particular the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

As we discuss regional disarmament, the Philippines emphasizes the role of nuclear-weapon-free zones in reinforcing the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation framework. Stronger cooperation and coordination between and among them and with the nuclear-weapon States would help affirm that important role. Fully aware of the critical importance of the 1995 outcome as it pertains to the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and WMDs, the Philippines supports efforts to sustain and enhance dialogue and engagement.

Regarding the other weapons of mass destruction, the Philippines takes an active role in the implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). It is important to ensure the financial sustainability of the Convention and deliberate on measures during the intersessional process that would strengthen international cooperation and preparedness, response and assistance and foster greater synergies between and among the relevant international organizations and with regional organizations. The Philippines supports all efforts to facilitate the achievement of concrete outcomes in the 2021 BWC Review Conference.

On conventional weapons, the proliferation of conventional arms has contributed to the alarming instability in many parts of the world. The Philippines believes that strong regulations covering conventional weapons, including small arms, and their ammunition, parts and components, should be supported and implemented. The Philippines became a State party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in January this year and is now supporting the work of the coordinating committee on the Convention's universalization. We welcome the Vienna Conference on Protecting Civilians in Urban Warfare, which has deepened the engagement of States on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas and the possible courses of action on a comprehensive international response moving forward.

We recognize that transnational cybercrime has far-reaching implications for the peace and security of States and our individual citizens. We support national and international efforts on this issue, including the work of the intergovernmental Open-ended Working Group and Group of Governmental Experts, both groups being outcomes of resolutions recommended by the First Committee for adoption by the General Assembly last year (resolutions 73/27 and 73/266).

Lastly, an important aspect of our work is the mainstreaming of gender issues in disarmament processes. Fully concurring with the Secretary-General's call for building partnerships in our work, we advocate stronger collaboration with partner States, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and research institutions to pursue and expand relevant initiatives.

The Philippine delegation urges concerned parties to conclude consultations on the outstanding issues that prevent us from adopting the First Committee's programme of work. Considering the critical work ahead of us, we urge the First Committee to adopt the programme of work without any further delay.

As we proceed with the task ahead of us, we emphasize the critical importance of building trust and confidence in all areas. The Philippines encourages the resumption of constructive steps and positive engagement among concerned Member States to address issues regarding arms control and nuclear disarmament, particularly bilateral ones. We in the First Committee have the enormous responsibility to advance the imperative of the United Nations mission for a safe and peaceful world.

Mr. Prasad (Fiji): Fiji would like to join colleagues in congratulate the Chair and other members of the Bureau on their appointments. Under her leadership, the First Committee has my delegation's full support and our best wishes for this session.

Fiji aligns its statement with that made by the representative of Indonesia, on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (see A/C.1/74/PV.3).

Fiji is committed to supporting the United Nations in its efforts to maintain international peace and security. The work of the First Committee is very important in that regard. Disarmament and arms control form the cornerstone of international peace and security. Around the world today we see varying and declining degrees of commitment to major international disarmament and arms control mechanisms.

The global environment faces a growing challenge of weakening consensus and declining trust. Mistrust has resulted in the erosion of some confidence in international disarmament mechanisms. The trust deficit in the international arena needs to be overcome. That is when the United Nations is needed the most. The success of the Committee is so important to such work.

One result of such growing mistrust in the global environment is the proliferation of arms and weapons that bypass arms control mechanisms, causing much suffering across many parts of the world. We, as Member States, are very confident. We gave ourselves 2030 as the target by which we should achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Those Goals are unachievable without peace and security. Peace and security are essential building blocks for sustainable development. The fulfilment of the objectives of international disarmament and arms control mechanisms are essential to providing an environment where peace can thrive and the development needs of communities can be fulfilled.

Fiji and other Pacific islands have been at the forefront in calling for an end to nuclear-weapon testing. That resulted in the Treaty of Rarotonga, which entered into force on 11 December 1986. The Treaty created the South Pacific Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone — only the second treaty on a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the world.

There were more than 300 nuclear weapons tests, atmospheric, below surface and underground, conducted in the Pacific. The dumping of nuclear

waste and storage of nuclear materials remain pressing challenges for countries across the region. The effect of nuclear testing is still being felt in the form of environmental degradation and the growing health challenges faced by the Pacific peoples. The long-term impacts of weapons testing on food and marine ecology are a growing concern across the Pacific.

Pacific communities close to the test sites are experiencing acute health problems arising from their slow exposure to radiation over many decades. The stability of the atoll structures is being questioned by some. Compensation mechanisms and the study of long-term impacts of tests and storage are in their infancy. Fiji has only recently managed to provide compensation to test veterans, who were deliberately deployed to observe nuclear tests — a right that was denied to them by the colonial authorities. All such issues remind us daily why the world needs to comply with the non-proliferation frameworks.

Armed conflicts and wars are becoming more deadly. Large percentages of populations across the world continue to be displaced due to armed conflicts. The widespread proliferation of light arms through illegal means are a growing threat to peace and security. They are a catalyst for conflicts. Climate change and its impacts on water safety, for example, worsen the security context in many regions. As a result, local conflicts only too quickly become regional and international in dimension.

Despite international arms control mechanisms, the proliferation of illegal arms and ammunition has increased. That is why, again, the work of this Committee is so vital.

The development of information and communications technology (ICT) has opened up great opportunities for humanity. Communication and the Internet of things are an essential part of life in most parts of the world. Connectivity has become the new normal. At the same time the widespread connectivity has increased our vulnerability. State fragility and vulnerability have been heightened by cybercrime in a growing number of cases.

There needs to be a collective response to this to ensure that the Internet promotes development and does not undermine it. The freedom allowed by the Internet needs to be carefully balanced with far greater responsibility. That is a huge challenge, but we need to get it right. Otherwise, it will have a negative impact

on States and societies, creating tensions that will fuel, amplify and exacerbate existing conflicts and/or create new conflicts. We have time and again suffered great sadness when so many people have lost their lives because of Internet-fuelled hatred. Fiji welcomes the work of the Group of Governmental Experts and the Open-ended Working Group on cybersecurity and looks forward to its recommendations.

Progress on disarmament can happen only in an environment of confidence, transparency and trust. Nuclear-weapon States need to abide by the commitments that they have made. The world does not need nuclear weapons. The promise and hope of nuclear disarmament remain unfulfilled.

Fiji has strived to ratify all the treaties and to honour its international obligations in that respect. Fiji has signed the treaties related to nuclear disarmament and weapons of mass destruction. Fiji is in the process of ratifying the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which it signed in 2017.

Fiji reaffirms its full support and commitment to the work of the Committee.

Mr. Gaye (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): I would first like to join others in congratulating the members of the Bureau and to assure them of my delegation's full support.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by the representatives of Indonesia and of Zambia on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Group of African States, respectively (see A/C.1/74/PV.3). I would also like to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

The work of the First Committee is taking place in a complex and uncertain global security environment and, once again, we note with great regret that the standstill in the negotiations on key disarmament and international security issues continues. Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are still a long way from being realized. We cannot say it often enough: only respect for our international obligations in that area will enable us to achieve the ideal of a world free of nuclear weapons, to which we so aspire.

Realizing such an ideal is also dependent on ensuring that the existing stocks of fissile materials are taken into account in the negotiations on an agreement prohibiting the production of fissile material for nuclear purposes. It also requires, it must be said,

the preservation of the inalienable right of all States to the peaceful use of energy, which, moreover, is the third pillar of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

In addition to nuclear weapons, we must also show a greater will to combat the development, storage, use or threat of use of the manufacture, distribution and use of other weapons of mass destruction, such as chemical, biological and radiological weapons.

Moreover, we cannot continue every year to highlight our differences in areas as crucial to international security as outer space and cyberspace. With regard to outer space, my delegation reiterates its support for initiatives to prevent any militarization of space, which, we must recall, should remain a common good for all humankind.

With regard to cyberspace, Senegal advocates complementarity and mutual guidance between the two ongoing processes in developing standards of conduct in cyberspace.

With regard to conventional weapons, which, it is often said, are the weapons of mass destruction in most countries, particularly developing countries, our efforts must focus as a priority on implementing the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). However, the many challenges that characterized the ATT negotiations are still relevant today. My country therefore calls on all countries that have not yet done so to sign and/or ratify this important international legal instrument to regulate the arms trade as soon as possible.

Senegal also calls on States to actively participate in the international and regional tools to regulate the arms trade under the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons and the Register of Conventional Arms, while particularly ensuring the full, regular and timely submission of national reports on international transfers of conventional weapons. In that regard, Senegal calls for the creation of an eighth category on small arms and light weapons within the Register of Conventional Arms.

With regard to small arms and light weapons, the final document of the Review Conference of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (A/CONF.192/2018/RC/3, annex) has already established ambitious possibilities, particularly

in terms of combating illicit diversion, manufacture, reactivation and conversion and promoting cooperation and assistance, including with regard to ammunition. It falls to us to fully contribute to the success of the 2020 and 2022 Biennial Meetings of States and the forthcoming 2024 Review Conference, which are so crucial for the proper follow-up of these identified priorities.

Preventing and combating the humanitarian consequences of weapons, both weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons, must also be a principled part of all disarmament initiatives. In that regard, my country welcomes the significant contribution of non-governmental organizations and believes that they should be given their rightful place, including in our deliberations.

In conclusion, my delegation once again expresses its deep concern at the chronic deadlocks that continue to affect the functioning of the main international negotiating frameworks on disarmament and international security issues.

As we know, the Conference on Disarmament has struggled to adopt its agenda for more than 20 years. The Disarmament Commission did not hold its 2019 substantive session or even its organizational meeting for reasons that we know. Likewise, the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference was unable to adopt by consensus the Chairman's recommendation document.

All these obstacles should further encourage us to step up our efforts to resolve our differences once and for all and foster a spirit of consensus in those important international negotiating forums, on which, we must remember, rest all our hopes for compromise in order to achieve disarmament.

Mr. Kernozhitsky (Belarus) (*spoke in Russian*): I would like to welcome the Chair and assure the Committee of the full cooperation of the delegation of the Republic of Belarus.

At present, we are witnessing the growing destruction of the international security framework that was established in the middle of the previous century. An increasing loss of trust among countries is one of the reasons and consequences of that. The latest unfortunate example is the termination of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty.

Today the possibility of the emergence of weapon-related ethics in the European region is once

again becoming a reality. That inevitably leads to increased tension on the continent and the threat of a new cycle of military confrontation.

Belarus has consistently and continuously defended the idea of the need to resume a comprehensive regional and international dialogue to restore trust and confidence. However, that cannot be achieved without a shared understanding of the need for a new negotiation dynamic that stabilizes international relations and strengthens security. Now more than ever we need to find a common agenda and new ideas that are shared by a wide range of States and international organizations. Among those should be the idea of countering the deployment of medium- and shorter-range missiles in the European region.

At the high-level international conference on combating terrorism through innovative approaches and the use of new and emerging technologies, held in Minsk on 3 September this year, the President of the Republic of Belarus, Alyaksandr Lukashenko, stated that Belarus, which was a full-fledged signatory to the INF Treaty, did not withdraw from it and did not intend to produce or deploy such missiles unless there were appropriate external threats to our country.

The Belarusian Head of State proposed adopting a declaration by the relevant countries on the non-placement of intermediate- and shorter-range missiles in Europe. That issue was developed in the address by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belarus to the General Assembly on 26 September of this year (see A/74/PV.8).

Joint actions to preserve the achievements of the INF Treaty by adopting such a declaration would be an important step in reducing tensions, restoring confidence and strengthening security in the European and Eurasian regions. Such a declaration does not constitute a replacement of the Treaty, but it could help fill the legal vacuum in regulating such types of weapons. A key element of the declaration is the clear and unequivocal commitment of countries to not deploying intermediate- and shorter-range missiles on their territory.

The problems associated with the existence of nuclear weapons have so far not only simply not been resolved but have to a certain extent only worsened. We are convinced that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) should continue to be the cornerstone of the entire international security system.

Attempts to replace it with parallel instruments that do not enjoy universal support are counter-productive.

In 2020 we look forward to an important event, the NPT Review Conference, at which we should provide an unbiased and frank assessment of international efforts to build a world without nuclear weapons. We hope that the outcome of the Review Conference will allow us to overcome existing differences in the positions of States and strengthen the NPT regime.

Nuclear-weapon-free zones are an important component of the global non-proliferation regime. We trust that the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction, to be held in November, will help towards the implementation of the outcome of the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference on the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East.

We remain concerned about the unilateral withdrawal by the United States of its participation in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on the Iranian nuclear programme.

We believe it vital to ensure the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), which plays a critical role in achieving the objective of a nuclear-free world for all peoples. We are concerned about the growing trend to undermine the CTBT, especially given the heightened tension between major actors. We urge all countries on whose action the future of the Treaty depends, in particular the remaining eight annex 2 States, to demonstrate the political will and take steps towards its prompt entry into force.

We also hope to continue the dialogue aimed at facilitating the negotiation process to resolve the situation on the Korean peninsula. The early resolution of that issue will serve to stabilize the situation not only in the region but also across the world.

Belarus is a consistent advocate of developing rules for responsible behaviour in the information space in the context of international security, welcoming broad-based dialogue and various forms of cooperation. Belarus actively participated in the work of the Group of Governmental Experts on international information security, contributing to its decisions. We welcome the launch of the Open-ended Group, which held its first session at Headquarters in September.

Belarus is ready to develop cooperation and strengthen ties in the field of international information security with all countries of the world. At the aforementioned counter-terrorism conference, the President of the Republic of Belarus, Alyaksandr Lukashenko, put forward an initiative to establish a digital neighbourhood belt through international agreements on information security. Key elements of such agreements could be the ideas of digital sovereignty and neutrality, as well as non-interference in the information resources of other countries. The Head of State of Belarus also proposed launching the Minsk wave of digital security, strengthening ties between countries to increase the effectiveness of joint efforts to counter terrorist threats in cyberspace.

Next year, the General Assembly will once again consider the resolution traditionally submitted by the Republic of Belarus on the prohibition of the development and production of new types of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). The resolution is one of the few preventive mechanisms to date, if not the only one, that seeks to establish an agreed international procedure that allows for monitoring the possible development and dissemination of new types of WMD. We urge all countries to again support such a mechanism by consensus.

Preventing weapons of mass destruction from falling into unscrupulous hands should also remain a priority of the joint efforts of Member States.

In May this year, at the initiative of the Republic of Belarus, the 1540 Committee held a presentation on the outcome of regional cooperation between Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan based on a tripartite review. The meeting was the first of its kind to be held by a specialized body of the Security Council focusing on Eastern Europe and Central Asian States.

With regard to weapons of mass destruction, we emphasize that we do not accept the use of chemical weapons anywhere by anyone. We support decisions that will help to ensure consensus once again in the Organization's work. We do not welcome any opposing actions that could lead to the politicization of the work of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons or interference in the Security Council's powers.

The Republic of Belarus attaches great importance to the work of the Conference on Disarmament (CD). We are concerned about the situation in the Conference.

In 2019, the CD was not able to adopt a programme of work or to convene subsidiary bodies. As one of the six Chairs of the Conference in 2020, Belarus is ready to do its utmost to revive a good climate of cooperation in the substantive work of the CD.

We note with regret that there are still gaps in the legal regulation of the use of outer space, in particular regarding the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space. We support the 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, put forward by Russia and China.

We are concerned that the Disarmament Commission has not been able to formally hold a substantive session this year due to a lack of consensus on beginning its work.

Achieving global peace, stability and security is possible only by resuming and supporting an inclusive and equitable dialogue among all Member States, without exception. Belarus is ready to continue to make every effort to realize those noble goals.

Ms. Haile (Eritrea): At the outset allow me to join representatives who spoke before me in congratulating the Chair and the other members of the Bureau on their elections to steer the work of this important Committee during the seventy-fourth session. I assure them of my delegation's full support during our deliberations.

My delegation fully aligns itself with the statements made by the representatives of Indonesia and of Zambia on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Group of African States, respectively, (see A/C.1/74/PV.3) and wishes to briefly underscore the following.

Eritrea attaches great importance to the full observance of all principles and norms of international law, including full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States in the maintenance of international peace and security. Eritrea believes that international peace and security can be guaranteed only through stable and inclusive global economic and social development and full respect for the Charter of the United Nations and international law, as well as treaty obligations.

Eritrea's foreign and national security policies are anchored in ensuring economic growth and inclusive development and establishing a peaceful and cooperative neighbourhood. Achieving peace

and security in any region necessitates meaningful cooperation and engagement among countries of the region to be able to address the root causes of insecurity and issues of common concern. It requires an inclusive regional conflict mechanism that can organically evolve to address the specific challenges of the region.

The Horn of Africa, locked in a zero-sum game for several decades, has now shown its determination to change its own destiny by steadily moving towards peace and stability. Challenges will remain. Yet the new developments within countries and in the regional relationship have put the Horn of Africa on a positive trajectory towards peace and prosperity. Eritrea has always believed in the shared destiny of the peoples of the Horn of Africa. They can progress only together, without excluding any people or country.

The continued existence and possession of nuclear weapons and the impending nuclear arms race characterized by the upgrading and modernizing of nuclear arsenals do not guarantee security. They pose an existential threat to humankind. The non-use of nuclear arms can be guaranteed only by the total and irreversible elimination of nuclear weapons. The full implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, including article VI, and the ratification of the landmark Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons constitute the key to a world free of nuclear arms. Moreover, Eritrea believes that the legally binding negative assurances and the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, as well as the universalization and early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty, are critical steps towards general and complete nuclear disarmament.

It is true that we should be realistic and cannot expect an overnight change of the somewhat strained international climate. Yet it is the conviction of my delegation that the international community can meet the challenges to peace and security through multilateralism. Multilateralism and multilaterally agreed solutions in accordance with the United Nations Charter provide the solid basis for addressing disarmament, peace and security issues. Embargoes and other pressures can hardly offer a fundamental solution to the proliferation concerns. In that regard, Eritrea reiterates its commitment to the work of disarmament and international security, as disarmament can be achieved only on a multilateral basis.

Let me conclude by reiterating that disarmament benefits humankind because it not only eliminates threats to peace and security but also frees up badly needed resources for development efforts.

Mr. Pichpanhavoan (Cambodia): At the outset, I would like to congratulate the Chair and the other members of the Bureau and assure them of my delegation's full cooperation and support.

Cambodia would like to align itself with the statements delivered by the representatives of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and of Myanmar on behalf of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (see A./C.1/74/PV.3).

It is indeed a great concern that while conflicts are increasing, multilateralism is weakening. That presents a dangerous situation, which requires immediate actions by Member States to stop the trend. It is imperative that we all renew our strong commitment to complete disarmament, without which the world cannot be safe and people's lives remain in danger.

Cambodia appreciates the comprehensive Agenda for Disarmament launched by Secretary-General António Guterres in 2018. It contains some practical actions, such as disarmament to save humanity, disarmament that saves lives, disarmament for future generations, and strengthening partnerships for disarmament. Member States, as well as the relevant United Nations agencies, should take concrete steps and measures to implement that important Agenda.

Over the past few years, the world has been facing security uncertainty through nuclear test incidents or the threat of use of nuclear weapons. Contrary to the efforts to totally eliminate nuclear weapons, some States are trying to modernize their system. Cambodia believes that Member States should establish a mechanism to ensure that nuclear weapons must not be used in any circumstance, and we should do our utmost to work towards achieving a legally binding instrument on nuclear disarmament.

Next year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Therefore, States should not only reaffirm their commitment but also take practical actions towards nuclear disarmament. It is my delegation's hope that the 2020 NPT Review Conference will produce a fruitful outcome for the benefit of global security for all humankind.

The adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) in 2017 set an important milestone in the nuclear disarmament regime. Cambodia believes that the TPNW does not undermine the NPT but complements it, while strengthening other nuclear disarmament instruments.

Following its adoption in 1996, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty still remains a treaty whose entry into force is long awaited. While we wait for the universalization of the Treaty, States should refrain from conducting nuclear-weapon tests or any other nuclear explosion that could undermine the objective of the Treaty. While welcoming new countries that have just signed it and those that have just ratified it, Cambodia calls on the remaining countries to sign and ratify the CTBT without delay. Cambodia joins other Member States in recognizing that while we are strongly opposed to nuclear weapons, all States have the right to use nuclear energy for development purposes.

To join regional and global efforts to eliminate weapons of mass destruction, Cambodia adopted a law on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, biochemical weapons, radioactive weapons and chemical weapons. The law bans the production, recycling, transfer and transportation of all kinds of such weapons in the country. Importantly, based on the law, the Royal Government of Cambodia has established the National Authority for Chemical Weapons to control and investigate chemical substances, as well as a laboratory for observing such substances.

The increasing illicit trade of conventional weapons is still one of the biggest challenges that we are facing today. While recognizing the sovereign right of each country to use them, we must also ensure their regulation. Through the proper implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons, we can control the flow of weapons and prevent them from falling into the hands of non-State actors.

The Ottawa Convention is of great importance to Cambodia. My delegation highly appreciates the contributions of all States parties and relevant stakeholders to the Convention towards a mine-free world.

Cambodia has received considerable assistance in that field and looks forward to the fruitful outcome of

the fourth Review Conference, to be held in Oslo in late November this year.

In conclusion, we have the shared responsibilities to ensure that our wonderful planet, our people and our children are safe and that they all live in peace and enjoy development and prosperity. Let us therefore disarm to make our world a better place to live in for generations to come.

Mr. Alrowaiei (Bahrain) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to congratulate the representative of Bolivia on his election as Chair of the First Committee for the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly. I wish him and all other members of the Bureau every success in discharging their responsibilities and we assure them of our full support for their work during this session. I would also like to thank the representative of Romania and congratulate him on his work during the previous session.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Tunisia on behalf of the Group of Arab States (see A/C.1/74/PV.3).

Bahrain believes that the maintenance of international peace and security cannot be achieved while nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction exist. For that reason, we would like to express our appreciation for the critical role of the United Nations and its specialized agencies in the area of disarmament in the light of the challenges faced by many regions of the world.

We reiterate our condemnation of the destructive terrorist attack that targeted the oil facilities in Saudi Arabia. That is a clear threat to the global supply of oil, and we affirm and emphasize our unconditional support to Saudi Arabia regarding any measure it takes to preserve its peace, security and stability.

The King of Bahrain highlights the importance of supporting all efforts to establish a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. It is important to limit the proliferation of nuclear weapons. We would like to underline the importance of implementing the resolution of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

In that regard, we welcome Jordan's chairmanship of the conference to be held by the United Nations in

November to negotiate the text of a binding treaty on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East pursuant to decision 73/546.

The many complex conflicts in various parts of the world increase the opportunity for terrorist groups to acquire different kinds of weapons, including weapons of mass destruction. That is a direct threat to international peace and security. In that regard, we would like to point out that, despite the recent developments to mitigate such risks, we still need to take further measures to address such challenges.

Outer space is common heritage that must not be exploited in such a way as to threaten international peace and security. We therefore emphasize the need to abide by the relevant international legal instruments that seek to prevent an arms race in outer space and to preserve its use exclusively for peaceful purposes.

In conclusion, we assure the Committee of our full support and will work with all Member States to achieve progress on all matters related to disarmament and international security.

Mr. Situmorang (Indonesia): Let me first congratulate the Chair and all the other members of the Bureau on their election. Indonesia will lend its support and cooperation for the successful conclusion of the First Committee session. I also wish to extend my appreciation to the previous Chair for his able leadership during the seventy-third session.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (see A/C.1/74/PV.3).

In the past two decades, we have witnessed a deterioration in the political commitment to disarmament in the area of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) by a number of States. That is evident in the persistent presence of WMDs in their security doctrines and the continued modernization of related technology, widening the trust deficit between possessor and non-possessor States as well as disregarding the global concern over the humanitarian and indiscriminate impacts of WMDs.

In his address to the General Assembly three weeks ago, our Vice-President warned that war and conflict will destroy our collective hope of achieving all targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (see A/74/PV.9). Our preoccupation with armaments and the volatile

security situation should not become a stumbling block to achieving development and prosperity. Therefore, it is vital for the First Committee to support the Goals. In that regard, allow me to stress four points.

First, for its part, Indonesia has never wavered in its support for disarmament and non-proliferation regarding any kind of WMD. We strongly believe that the total elimination of all WMDs is the only guarantee against their use as well as their humanitarian and environmental consequences.

Secondly, it is paramount for all States parties to preserve and continue the implementation of existing multilateral and bilateral arms control agreements. The nuclear-weapon States need to demonstrate the genuine political will and flexibility in order to achieve progress towards the outcome of the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The extension of the New START Treaty would be a key contribution from the nuclear-weapon States in advancing the disarmament agenda in line with commitments under the NPT.

Major achievements made through the Chemical Weapons Convention should be maintained, including by preserving the credibility of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to carry out its mandate free from politicization.

The United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects should be strengthened to curb the illegal supply and use of conventional weapons by unauthorized actors, particularly in conflict situations.

Thirdly, while it is important for us to strengthen the implementation of existing multilaterally agreed treaties, we need to take new approaches and initiatives to address the setbacks in the disarmament agenda. We urge the immediate entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to strengthen and enforce the global nuclear disarmament architecture.

To achieve such targets, it is important to engage alongside civil society and intensify our work towards the universalization of the treaties mentioned above.

That brings me to the fourth point, on building collective efforts to address the potential threats of weaponized outer space and cyberspace. The exploration and use of outer space and other celestial

bodies should be only for peaceful purposes and should benefit all States.

We urge the Conference on Disarmament to commence substantive work on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, among other issues, with the aim of achieving a consensus-based legally binding multilateral instrument on this matter.

The increase in cyberattacks across regions against critical infrastructure by State and non-State actors is unacceptable. In that regard, we reaffirm that international law, in particular the Charter of the United Nations, is applicable and essential to maintaining peace and stability in the promotion of an open, secure, stable and peaceful information and communications technology environment.

Indonesia welcomes and supports the establishment of both the Open-ended Working Group and the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security. We hope that the two mechanisms can work in a complementary manner.

In conclusion, I want to reiterate that we must work together to help build a safe and peaceful world for all humankind.

Mr. Molnár (Hungary): I would like to join previous speakers in congratulating the Chair and all other members of the Bureau on their election and assuring them of my delegation's full support.

Hungary associates itself with the statement delivered by the observer of the European Union (see A/C.1/74/PV.3). I will therefore add just a few remarks from our national perspective. I will deliver a shortened version of our statement, while the full text will be uploaded to PaperSmart.

The current complex and unpredictable security situation, characterized by the demise of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, the uncertainty surrounding the extension of the New START Treaty and the repeated violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in various parts of the world, shows that the current security context is not conducive to strengthening the disarmament and non-proliferation architecture. In the circumstances, however, redoubling our efforts is even more essential, because further progress in that area could help to improve the overall security environment as well.

The most important task ahead of us is ensuring a successful outcome for the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to be held next year, when we will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Treaty. Since the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons has proved to be not only the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime but also the only realistic framework for multilateral nuclear disarmament, we have to do our utmost to preserve and reinforce its integrity. Since many countries' positions on nuclear disarmament are far apart, we should focus on the areas where there is common ground. There can be no fast track in that area. Only an inclusive and incremental process made up of concrete and practical steps and that engages nuclear-weapon States can produce tangible results.

An indispensable building block of that incremental approach is the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, as there can be no meaningful nuclear disarmament or non-proliferation without a comprehensive and total ban on nuclear testing. Another concrete step towards a world free of nuclear weapons would be a ban on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons. The development of effective verification mechanisms is yet another essential element in the incremental approach. Hungary was therefore honoured to be a member of the Group of Governmental Experts to consider the role of verification in advancing nuclear disarmament. We are pleased that we were able to reach consensus on our report (A/74/90), which clearly recognizes the need for further work in the area. Hungary also participates actively in the work of the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification, focusing on technical aspects and capacity-building for verification. We trust that the Creating an Environment for Nuclear Disarmament initiative, which we are also involved in, will serve as another building block for our joint efforts to achieve a world without nuclear weapons.

Moving to the subject of nuclear non-proliferation, I want to underline that Hungary continues to insist on the complete, irreversible and verifiable denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. We value the united and resolute stance of the international community, which has played an essential role in the limited progress on that issue. We also support the international efforts aimed at ensuring the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme. We believe that

while the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action is not perfect, it has proved to be a useful instrument for addressing concerns about Iran's nuclear programme.

The continued violation of the CWC should be an issue of grave concern. Hungary condemns the use of such weapons and believes strongly that those responsible must be held accountable. We have to ensure the integrity of the CWC and the 1925 Geneva Protocol and full compliance with them, as well as supporting the efforts of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to that end.

Hungary attaches particular importance to cybersecurity and therefore considers last year's General Assembly resolutions 73/266 and 73/27, which established the Group of Governmental Experts on advancing responsible State behaviour in cyberspace in the context of international security and the Open-ended Working Group on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security, respectively, as important next steps for addressing threats posed by the use of information and communication technologies. Complementarity and coordination will be key to the success of both processes. Regional organizations also have an important role to play in the area. Hungary, as the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Informal Working Group on Cybersecurity since 2017, therefore supports efforts aimed at closer cooperation between the OSCE and United Nations formats.

Hungary is pleased with the outcome of the fifth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty. Since effective implementation remains crucial to advancing the purposes of the Treaty, we welcome the fact that the focus of the next Conference of States Parties will be on countering diversion. We are also pleased with the pace of universalization. However, we are compelled to point out that as long as key players remain outside the Treaty's scope, its impact and efficiency remain limited. We should also create and reinforce synergies with relevant international organizations and mechanisms such as the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. On the twentieth anniversary of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, we expect the fourth Review Conference, to be held in Oslo, to improve the implementation of obligations under the

Convention, with a view to achieving a world free of anti-personnel mines.

My country strongly believes that the Disarmament Commission can make an important contribution to the disarmament and non-proliferation work of the United Nations. That is why we decided to undertake the task of chairing this year's session of the Commission. However, the substantive session could not be held, owing to unresolved procedural problems. Together with Australia, the outgoing Chair, we are doing our utmost to enable the Commission to resume its work next year.

In conclusion, I want to confirm that Hungary, following the practice of previous years, has prepared a draft resolution on the Biological Weapons Convention, which is a fundamental pillar of the international community's efforts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The substantive changes in the draft resolution reflect the decisions taken at the last Meeting of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention about financial matters and about the fact that in the light of the ongoing major renovation of the Palais des Nations in Geneva, the next Meeting of States Parties, to be held in December, should agree on practical arrangements for the ninth Review Conference. We trust that as has been the case every year so far, the draft resolution will again be adopted by consensus.

Mr. Skoknic Tapia (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): Let me begin by congratulating you and the other members of the Bureau on your election, Madam, and wishing you every success in your work this year.

Chile believes firmly that our coexistence in a world without nuclear weapons is possible and that maintaining international peace and security without resorting to nuclear deterrence, in addition to being an ethical imperative, is an attainable goal in line with the international system for the protection of human rights. That is particularly urgent in an international environment such as the one that we are experiencing, which has recently been rocked by threats of the use of weapons of mass destruction, in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Chile's commitment to disarmament and non-proliferation is clear, as evidenced by our signing of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the last category of weapons of mass destruction not explicitly prohibited by a legally binding instrument,

which lays out a promising path towards our common goal of a nuclear-weapon-free planet, thereby strengthening and complementing the current legal architecture in that area. We reiterate that for Chile, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is the cornerstone of the nuclear-disarmament and non-proliferation regime, and we underscore the importance of achieving its universalization and the balanced application of the three pillars that make up its foundational structure — disarmament, non-proliferation and the right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy. We reaffirm our commitment to supporting multilateral efforts on disarmament, non-proliferation and the prohibition of the use and possession of all weapons of mass destruction. Along with condemning the military use of biological and chemical weapons in any circumstances, we urge universal adherence to the Chemical Weapons Convention in our pursuit of the goal of a world free of chemical weapons.

We recognize that the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and their ammunition is a scourge with immeasurable destructive effects that go beyond the area of international security and have direct consequences for socioeconomic development and human rights, while exacerbating sexual and gender-based violence for millions of people. It is therefore urgent that the international community address the problem in a concerted manner. As a testament to Chile's commitment in this area, in May 2018 our country deposited its instrument of ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty, thereby contributing to the effective regulation of the transnational trade in conventional weapons.

While cyberspace, especially the Internet, is a force for good providing benefits in a number of areas, it also demands that we face up to the important responsibilities relating to the dangers it poses, especially given its global and cross-border nature. International cooperation and a collective approach to the issue are therefore key to maintaining a free, open and secure cyberspace, based on international regulation that preserves the rights of individuals and regulates the behaviour of States accordingly. In that regard, Chile affirms its support for the work in the area of cybersecurity of both the Group of Governmental Experts on advancing responsible State behaviour in cyberspace in the context of international security and the Open-ended Working Group on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the

context of international security. We are confident that the processes will complement each other and enable us to arrive at more effective solutions to this challenge.

Chile reaffirms that it is and has always been a firm supporter and promoter of general and complete disarmament, while always prioritizing debate in a broad, transparent and democratic multilateral space in line with its foreign policy. I would like to conclude by calling on the international community to work to commit to a united political will aimed at creating the environment of mutual trust that we need to achieve progress in the area of disarmament. The Committee can count on our commitment to contributing positively to its work, which we hope can begin as soon as possible.

Mr. Santos Maraver (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would first like to congratulate Ambassador Llorenty Solíz on his election to chair the First Committee and to assure him of the support of the Spanish delegation in ensuring the success of our work.

Spain aligns itself with the statement made by the observer of the European Union (see A/C.1/74/PV.3).

We are about to commemorate two milestones in international relations and disarmament — the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, and the fiftieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Both occasions clearly attest to the great benefits that multilateralism can achieve in the area of peace and stability in international relations, directly affecting the peace and security of every Member State and its citizens. We are all nevertheless fully aware that we are going through a difficult time, affected by multiple tensions in which the global security climate is gradually deteriorating. It is the responsibility of every one of us to work to ensure that forums such as this one, which have helped us overcome our differences for more than half a century, can continue to fulfil those essential functions and to be a meeting place where we can all work to that end.

The NPT is the cornerstone on which the non-proliferation regime rests, and our country continues to believe in its full validity and enormous potential. Its fiftieth anniversary will be an excellent opportunity to celebrate the role it has played as a key multilateral instrument for ensuring international peace, security and stability. The upcoming Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons will be a

challenge for all of us, as we will have work to provide it with meaningful content and achieve the broadest possible consensus among all. We also believe that the Treaty's full development demands the concurrent strengthening of its three pillars — disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Our full and unequivocal commitment to the NPT leads us to demand that the nuclear-weapon Powers honour their commitment, as set out in article VI of the Treaty, which is a legal obligation under international law and whose fulfilment in good faith must be a priority for all.

We are well aware of the international security situation, but we believe that we must persevere with concrete measures to achieve disarmament, which, in addition to being a desirable objective of itself, is imperative to ensuring the credibility of the system. We welcome initiatives along those lines, such as the Stepping Stones approach — *peldaños* in Spanish — which we have adopted and believe provides a constructive opportunity to advance disarmament through concrete and tangible steps.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty represents one of the most significant pending issues in the area of non-proliferation, and Spain demands its immediate entry into force. We also recognize the important contribution of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization to global peace and stability. The negotiation and conclusion of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons is one of the goals that we must reach an agreement on. Lastly, my country has not forgotten the importance of convening a conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons. In order to achieve that goal, we must continue working to achieve the greatest possible level of consensus, in full understanding of the complex nature of the situation and with a willingness to integrate all its various components.

The nuclear-non-proliferation regime is facing multiple challenges. I will begin with my own region and the European security system, based on an architecture of commitments and treaties on disarmament and arms control that have ensured a period of sustained peace and stability that is unprecedented in our history. We call firmly for preserving that architecture, no matter what events or political considerations lie ahead. We want to remind the Committee of the threat posed by the possibility of terrorist groups acquiring nuclear

weapons or radioactive materials. We underscore the importance in that regard of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities, the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and Security Council resolutions 1540 (2004) and 2325 (2016).

Developments concerning the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with Iran do not help foster international trust. We underscore our support for and commitment to the JCPOA, which was endorsed by the unanimous adoption of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015). The 2015 agreement is still a key element in the international nuclear non-proliferation architecture and a diplomatic success in the face of unilateralism. We therefore deeply regret the withdrawal of the United States from the agreement. The most recent reports from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in September have increased our concerns, and we want to emphasize that the international community's trust is highly dependent on Iran's strict compliance with the agreement.

The issues around the Democratic People's Republic of Korea continue to be a source of concern and to pose a challenge to our shared goal of achieving global stability. It remains crucial that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea comply with all the relevant Security Council resolutions, definitively end its nuclear testing and implement its safeguards agreement with the IAEA as it embarks on a path to complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization.

The repeated use of chemical weapons in Syria since 2012 constitutes one of the most flagrant violations of humanitarian law and the Chemical Weapons Convention, and since then we have witnessed other cases of the use of chemical weapons, in Kuala Lumpur and Salisbury, England. We reiterate our firm condemnation of any use of these prohibited weapons, regardless of their authors, context or motivation. The international community must respond firmly and decisively in order to prevent impunity for the use of such weapons. Spain has participated in all initiatives to strengthen the chemical non-proliferation regime. We were one of the founders in January 2018 of the International Partnership against Impunity for the Use of Chemical Weapons, and we also supported the establishment of an attribution mechanism for the use of chemical weapons in Syria, within the framework of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). For those reasons, we deeply believe in the

capacity and rigour of the OPCW, which has brought about the destruction of 98 per cent of the arsenals declared since it was established, and which was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013. In December we will hold the next meeting of the States parties to the Biological Weapons Convention, and we once again call for agreement on a legally binding verification system that will enable us to exercise control over the implementation of the Convention.

The access of populations to small arms and light weapons poses an increasingly visible threat to peace, stability and progress and has devastating effects on societies. The links between such weapons and armed violence, organized crime and a lack of development have been fully demonstrated. It is a problem for us all and must therefore be addressed through global responses.

In conclusion, I hope that in the next few days the First Committee can produce an open debate that will enable us to bring our positions closer together and create greater trust among us all.

Mrs. Pobee (Ghana): My delegation joins previous speakers in warmly congratulating you and the other members of the Bureau on your election, Madam. We have confidence in your and the Chair's capable leadership and assure you of our full support and cooperation in the discharge of your duties.

Ghana associates itself with the statements delivered by the representatives of Indonesia and Zambia on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Group of African States, respectively (see A/C.1/74/PV.3), and we look forward to constructively engaging with all delegations to advance the work of the First Committee.

The global community today is saddled with several daunting challenges to international peace and security, all of which require urgent and decisive action and the effective use of existing multilateral channels. We are confronted with protracted conflicts, the existential threat of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, transnational organized crime, and challenges in cyberspace and outer space, among many other things. Such threats to global security have become more critical in the context of growing political polarization, procedural bottlenecks, non-compliance with international obligations and other challenges.

My delegation is of the view that a safe and secure world is one without nuclear weapons, where weapons

of mass destruction have no place in security doctrines and the common good of the people and their planet is pursued within a rules-based international order. We should not only aspire to such a world but should demonstrate the necessary political will and take steps to realize it by duly complying with the various instruments and agreed norms under the global disarmament agenda. In that regard, we deplore the fact that the overall objective of achieving a world without nuclear weapons in the context of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) has eluded us for decades. As States parties therefore prepare for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which coincides with the fiftieth anniversary of its entry into force and the twenty-fifth year of its indefinite extension, our objective should be to strengthen global efforts to reduce existing nuclear-arms stockpiles rather than modernizing or adding to them.

It is a matter of concern for my delegation that the United Nations Disarmament Commission, the sole deliberative body of the disarmament machinery, could not hold its organizational and substantive sessions in April in a formal setting due to a procedural impasse. We hope that the underlying issues will be addressed to pave the way for the formal convening of the 2020 substantive sessions. We must not allow the divisiveness that has beset the Conference on Disarmament (CD) and resulted in its decades-long stalemate to creep into other disarmament bodies as well.

The Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament, unveiled in May 2018, must be viewed as an important contribution to global efforts to secure the world and future generations from the existential threat of nuclear arsenals and other weapons of mass destruction. We believe that the emphasis of the Agenda on disarmament for humanity, disarmament that saves lives and disarmament for future generations is in our collective interest and should be supported in the interests of the maintenance of international peace and security.

Ghana continues to be encouraged by the international response to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which provides a universally agreed path towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons. The Treaty complements and reinforces the NPT within the context of the humanitarian and environmental consequences that would result from the accidental or intentional detonation of such weapons.

Ghana has signed the Treaty and is well on the way to ratifying it. We urge States that have yet to sign the Treaty to do so without further delay.

My delegation reiterates its concern about the severe impact and security challenges arising from the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons, particularly in conflict settings in Africa. However, we were encouraged by the successful outcome of the third Review Conference of the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, held in July 2018, especially the inclusion of the issue of ammunition and the gendered impact of small arms in the Conference's final outcome document (A/CONF.192/2018/RC/3), and we look forward to further progress in the course of this session and at the upcoming seventh Biennial Meeting of States.

On the issue of safeguarding outer space, Ghana remains concerned about dangerous orbital debris, weaponization and the increased use of new frontier technologies that can engender warfare and conflict. We urge for a renewed focus on ensuring safety in outer space, which is the common heritage of mankind and whose use must redound to our common good. Similarly, the dependency of global societies and critical national infrastructures on information and communications technologies has exposed all actors to a new horizon of security risks and threats in cyberspace that require concerted attention. We therefore welcome the inclusive platform that the Open-ended Working Group on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security offers all Member States to further develop rules, norms and principles for responsible behaviour in cyberspace. We also look forward to the process of the Group of Governmental Experts on advancing responsible State behaviour in cyberspace in the context of international security. It is our sincere hope that Member States will find innovative ways to constructively engage in the two parallel initiatives and build on synergies to maintain peace and stability in the cyber environment.

In conclusion, I want to acknowledge the valuable contribution of civil-society partners in our collective efforts to promote and maintain international peace and security. They have been extremely supportive, and we look forward to further engaging with all of them.

Mr. Ahmed (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to congratulate you, Madam, on your election as

Vice-Chair of the First Committee, and through you the Chair and the other members of the Bureau as well.

I endorse the statements made by the representatives of Indonesia, Zambia and Tunisia on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the Group of African States and the Group of Arab States, respectively (see A/C.1/74/PV.3).

The Sudan has been an active partner in international efforts to achieve disarmament because we believe that we cannot establish peace, security and stability worldwide in the presence of nuclear weapons, and that we should therefore get rid of such weapons once and for all. The Sudan has acceded to numerous relevant international conventions and instruments, such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. We led the efforts to announce Africa as a nuclear-weapon-free zone through the Treaty of Pelindaba and played an important role in that, particularly regarding making Africa a zone free of chemical weapons. My delegation stresses that activities of States in this context should be restricted solely to peaceful uses, without prejudice to the full, legitimate and inalienable right of States to benefit from nuclear and chemical technologies for peaceful, scientific and developmental uses. In keeping with these principles, my country is working to complete its signing and ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which constitutes a solid and effective basis for eliminating the threat that nuclear weapons pose to all humankind. We hope that it will be signed and ratified soon.

The Sudan underscores the key role of the agreements on the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in ensuring international peace and security as well as nuclear disarmament throughout the world. We note the major role that the Treaty of Pelindaba has played in nuclear non-proliferation in Africa and in keeping our continent free of such weapons. My delegation also underscores the importance of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction, to be held in November under the presidency of Jordan in accordance with General Assembly decision 73/546. We hope that all the relevant parties will participate in the Conference with a view to adopting a convention binding on all that strengthens peace and security.

Conventional weapons, small arms and light weapons are among the Sudanese Government's top

priorities. Like many others, my country is adversely affected by such weapons. Their spread is often linked to economic aspects that have been exacerbated by environmental issues such as climate change, drought, desertification and fierce competition among populations for water and food sources. Acquiring weapons is now integral to the behaviour of some tribes and population groups and eliminating such weapons has therefore become an extremely difficult task. The Sudan is fully aware of the negative effects of such weapons and the need to eliminate them. We attend all the relevant international and regional forums, and we are making efforts nationally to combat small and light weapons in the Sudan. We believe that there is a close and mutually reinforcing link between such weapons and transnational organized crime, terrorism and drug trafficking. In that connection, my delegation welcomes the adoption of the outcome document of the third Review Conference of the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (A/CONF.192/2018/RC/3).

The Sudan is leading multiple efforts within the framework of the African Union, the League of Arab States and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, including most recently our hosting of a regional workshop on combating the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. In addition, we are making bilateral efforts with neighbouring States to delimit borders, strengthen border controls and establish customs points. We have also launched national campaigns to collect weapons and limit their acquisition to official authorities alone, along with promoting national laws regulating the carrying and possession of arms, which we hope will lead to enhanced security and stability, particularly in the province of Darfur. Despite all these efforts, we want to emphasize that the responsibility for combating the proliferation of such weapons falls squarely on the States that produce them, not just on those that suffer their effects. We stress that producer States should commit to refraining from providing weapons to non-State actors so that they do not fall into the hands of groups or individuals that are not subject to oversight.

My Government is also making major efforts to eliminate landmines, in cooperation with the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS). We are working to implement our commitments under the Ottawa Convention within the established deadlines. We commend the efforts of UNMAS to rid the Sudan

of mines and thank all States that have contributed to that end.

Mr. Almanzlawiy (Saudi Arabia) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to congratulate the Chair on his leadership of the First Committee at the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly. We are confident that the Committee's work will be successful.

My delegation endorses the statements made by the representatives of Tunisia, on behalf of the Group of Arab States, and Indonesia, on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (see A/C.1/74/PV.3).

I will explain the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's major positions on the most important items on the Committee's agenda. The full text of my statement will be available on the PaperSmart portal.

Saudi Arabia stresses the importance of the efforts to achieve the goal of eliminating nuclear weapons, especially in the Middle East. No region can realize security and stability through the possession of weapons of mass destruction, and we can achieve those goals only through cooperation and consultation among States. We must endeavour to work for development and progress and to avoid a race to possess such weapons, which can only be destructive to humankind. My country emphasizes that the resolution adopted at the 1995 Extension and Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons regarding the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East is still applicable until its targets and objectives are met. Without that resolution, the Arab countries would not have agreed to the indefinite extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

My country condemns Israel's continued refusal to accede to the NPT and subject all its nuclear facilities to the comprehensive safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which represents a dangerous threat to international peace and security. It is also in violation and defiance of dozens of relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions 487 (1981) and 687 (1991). Saudi Arabia stresses the importance of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction, to be convened by the United Nations in November under the presidency of Jordan pursuant to General Assembly decision 73/546. We urge all States invited to that conference to participate without any preconditions.

My country has been following with concern the latest reports of the IAEA, including the reports of violations by Iran of its nuclear obligations with regard to uranium enrichment, the amount of uranium produced, the development and installation of advanced centrifuges and the ending of all its research and development activities, among other things, problems that have been compounded by Iranian officials' recent statements on the matter. That is why the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has raised the issue of the shortcomings of the Iranian nuclear deal, stressing the need for a comprehensive international agreement ensuring that Iran is forbidden to possess nuclear weapons in any form. Iran has used the economic revenue from the nuclear agreement to finance its aggressive and terrorist activities in the region, most recently some serious attacks using 25 missiles and drones on Saudi Arabia, and specifically its oil facilities in Abqaiq and Khurais. That cut our oil production almost in half and is a gross violation of international laws and norms and of international peace and security, as well as a flagrant threat to the international oil supply.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia emphasizes the importance of implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention. We were among the very first countries to accede to the relevant international treaties and to establish a national authority to monitor their implementation. In that regard, my country condemns the use of chemical weapons in Syria. We call for the perpetrators to be held accountable for those criminal acts, which are flagrant violations of all international laws and ethical humanitarian principles as well as the Chemical Weapons Convention and the relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 2118 (2013) and 2209 (2015), on the use of chemical weapons in Syria. In that context, my country urges the Government of Syria to cooperate fully with the teams that have been mandated to implement all the relevant resolutions on the use of chemical weapons in Syria.

In conclusion, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia firmly believes that the will of the international community can help us achieve radical solutions to all of the challenges in our way as we seek to resolve the multiple issues on the Committee's agenda.

Mr. Musaddeq (Afghanistan): I would like to begin by congratulating the Chair and the other members of the Bureau of the First Committee on their election

and assuring them of my delegation's full support and cooperation throughout this session.

Afghanistan aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (see A/C.1/74/PV.3).

We live a world in which international peace and security remain fragile, countries continue to increase their military budgets and the problem of nuclear disarmament remains as complex as ever. The current situation requires a renewed focus on the part of all stakeholders, including the United Nations, its Member States and other international institutions, in order to ensure a systematic reduction in the proliferation of nuclear arms. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) remain key elements in the international architecture designed to achieve that goal. As a country that is party to the NPT, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and other multilateral treaties, Afghanistan reiterates its call for the elimination of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction. We hope that all States parties to the NPT will demonstrate a new level of cooperation in order to ensure the success of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 2020.

We maintain the position that multilateral diplomacy is crucial to advancing the non-proliferation and disarmament agenda. Achieving a nuclear-free world is possible only through collective action and cooperation. We hope that the situations that continue to be an issue in that regard will be resolved calmly and decisively. My delegation also reiterates its strong support for establishing the Middle East as a zone free of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction.

Last year the Secretary-General presented his new Agenda for Disarmament, whose scope will be beneficial as we redouble our efforts to implement more effective controls to prevent the flow of conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons. We know from our own experience that easy access to an abundance of small arms and light weapons empowers terrorists, violent extremists and organized criminal groups. Over the past year, the people of Afghanistan, along with our national security forces and military and civilian personnel from international partner countries, have been subjected to new, high-profile

attacks by terrorist and extremist groups in various parts of the country. The use of small arms and light weapons in those attacks highlights the fact that a lack of effective arms control is a destructive element in the cycle of violence in our region, and that increasing the effectiveness of that control is an important element in our broader efforts to promote stability in all conflict zones. This issue is a high priority for Afghanistan, and we call on all the relevant parties to take full responsibility for preventing terrorist organizations' access to weapons and their precursors, and to enhance their efforts to help build our national capacity through the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons. In the context of the conflicts in Afghanistan and elsewhere, we need to make greater, steadier progress in addressing the dangerous nexus of organized criminal activities, including the illicit arms trade, drug trafficking and money-laundering.

This year Afghanistan continues to be the single worst affected country in the world in terms of the indiscriminate and unlawful use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs). IEDs are a lethal weapon frequently used by terrorists operating in Afghanistan. Last year IED attacks by terrorist groups resulted in the loss of thousands of innocent lives, including women and children. The victims of IED attacks are come from every sector of society and include members of our national security forces and international military and civilian personnel serving in Afghanistan in support of our efforts to achieve security and stability. We are combating the threat of IEDs in Afghanistan as part of our broader national security strategy, which also covers our counter-terrorism efforts.

Despite our efforts, the main factor contributing to the use of IEDs in Afghanistan is the continuing access to precursors such as TNT, C-3, C-4 and ammonium nitrate, which are illegally trafficked into Afghanistan and used by a nexus of transnational criminal networks. IEDs have become the primary weapon of non-State armed groups in many conflicts around the world. We cannot address that threat without more decisive action by all States and other international actors. Afghanistan's strong commitment to countering the threat of IEDs has been reflected in our sponsorship, beginning in 2015, of the resolution on "Countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices". We appreciate the broad support that the international community has given to this important resolution and

particularly thank Australia and France, as its main sponsors. We look forward to the General Assembly's adoption of the next version at its seventy-fifth session.

In conclusion, I would like to assure the Committee of my delegation's constructive engagement throughout its discussions.

Mr. Kemayah (Liberia): I congratulate the Chair and the members of the Bureau on their election and wish them success in discharging their tasks.

We welcome all United Nations initiatives aimed at mitigating conflicts around the world, especially those that relate to the work of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), which is charged with the responsibility to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. UNODA also promotes disarmament efforts in the area of conventional weapons, especially landmines and small arms, which are often the weapons of choice in conflicts today. Those are also the weapons commonly used in civil conflicts, as was the case in Liberia. In spite of the achievements of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, we believe we can do better in guaranteeing the safety and prosperity of our world while remaining cognizant of growing threats, including tensions among States, civil wars and terrorism, issues that now transcend borders, as well as the threat of the use of nuclear warheads. As a global body, we will need to consolidate our work collaboratively so as to ensure that these heightened tensions and threats do not escalate.

Liberia will continue to contribute to global efforts to promote peace and security. On behalf of His Excellency Mr. George Manneh Weah, President of the Republic of Liberia, and the Government and the people of Liberia, we reaffirm our commitment as a State party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and remain supportive of the African Union initiatives aimed at ensuring a conflict-free Africa, and we express our appreciation to the Security Council for having recently adopted resolution 2457 (2019), on silencing the guns in Africa by 2020.

We wish to further assure the Committee that the support of His Excellency President Weah and the Government and the people of Liberia for all other instruments seeking to address and eliminate the use of nuclear weapons remains unflinching. Similarly, on conventional weapons, Liberia is greatly concerned about the illicit trade, possession,

manufacturing and circulation of small arms and light weapons and their negative effect on humanitarian and socioeconomic development.

Pursuant to the commitment it has made to its global obligations, the Government of His Excellency President Weah reaffirms its unwavering support for the Arms Trade Treaty and recognizes the critical role and impact of multilateral instruments, including 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, which helps to trace the massive flows of such arms.

We are humbly honoured to inform this body that Liberia is taking practical steps in the fight against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, including the ratification and domestication of the relevant treaties. Liberia has made great strides in strengthening its legal framework, especially as concerns the domestication of the Arms Trade Treaty. The Liberian National Commission on Small Arms has drafted two bills for enactment into law by our national legislature: the Liberia Arms Trade and Transfer Act of 2019, to enhance national accountability and transparency of the flow of arms, and the Liberia National Commission on Arms Act, aimed at increasing the scope and mandate of the Commission. These bills were reviewed and validated by the Liberia International Humanitarian Law Committee, stakeholders from the security agencies of the Government and the relevant civil-society organizations. The bills will be submitted to our national legislature upon return from the annual agriculture break next year, in 2020.

Liberia's flagship national pro-poor agenda for prosperity and development also endeavours to increase regional and multilateral cooperation and coordination for the attainment of sustained international peace and security.

In conclusion, let me emphasize that the fight is never over until our dreams and aspirations have been achieved. Our persistence will certainly pay off, as a safe and happy world can only lead to happiness and productivity, a world where everyone can live not in fear but in sustained peace, security and development. My delegation looks forward to a successful session and reaffirms our support for the work of the United Nations.

The Acting Chair: I shall now give the floor to those representatives wishing to speak in right of reply.

In that connection, I would like to remind all delegations that according to the Committee's rules of procedure, the first intervention in the right of reply is limited to 10 minutes and the second to five minutes.

Mr. Jang Il Hun (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): In exercise of the right of reply, I wish to respond to the remarks made yesterday by the representatives of the United States (see A/C.1/74/PV.6) and Japan (see A/C.1/74/PV.5).

It has been our consistent position that all problems should be solved through dialogue and negotiations, but we do not seek dialogue just for the sake of dialogue. As I stated yesterday (see A/C.1/74/PV.6), substantive discussions on denuclearization with the United States can be held only when the threats and stumbling blocks that are destabilizing the security of our system and obstructing our development have been clearly and undoubtedly removed.

The spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea also stated on 6 October that we have no intention of holding sickening negotiations before the United States takes a substantial step towards completely and irreversibly abandoning its hostile policy against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which threatens the security of our country and hampers our people's right to existence and to development.

With regard to Japan, the point I was making yesterday was that Japan is not qualified to hold discussions with us on any substantive issues unless and until it atones for its past crimes against humanity.

Lastly, the statements made today by the representatives of Hungary and Spain deserve no comment on the part of my delegation, as they simply repeated the previous allegations of their masters.

Mr. Balouji (Islamic Republic of Iran): I wish to exercise my delegation's right of reply to the baseless allegations made by the representative of Saudi Arabia against my country.

First, concerning Iran's nuclear activities, I am happy to inform the Committee — and, of course, I know that all our colleagues are aware of this fact — that all of Iran's nuclear activities are under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA),

and the IAEA has confirmed Iran's compliance with its obligations in consecutive reports.

On the contrary, it is Saudi Arabia whose nuclear activities are not transparent; in spite of the various requests made by the IAEA to Saudi Arabia that it comply with its obligations under the safeguards system, Saudi Arabia has failed to respond properly.

Regarding the root causes and origins of terrorism, as well as extremism, in our region, everyone knows that it is Saudi Arabia that is exporting terrorism and extremism, not only in our region but also throughout the world. All of these foreign terrorists have been trained, financed, supported and armed by Saudi Arabia's petrodollars, but we know that the Saudis concoct these kinds of fabrications to conceal both their weaknesses and the war crimes and crimes against humanity that they are committing in Yemen.

Furthermore, it is astonishing that the Saudis appear to be puzzled about the recent attacks on their oil facilities. They are not consistent even in their allegations. Without any research or investigation, they have pointed fingers at my country at the same time that officials from their country have confirmed that the attacks did not come from Iran. It is very surprising to see the Saudis' confusion in that regard. They do not know how to cover their ineffectiveness in terms of their defence establishment or their so-called defensive equipment bought from other countries. I think that they should rethink their statements and cease their baseless allegations against other countries, including Iran.

Mr. Almanzlawiy (Saudi Arabia) (*spoke in Arabic*): My country would like to exercise its right of reply following the baseless allegations of the representative of Iran, which we have become accustomed to hearing every time the Iranian representative hears the truth about our concerns about their nuclear programme, which only reinforces our fears. With regard to what he said about the latest report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), we noted that the report contains details of Iran's violations of its nuclear programme and also recent statements by some Iranian officials declaring that they may reduce their commitments in that area.

With regard to what the representative of Iran said about the record of terrorism, Iran is the last country that should speak about terrorism. Since Iran's 1979 revolution its record has been one of spreading disorder, unrest and turmoil in the countries of the region with

the aim of destabilizing their security and stability, in complete disregard for all laws, conventions, international treaties and moral standards. Its foreign policy has been based primarily on the preamble to the Iranian Constitution and Khomeini's will, that is, on the principle of exporting its revolution, in flagrant violation of the principles of the sovereignty of other countries and of non-interference in their domestic affairs, under the pretext of supporting weak and poor peoples.

Iran has recruited many terrorist militias in a number of Arab States and has continued to support terrorism by providing safe havens for terrorists inside Iranian territories. It supports and plants terrorist cells in a number of Arab States and has been involved in terrorist explosions that have killed numerous innocent victims around the world, as well as assassinations of opposition individuals abroad. Iran also continues to violate diplomatic missions and persecute foreign diplomats all over the world through assassinations or assassination attempts. The Iranian record of support for terrorism in the region and the world is too long to detail here, so for the sake of the Committee's valuable time I hope that I will not find myself compelled to mention it in my right of reply.

In conclusion, Iran must act as a responsible State and stop interfering in the affairs of the region and supporting terrorism. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia renews its call to the international community to seriously address Iran's nuclear and ballistic-missile programmes. We strongly believe that peace and security in the Middle East require that we deter Iran from pursuing its expansionist and destructive policies.

My country also reiterates its commitment to a peaceful and political solution in Yemen, based on the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative, the outcomes of the Yemeni national dialogue and the relevant Security Council resolutions, particularly resolution 2216 (2015).

Mr. Balouji (Islamic Republic of Iran): To respond once again to the baseless claims by the representative of Saudi Arabia, my delegation once again categorically rejects those allegations and invites Saudi Arabia to be consistent in its allegations and acknowledge the wrongdoings it should correct.

With regard to Iran's recent decision to reduce its activities based on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), I invite Saudi Arabia to study the text of the JCPOA, which allows Iran to reduce those

activities. That is completely consistent with our obligations, and our nuclear activities are under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). There has been no case of non-cooperation with the IAEA. Saudi Arabia's claim about this is false and we reject it.

Regarding terrorism, Al-Qaida and Da'esh were created, funded and supported by Saudi Arabia. Everybody knows that the 9/11 attacks were initiated, supported and financed by Saudi Arabia, and that is not the only case. There are numerous cases where Al-Qaida and Da'esh have acted as proxies of Saudi Arabia in order to disrupt our region. They have committed various atrocities in many countries and Saudi Arabia is complicit in all of those crimes.

With regard to Yemen, it is very unfortunate that Saudi Arabia has invaded Yemen and is bombarding it every day, killing Yemeni women and children and other innocent and defenceless people. In order to conceal those crimes, Saudi Arabia is attempting to make accusations against other countries. As I said, we reject all of those allegations, because they are baseless.

Mr. Almanzlawiy (Saudi Arabia) (*spoke in Arabic*): As I said before, I would have preferred not to use my second right of reply to respond to the allegations of the representative of Iran. However, I find myself compelled to clarify a part of Iran's record in supporting terrorism and extremism in the world. It is a long list, but there is no time to mention it now. But I would like to shed light on some of Iran's crimes so that everybody knows which country supports terrorism and which works to build its nation and help its neighbours develop their peoples.

Iran is the number-one country sponsoring terrorism around in the world and has helped to found many terrorist organizations, including the Houthi militias in Yemen, which resulted in Saudi Arabia's presence there following the call by the legitimate Government in Yemen asking us to support our brothers there. Iran has supported and colluded with other terrorist organizations, including Al-Qaida, and has harboured many of its leaders. We have evidence that the international community can see. As for Iran's own terrorist record, the list is long. However, a snapshot of it would include the attack in 1996 on residential towers in Khobar, in eastern Saudi Arabia, by Hizbullah Al-Hejaz, which is affiliated with the Iranian regime, and which killed more than 120 people, including 19 foreigners. Iran has protected the perpetrators of that

attack, including a Saudi citizen who was later arrested in Lebanon in 2015 and who carries an Iranian passport despite being a Saudi national.

In 2003 the Iranian regime, on an order from one of the leaders of Al-Qaida in Iran, was also involved in explosions in Riyadh that killed many Saudi citizens and foreign residents, and in the same year a terrorist Iranian plot aimed at carrying out explosions in our sister Kingdom of Bahrain was thwarted. Members of a new terrorist cell that had received support from the Iranian Revolutionary Guard were arrested. In 2011 the Iranian regime was involved in the assassination of the late Saudi diplomat Hassan Al-Qahtani in Karachi, and in the same year the United States thwarted a plot to assassinate a former Saudi Ambassador to the United States. The Iranian regime's involvement in that attempt was proven, and a court in New York arrested and tried two of the plotters.

The Iranian regime has attacked more diplomatic missions in the world than any other country, beginning with its 1979 attack on the United States Embassy in Tehran, whose personnel were detained for 444 days. That was followed by an attack on the Saudi Embassy in Tehran in 1987, with the most recent such attacks being on the Embassy and Consulate of Saudi Arabia in Teheran and Mashhad in 2016.

In conclusion, I also want to point out that Iran is in violation of Security Council resolution 2216 (2015), on Yemen, through its provision of missiles to the terrorist Houthi militias and its attacks on ships at sea loaded with weapons and ammunition.

Mr. Takamizawa (Japan): In response to the comment of the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the remarks that my delegation made yesterday (see A/C.1/74/PV.5), Japan would like to exercise its right of reply.

First, it is our great hope that the ongoing diplomatic efforts will lead to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantling of all of its weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges. That is a common goal that we all share, and it is in compliance with the relevant Security Council resolutions. I repeat that it is our great hope that ongoing diplomatic efforts will lead to the complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantling of those weapons. With regard to the issue of plutonium, I spoke about the fact that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has concluded that all nuclear

materials in Japan, including plutonium, continue to be used for peaceful activities that are under stringent IAEA safeguards. Japan has no issues in the area of non-proliferation. In addition, I would like to say that the Government of Japan continues to take appropriate measures in order to maintain the principle of not possessing plutonium without specific purposes. Based on that principle, in July 2018 Japan introduced a basic policy for reducing the size of its plutonium stockpile.

Mr. Al-Dobhany (Yemen) (*spoke in Arabic*): I asked to exercise my right of reply in order to respond to the false allegations by the representative of Iran in which he claimed that Saudi Arabia has invaded Yemen and is bombarding it and killing Yemenis. Saudi Arabia has interfered in Yemen based on a formal request from the Yemeni Government for assistance in restoring the legitimate Government following a coup by the terrorist Houthi militias, backed by Iran. I would like to take this opportunity to renew our request to Iran to cease its interference in Yemen and to stop supplying the Houthis with arms, missiles and mines, which are killing Yemenis. We are not introducing false information. That information was stated in a report by the Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts on Yemen (A/HRC/42/17).

Mr. Jang Il Hun (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): The response that the Japanese delegate made is neither appropriate nor relevant to the issues that I raised today. I therefore feel no need to comment on it.

The Acting Chair: I recognize that the representative of Iran has requested the floor, but I have to remind him that he has already taken the floor twice. We have therefore heard the last speaker in exercise of the right of reply.

Given that we are so behind schedule, with the consent of the Committee we will resume the general debate in order to take advantage of the services available this afternoon.

It was so decided.

Mr. Jaffu (Malawi): I would like to begin by sincerely congratulating the Chair and all the members of the Bureau on their election to lead the First Committee. I also want to assure them of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

Malawi aligns itself with the statements made by the representatives of Indonesia, on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, and Zambia, on

behalf of the Group of African States (see A/C.1/74/PV.3).

Nuclear weapons are the most destructive, inhumane and indiscriminate weapons that have ever been created. There are still close to 15,000 such weapons in the world today. Many are ready to be used within minutes, despite the existence of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which opened for signature half a century ago. Malawi is cognizant of the scale of devastation that nuclear weapons cause. Given their uniquely persistent and genetically damaging fallout, they are unlike any other weapon. A single nuclear bomb detonated over a large city could kill more than a million people in a matter of seconds. Malawi therefore joins other State parties to the Treaty in condemning the use of nuclear weapons. However, despite the calls from State and non-State parties to the Treaty for banning nuclear weapons, it is worrisome that all nuclear-armed States are still engaged in extensive modernization programmes aimed at maintaining their nuclear-weapon missile defence systems. That is sparking a new nuclear arms race.

With regard to the illicit proliferation and use of small arms and light weapons, Malawi signed the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects in 2001, when it came into force. To that end, since 2006 Malawi has submitted annual reports to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on the progress being made on its implementation of the programme. Since that year we have also participated in the Biennial Meetings on the implementation of the Programme of Action, and in 2002 we signed the Protocol of the Southern African Development Community on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials. The Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization is mandated to promote and coordinate the implementation of the Protocol. While Malawi is not as seriously affected by the illicit proliferation and use of small arms and light weapons as its neighbouring countries are, our people still suffer significantly from the illicit use of such weapons both in their homes and

on their business premises, as the visible increase in the Malawi Police Service's recovery of illegal firearms has shown.

Preventing an arms race in outer space is in the interests of the maintenance of international peace and security and an essential condition for promoting and strengthening international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. In that context, the General Assembly has recognized the need for increased transparency and confirmed the importance of confidence-building measures as a means of reinforcing the objective of preventing an arms race in outer space. Malawi has a clear interest in working with international partners to promote the responsible and peaceful use of outer space, because we appreciate the fact that the development of space technology has immense potential for benefiting both developed and developing countries, which remains pivotal to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Like many least-developed countries, Malawi relies on assured access to space-based systems and their application in order to support its economic prosperity and maintain public safety.

The Acting Chair: We have exhausted the time available for this meeting. I now give the floor to the Secretary for announcements.

Ms. Elliott (Secretary of the Committee): The Russian delegation will hold informal consultations tomorrow at 9 a.m. on outer-space draft resolutions and at 3 p.m. on "Developments the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security". Both meetings will take place in conference room A.

The Acting Chair: The First Committee will have only one meeting tomorrow, to be held at 3 p.m. in this conference room, and we shall continue with the general debate on all disarmament and related international security agenda items. Delegations are reminded that the deadline for the submission of draft resolutions and decisions under all agenda items is this Thursday, 17 October, at noon.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.