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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: Before I open the floor for statements in the general debate, I would like to remind all delegations that the deadline for submission of draft resolutions and decisions under all agenda items is today at 4 p.m.

We will now continue with the list of speakers for the general debate on all disarmament and international security agenda items allocated to it. I would once again like to remind all delegations taking the floor to kindly limit their statements to eight minutes when speaking in a national capacity.

Mr. Fiallo Karolys (Ecuador) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would first like to congratulate you and all the members of the Bureau on your election, Mr. Chair, and on your efforts to get the work of the Committee started. We believe it is important to ensure that all delegations participate in our deliberations on an equal footing. However, we must ensure that the First Committee does not end up in the deplorable stagnation afflicting other bodies of the disarmament machinery, because we cannot afford to delay our work any further.

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

I would like to thank Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President of the General Assembly, for his

statement last week in the Committee (see A/C.1/74/PV.3), and I also appreciated the statement delivered here yesterday by Mr. Ezequiel Sabor, President of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (see A/C.1/74/PV.8).

As part of the first densely populated zone free of nuclear weapons, created by the Treaty of Tlatelolco, Ecuador urges all States to work to build nuclear-weapon-free zones in every region of the world. It is important to advance nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation simultaneously, interconnectedly, and in concert. Every State is obliged to fulfil the commitments to nuclear non-proliferation, and it is regrettable that we have not seen that from the States that possess such weapons. We are committed to supporting the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Just 10 months from now we will commemorate the 75 years that have passed since the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The best way that we as States can pay tribute to the victims of those attacks is by signing and ratifying the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. I am happy to inform the Committee in that regard that on 25 September Ecuador deposited its instrument of ratification of the Treaty. That is why today we urge strenuously for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons and firmly condemn the use, threat and mere existence of nuclear weapons, because they are a challenge to humankind's very survival.

Ecuador wholly rejects the consideration, planning or development of nuclear tests. We reiterate our full support for the work of the Comprehensive Nuclear-

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Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), and we call on the international community to unite its efforts to ensure that the Treaty enters into force as soon as possible. In that regard, I would like to highlight the international panel and workshop on science and diplomacy held in Quito on 12 and 13 September and organized by the Government of Ecuador and the Executive Council of the CTBTO. We are grateful for the support we received from Mr. Lassina Zerbo, its Executive Secretary. My country believes that if we are to achieve a peaceful world, we need a change in the focus of the security doctrines of nuclear-weapon States and those involved in so-called nuclear protection.

I would like to reiterate my country's commitment to the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention. Ecuador condemns the use of such weapons, which should be eliminated without further delay.

Ecuador shares and is a firm supporter of the goals of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Traffic in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. We are also party to the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition, which complements the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. We support the universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, since these are a particularly cruel weapons with extremely harmful effects, particularly for society's most vulnerable groups, and we urge for a complete end to financing and investing in companies that produce cluster munitions. We also reiterate Ecuador's commitment to the ongoing implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

We reject the increasing use and improvement of armed drones as well as lethal automatic weapons. Through its various regional and universal forums, the international community should continue to strengthen international humanitarian law in this area, including by considering a ban on those types of weapons. To that end, we support the work of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, and it is our belief that merely regulating the international trade in such weapons is not enough.

In conclusion, the Government of Ecuador affirms its commitment to multilateralism, as the only path capable of sustaining peace, attaining complete and universal disarmament and achieving international

security that is effective and fully respects international law, human rights and the Charter of the United Nations. Given the time constraints I will upload a more complete version of my statement to the Committee's electronic portal.

Ms. Bogomilova-Rasheva (Bulgaria): I would like to begin by congratulating you, Sir, and the other members of the Bureau on your assumption of the chairmanship of the Committee. I want to assure you of the full support of my delegation in your efforts to lead us to a successful conclusion to our deliberations.

The Republic of Bulgaria aligns itself with the statement made by the observer of the European Union (see A/C.1/74/PV.3), and I would like to highlight several aspects in my national capacity.

Today we are facing security challenges of an increasingly complex nature and on a global scale, requiring our active engagement and concerted efforts. It is more essential than ever to work to preserve the rule-based multilateral order if we are to achieve global peace, stability and prosperity. Despite the constantly changing situation, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) remains the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, and an essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament in accordance with article VI of the Treaty. The Republic of Bulgaria reiterates its full commitment to its implementation and universalization. Next year we will be celebrating its fiftieth anniversary, which coincides with the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. To maintain momentum, we must reaffirm its relevance and validity. Achieving a successful outcome for the Review Conference will also be a function of our determination and ability to project a pragmatic and constructive spirit in our efforts to advance our shared goals of a world without nuclear weapons.

While we support the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons, it is our strong belief that the only feasible way to achieve universal, verifiable and irreversible nuclear disarmament is through a progressive approach based on practical steps. Tangible progress towards a world without nuclear weapons will be accomplished only if we take into consideration our complex security environment and the strategic context.

The entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is another building block in the construction of a world without nuclear weapons.

Now, more than 20 years after the Treaty was opened for signature, we still need the international community to work for its entry into force. Bulgaria, which is an annex 2 State, is among those that have signed and ratified the Treaty. Once in force, it will provide a legally binding global ban on nuclear explosions of any kind. We therefore call on all States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the CTBT without further delay. That is especially relevant for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We still expect it to take concrete steps to embark on a credible path to complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization. Its repeated ballistic-missile launches continue to pose threats to regional and international security and stability. We call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to refrain from any further breaches of the relevant Security Council resolutions and further urge it to engage seriously in the negotiation process with a view to abandoning its nuclear and ballistic-missile programmes, returning to compliance with the NPT and signing and ratifying the CTBT without delay.

We are deeply concerned about Iran's decision to suspend the implementation of some of its commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). A return to full compliance with the nuclear deal and further diplomatic outreach are the only ways to ensure the easing of tensions and the preservation of the JCPOA.

Against the current backdrop of international tensions, the Republic of Bulgaria shares concerns about the increasing numbers of multilateral non-proliferation and disarmament treaties that are suffering from a lack of consensus or from stalemates and even violations. The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty was crucial to upholding Euro-Atlantic security for the past 30 years. It was also a tangible contribution to disarmament in the context of the NPT and the overall global security architecture. We regret the fact that it has come to an end in the wake of the non-compliance of the Russian Federation. We encourage the Russian Federation and the United States to engage in an active dialogue on the future of the New START Treaty beyond 2021, as well as other arms-control arrangements.

As a member of the Executive Council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons for the period from 2019 to 2021, Bulgaria will spare no effort to preserve the full and effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and all decisions by the States parties to it, including that adopted

in June 2018 at the fourth special session of the Conference of the States Parties. We consider the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere and under any circumstances to be completely unacceptable and a security threat. We are ready to support efforts aimed at ensuring that all the perpetrators of such acts are held accountable.

Achieving progress in the area of conventional weapons is equally important. We hope that the fourth Review Conference of the Ottawa Convention, to be held in November, will duly address the remaining challenges to our achievement of the goal of a landmine-free world in 2025. The adoption of a clear plan for further progress towards universalization is crucial if we are to meet the humanitarian objectives of the Convention.

My country is fully committed to the principles and objectives of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its Protocols, which provide an effective multilateral platform for responding to current and future developments of weapon technologies. Bulgaria is an active participant in the Group of Governmental Experts on emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems, with a view to developing and adapting an effective and comprehensive normative and operational framework for work on their production, use and transfer. Information and communications technologies continue to be abused by all types of actors, creating potential threats to national and global stability and security. We believe that an effective multilateral cybersecurity system can be based only on the existing international legal framework, including the Charter of the United Nations, international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

Mr. Matt (Liechtenstein): The First Committee is fraught with procedural problems as a result of deep divisions among the membership on security and disarmament questions. It is regrettable that those divisions are beginning to constitute a serious systemic risk to intergovernmental disarmament discussions, a development that we believe runs counter to the interests of the broader membership. Liechtenstein consistently advocates for the best use of available resources and discussion formats, particularly in these times of heightened geopolitical tensions and an eroding international rules-based order. At the same time, the United Nations must be preserved as an inclusive forum for discussion that enables every delegation to participate meaningfully, in line with well-established

practices and in full compliance with legal obligations under the host-country agreement and agreements governing diplomatic relations among States. Liechtenstein considers that to be a subject of legitimate concern to the entire United Nations membership.

In the past few years many States have expressed concern about the prospects of a new nuclear arms race. Today, unfortunately, we have to concede that it has become a reality. Key elements of our nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation architecture are lost or eroding. The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty is defunct, no apparent efforts are being made to extend the New START Treaty, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action is under intense pressure and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea shows no signs of coming into compliance with the relevant Security Council resolutions, let alone taking verifiable steps towards nuclear disarmament.

Security in Europe is in decline, as it is in many other parts of the world. Liechtenstein strongly supports efforts to restore European security within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and other forums. As the continent that benefited the most from the INF Treaty, Europe stands to lose the most from its demise, including States such as Liechtenstein that have consistently called for more ambitious nuclear disarmament efforts. While the allegations of INF Treaty violations are clearly damaging to the credibility of the Russian Federation, Liechtenstein considers the abandonment of the INF Treaty without any attempts to resolve disputes within its framework to be inconsistent with the obligations of both the Russian Federation and the United States under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

The outlook today for the upcoming Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is not promising. Half a century into the NPT's existence, its three pillars of the Treaty suffer from unbalanced implementation, putting the overall achievements of the Treaty at risk. The NPT's ultimate purpose, the total elimination of nuclear weapons, fades farther into the distance with every announcement of plans to add to or modernize nuclear arsenals and lower the threshold for their use. Those developments run counter to the article VI obligations of nuclear-weapon States and constitute a serious risk to the other achievements of the NPT, including in the non-proliferation pillar. Against those

odds, Liechtenstein will fully engage in efforts to reach a substantive result at the Review Conference, which, however, can only build on past agreements, not backtrack on them.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, to which Liechtenstein was an initial signatory, has been one of only a few positive developments in the area of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in recent years. It is a political expression by a large majority of non-nuclear-weapon States that take their obligations under article VI of the NPT seriously, and it has the potential to restore the original balance enshrined in the NPT. Once in force, it will also complement the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and its verification machinery in establishing a clear legal norm against nuclear tests. Most importantly, it draws a clear line against any attempts to justify the use of nuclear weapons, given their horrendous humanitarian consequences. In a time of eroding international norms, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is a lesson in multilateralism and a reason for hope in a world increasingly suffering from unsustainable big-Power politics.

Trends towards an increasingly militarized cyberspace, developments in artificial intelligence and pervasive data collection manipulation, as well as cybercrime, constitute real security risks to States and their citizens and point to the need to further spell out our common understanding that international law fully applies to cyberspace. With the increasing digitization of warfare, Liechtenstein is specifically looking into the extent to which the Rome Statute and other international legal frameworks apply to cyberattacks and cyber warfare. As part of the Alliance for Multilateralism, Liechtenstein supports the Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace and the International Partnership for Information and Democracy.

We welcome the successful launch of the Open-ended Working Group on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security. Thanks to Switzerland's able chairmanship, we have seen productive discussions and could benefit from expert views, despite an unduly restrictive mandate on civil-society engagement. Cybersecurity is a top priority for many, if not all, Governments, and a topic where the United Nations should lead. It is also a good example of how leadership on the part of the Secretary-General and the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs can translate

into meaningful intergovernmental discussions. For the First Committee, it is also an opportunity to get past silos and reach out to other Committees or discussion formats dealing with the same issues from different angles, such as the rule of law, sustainable development and human rights.

The United Nations should address emerging security risks and challenges more systematically, with a view to identifying the necessary political and legal steps to tackle them. Technical developments clearly point to the need for new regulation in the area of lethal autonomous weapon systems in the form of binding standards to legally ensure a human component in such systems' decision-making processes. An element of meaningful human control across the entire life cycle of lethal autonomous weapon systems is essential and helps to ensure compliance with applicable law, including international humanitarian law. Liechtenstein supports the proposed declaration on lethal autonomous weapon systems, as it defines important common ground for taking this agenda forward. Bringing the discussions conducted by the Group of Governmental Experts on emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems to the General Assembly might represent a step commensurate to the urgency that the Secretary-General and many States attach to the issue.

Mrs. Furman (Israel): We are witnessing a worrisome escalation in the realm of arms control. It begins and ends with the lack of commitment by States to the international community to fulfilling their obligations in good faith and for a better and safer world.

The Middle East is still struggling with compliance with arms-control norms and principles. This culture of non-compliance and disregard for international obligations and norms is unfortunately very common. The use of chemical weapons by regimes in the Middle East against their own peoples and neighbouring countries has occurred five times since the Second World War and as recently as the past year, in a clear violation of the Geneva Protocol of 1925. Furthermore, two additional cases of Member States in the region violating the Chemical Weapons Convention are still in question and need to be further investigated. Four cases of serious violations of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) have taken place in the Middle East since its creation. Two cases of Member States violating the NPT are still in question and need to be further investigated. Surface-to-

surface missiles and rockets, along with the related technologies, know-how and production processes, have proliferated and been transferred to terrorist organizations across the region in complete disregard for Security Council resolutions, the sovereignty of the States involved and the stability of the region as a whole.

In May 2018, President Trump announced the United States' withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. The State of Israel has been unequivocal about this agreement's threats and dangerous implications for the security and stability of the Middle East since its inception. Since then, Iran has repeatedly tested the boundaries of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015). In the past month it has breached core nuclear obligations detailed in the resolution. The Iranian nuclear archives provide straightforward evidence regarding Iran's nuclear military ambitions. Iran has concealed illicit undeclared nuclear material and equipment at its Turqezabad site. At the latest meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the IAEA's Acting Director General stated that Iran had not cooperated as expected with the Agency in order to clear those allegations. These activities and other nuclear-weapon activities conducted at the Abadi site are a clear breach of Iran's commitment to the NPT. Iran is also attempting to destabilize the region using every possible tool at its disposal, such as terrorism and the use of missiles and rockets against States of the region, including Israel, and doing so from the territory of other countries in the region, in this case Syria.

Since the entry into force of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015), Iran has tested dozens of ballistic missiles, all of which were capable of carrying nuclear warheads. The missiles tested by the regime were of various ranges up to 2,500 kilometres, well beyond the boundaries of the Middle East. Iran was strongly condemned for launching a satellite launch vehicle, as it included components used in intercontinental ballistic missiles. The latest report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) (S/2018/1089) called on Iran to refrain from such activities. Israel calls on those in the international community that have not yet done so to unequivocally condemn these activities and show zero tolerance for Iran's behaviour.

The continued use of chemical weapons by the Syrian regime, which acceded to the Chemical Weapons Convention and vowed to forgo its entire

chemical-weapon programme, was clearly outlined in the 2016 report of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism (S/2016/738). The most recent report of the Fact-finding Mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) has been joined by numerous reports and statements by the Director General of the OPCW regarding gaps, inconsistencies and discrepancies in the Syrian declaration. That is a source of concern that must be addressed clearly and firmly by the international community in order to prevent further erosion of the absolute norm against the use of chemical weapons. We hope that the new mechanism of the Investigation and Identification Team will succeed in its task of attributing the chemical attacks to their actual perpetrators.

Conventional weapons continue to claim the lives of hundreds of thousands of people around the world every year. These weapons, especially missiles, rockets, small arms and light weapons and related technologies, proliferate throughout the region. It is important to ensure compliance with and the implementation of applicable instruments such as the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects if we want to achieve the goal of a safer world.

With regard to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, Israel wishes to emphasize its long-stated view that the Treaty does not create, contribute to the development of or indicate the existence of customary law related to its subject or content.

On the issue of cybersecurity, Israel attaches great importance to efforts to promote security and stability in cyberspace. Our global position in cybersecurity is based on a domestic ecosystem that promotes real-time information sharing and the development of adequate methodologies, encourages educational programmes and raises public awareness of cybersecurity. These basic tenets should also be promoted on a global level in order to enhance global resilience by means of practical cooperation and capacity-building programmes.

Finally, some actors in the region claim that a comprehensive security architecture can be established in the Middle East without directly engaging with Israel, recognizing Israel's right to exist within safe and secure borders or reducing regional tensions and building the necessary trust and confidence among the States of the region. That position is untenable.

Initiatives of the Group of Arab States, such as the Conference on a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction, to be held in November, go against the guidelines and principles for a nuclear-weapon-free zone agreed to by consensus in the Disarmament Commission in 1999, whereby the process must be freely arrived at and not imposed, taking into consideration the concerns of all the relevant sides and not singling out the State of Israel. Israel will not cooperate with counterproductive initiatives of this kind and will not participate in the Conference in November. Owing to that initiative, Israel will also refrain from participating in future forums on topics related to regional arms control. We regret that we do not see the same enthusiasm among some of those actors for solving the real problems in the Middle East.

Owing to the time limit, the full version of my statement will be available online.

Mr. Getahun (Ethiopia): At the outset, I would like to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your work, Mr. Chair, and to assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation in the discharge of their responsibilities.

My delegation endorses the statement delivered by the representatives of Zambia, on behalf of the Group of African States, and Indonesia, on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (see A/C.1/74/PV.3).

It is self-evident that the situation with regard to global peace and security has become increasingly worrying. The recent proliferation of weapons of mass destruction poses a great danger to all of humankind without distinction, and demands fundamental and effective responses from us all. We believe that multilateralism remains the most reliable framework in which to comprehensively deal with such important global peace and security issues. Ethiopia believes that political dialogue and negotiation are vital instruments for curbing the proliferation of both conventional and unconventional weapons, which are increasingly becoming real threats to global peace and security.

We would like to stress that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) remains the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime. The NPT is the international security agreement most widely adhered to, and its three pillars — nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful use

of nuclear technology — are vital to maintaining and strengthening international peace and security. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is also an important milestone on the path to achieving a world without nuclear weapons, and we believe that it complements and reinforces the NPT. We reiterate our strong support for the universalization of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which we believe provides an appropriate framework for halting the further development and proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Ethiopia underscores the importance of the nuclear-weapon-free zones in various parts of the world. In that regard, we support the convening of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction and call on all stakeholders to proactively engage in a spirit of mutual understanding. The African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, known as the Treaty of Pelindaba, reaffirms Africa's status as a nuclear-weapon-free zone, and as a member of that zone, my country remains committed to the Treaty. Ethiopia has submitted its second extension request with regard to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and has expressed its commitment to clearing all mines by 2025.

Ethiopia attaches great importance to the mandate and functions of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy. My country has signed and ratified treaties on the peaceful application of atomic energy and has signed a country programme framework for the period up to 2023 with the Agency's Department of Technical Cooperation in the areas of agriculture, health, energy and capacity-building. We have also finalized and concluded amendments to our Small Quantities Protocol and have signed additional protocols with the Agency.

We believe in the important work of the Conference on Disarmament as the only multilateral disarmament negotiating forum and are concerned about the impasse preventing the Conference from fulfilling its mandate. The Disarmament Commission also serves as an important platform for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament. We believe that outer space is a common good for all humankind and are concerned about an arms race there.

As we know, the Chemical Weapons Convention aims to eliminate an entire category of weapons of

mass destruction by prohibiting the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, transfer and use of chemical weapons by States parties. Ethiopia is working closely with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in the area of capacity-building and encourages regional efforts on cooperation related to the Convention. We condemn the use of chemical weapons by any State or non-State actor anywhere in the world, and we encourage the universalization of the Convention and every effort towards its full implementation.

The illicit transfer and use of small and light weapons are worsening and complicating conflicts that cause serious harm to civilians, including women and children. The illicit trafficking of small and light weapons is a global problem closely tied to armed violence and terrorism and, as a criminal act, constitutes a threat to peace and stability in our continent. The region has witnessed loss of life and the destruction of property attributable to the easy availability, relative inexpensiveness, technical simplicity and easy mobility of illicitly trafficked small and light weapons. Ethiopia is working to adopt a new national policy and legal framework to improve cooperation and coordination among law-enforcement agencies at all levels and to raise public awareness with a view to reducing such trafficking.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to discharging all of its treaty obligations and upholding relevant United Nations resolutions covering various disarmament matters.

Mr. Mero (Tanzania): I would like to join previous speakers in commending you and the other members of the Bureau, Mr. Chair, on your well-deserved election to lead the First Committee. I also want to reaffirm my delegation's full support and cooperation to you as you discharge your important responsibilities.

My delegation endorses the statements delivered by the representatives of Zambia, on behalf of the Group of African States, and Indonesia, on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (see A/C.1/74/PV.3. I would like to complement them with some remarks in my national capacity.

The seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly is taking place while the world continues to face a global peace and security dilemma that is catastrophic for humankind and the environment, caused by the

continued existence, modernization and manufacturing of nuclear weapons. The United Republic of Tanzania commends the ongoing efforts of the United Nations since 1964 to eliminate nuclear weapons. My country has supported those efforts, and we believe that the total elimination and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons remain a crucial element in maintaining international peace and security.

As the Committee may recall, the General Assembly high-level meeting convened on 26 September provided us with an opportunity to mark and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. The meeting also served as a reminder to all of the importance of nuclear disarmament in the light of the fact that nuclear-weapon States and their allies continue to rely heavily on such weapons in their security doctrines and to invest billions of dollars in upgrading and modernizing their arsenals.

More than seven decades since the first deadly atomic attack, on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it is an appropriate time for the world at large to adopt a common position and ensure the total elimination of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, in view of the fact that the scope and magnitude of the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons are catastrophic and growing more complex. There can be no doubt that there can never be a winner in nuclear warfare. In that regard, the United Republic of Tanzania would like to join other Member States in calling on the nuclear-weapon States to fully comply with their legal obligations and unequivocally undertake to accomplish the unconditional and total elimination of nuclear weapons in a transparent, irreversible and internationally verifiable manner, as guided by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty (NPT). It is therefore important that all non-nuclear-weapon States be provided with universal, unconditional, non-discriminatory and legally binding assurances by all nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any pretext.

At this point, I want to reaffirm that Tanzania is fully committed to supporting and complementing all United Nations efforts in compliance with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Against that background, in 2017 the United Republic of Tanzania, together with 122 other countries, adopted the historic Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which we officially signed on 26 September, and for which our ratification process is under way.

While we all regret that the ninth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was unable to come up with a final outcome document, despite the concerted efforts of non-nuclear-weapon States, the United Republic of Tanzania welcomes the upcoming 2020 Review Conference. It is our sincere hope that the Conference will be successful and instrumental in providing us with an opportunity to assess the progress made so far and address all the outstanding substantive and procedural NPT issues.

In underscoring its commitment to the prohibition of nuclear weapons, the United Republic of Tanzania highlights the peaceful uses of nuclear technology and urges the International Atomic Energy Agency to continue providing the necessary scientific and technical support to Member States. The peaceful use of nuclear technology has brought tremendous benefits to the Tanzanian society of today. The Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission continues to play a significant role in the area of the peaceful uses of atomic energy, nuclear technology, radiation protection, nuclear safety and waste management. In partnership with the International Atomic Energy Agency, our non-lethal nuclear capacity has been greatly improved in various areas, including the agriculture, mining and energy sectors.

Tanzania is party to regional legal instruments and mechanisms for addressing the scourge of small arms and light weapons, including the 2001 Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons; the 2001 Declaration concerning Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials of the Southern African Development Community; the 2000 Nairobi Declaration on the Problem of the Proliferation of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa; the 2004 Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States; and the 2011 African Union Strategy on the Control of Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons.

In implementing all the protocols, programmes of action and declarations concerning small arms and light weapons to which Tanzania is party, all our activities to prevent, combat and eradicate the proliferation of such weapons are well coordinated and implemented through

the national focal point office under the leadership of the Tanzanian police force. However, despite the initiatives taken by the Government of Tanzania, we continue to face challenges in controlling the illicit spread of small arms and light weapons, owing to the spillover effect of the internal armed conflicts in the Great Lakes, Sahara and sub-Saharan regions.

My delegation believes that there is link between disarmament and development. In that regard, as much as we are set to project and witness a total silencing of the guns by 2020, we need to review our national priorities with a view to focusing resources on the achievement of sustainable development within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in 2015, and to reducing military expenditures. It is in that context that we call on all nuclear-weapon States to divert their resources to sustainable development away from the further modernization, upgrading and refurbishment of their nuclear-weapon and related facilities and from efforts to extend the lives of those weapons and facilities.

In conclusion, I want to underscore that the multilateral diplomatic efforts and solid political will of Member States are vital to achieving general and complete disarmament. I reaffirm the full commitment and support of the United Republic of Tanzania, in cooperation with the international community, in making the entire world free from nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction a reality and urge Member States to step up their efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons now.

Mr. Mahmadaminov (Tajikistan): I would like to congratulate you, Sir, on your appointment as Chair of the First Committee, and to assure you of my delegation's support during this session. I also want to express our appreciation to the other members of the Bureau and the secretariat of the First Committee for their support and cooperation.

Tajikistan is of the view that strengthening multilateral mechanisms for controlling weapons, disarmament and non-proliferation is key to maintaining global security and stability. The threat of nuclear proliferation remains a serious cause for concern. We therefore regard the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as a cornerstone of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and believe that the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of

Nuclear Weapons will provide an excellent opportunity to reiterate our commitment to the implementation of this landmark international Treaty.

Tajikistan shares the goal of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons and believes that no nuclear-disarmament mechanism can be effective without the participation of all the relevant stakeholders, particularly the nuclear-weapon States. In that regard, we call for the implementation of the provisions of the NPT and the speedy entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

We are confident that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones is an important component of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, along with the expansion of cooperation on the peaceful use of the nuclear energy and the strengthening of regional and international peace and security. We are proud to be party to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, through which the countries of Central Asia have made a significant contribution to strengthening regional and global security. We will therefore be closely cooperating with Central Asian countries and other partners to accelerate the ratification of the Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia on negative security assurances, signed on 6 May 2014 on the margins of the third Preparatory Committee for the Review Conference.

We attach great importance to the efficient implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. We urgently call for a Central Asia free from the threat posed by mines and for strengthening cooperation in the area of humanitarian demining.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm Tajikistan's belief in the merits of multilateralism and the United Nations as the main universal platform for achieving consensus on key issues ranging from international security to development, as well as for coordinating the joint and consistent efforts of the international community to meet global challenges and address the risks faced by a new generation.

Mr. Margaryan (Armenia): Allow me first to congratulate you, Sir, and the members of the Bureau on your assumption of the leadership of the First Committee, and to assure you of our full cooperation and support as you fulfil your important mandate.

Armenia continues to take a strong stance in supporting the full and universal implementation of

the treaties and regimes in the areas of disarmament, non-proliferation, conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building measures. We cooperate regularly and closely with international and regional organizations and partners to that end. We consider the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) to be a cornerstone of the international endeavours to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and strengthen the nuclear security architecture. The Government of Armenia supports the idea of the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, as enshrined in article VII of the Treaty, as they can play an important role in promoting security and stability in various regions. We hope that the fiftieth anniversary of the NPT will bring a new impetus for combined action at the regional, subregional and international levels for the comprehensive implementation of all commitments and obligations, and to ensure a successful outcome for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

I want to reiterate Armenia's support for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in facilitating and coordinating nuclear security activities among member States. My country has always had an excellent record of close cooperation with all the relevant IAEA structures. A number of the IAEA's on-site inspections and assessment missions have reaffirmed Armenia's commitment to implementing its international obligations and ensuring the greatest possible openness and transparency. We also attach particular importance to counter-proliferation initiatives such as the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and the Proliferation Security Initiative. My Government is working constantly with its international partners at the bilateral and multinational levels to further enhance its national capabilities in countering nuclear smuggling.

We firmly believe that the Biological Weapons Convention is a key component in the global community's efforts to attain a world free of weapons of mass destruction. We will need intensive international cooperation if we are to make further progress in its implementation, including concerted efforts to fully utilize existing opportunities and effectively combat threats that spring from the rapid progress of science and biotechnology. In that regard, the annual confidence-building measures exchange is very important to strengthening confidence and compliance with the provisions of the Convention.

Armenia underscores the importance of regional disarmament. We believe that global peace and security are directly dependent on regional and subregional stability. In that regard, an effective, functioning and comprehensive conventional arms-control regime is one of the cornerstones of the regional security architecture. I want to reiterate our principled position that the implementation of all legally binding obligations under the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe is key to ensuring transparency, predictability and military balance. Invoking political disputes to justify open non-compliance with the Treaty provisions is unacceptable, and the international community should resolutely reject it. Armenia is also a strong advocate for confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels, which can reduce tensions and help to consolidate existing security arrangements, thereby creating an environment conducive to addressing conflict-related issues. In the light of the growing trend of military posturing, such as large-scale military exercises in border areas for which no advance notification is given and uncontrolled and destabilizing attempts at military build-up, the implementation of existing regional confidence-building measures is particularly relevant.

Armenia views its participation in peacekeeping operations as an important contribution to the preservation and maintenance of international peace and security. We have been expanding our involvement in United Nations and United Nations-mandated peace and stability operations, including in the framework of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali. We have also contributed to the missions in Kosovo and Afghanistan. In February my Government adopted a national action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), thereby further consolidating the women and peace and security agenda in its national policies. Among other things, the national action plan is mainstreaming the role of women in security-sector reform. Women peacekeepers from Armenia are currently working in United Nations and United Nations-mandated operations.

Armenia reiterates its full commitment to working together with the relevant United Nations bodies and Member States in order to redouble our collective efforts in the fight against terrorism, which continues to pose a serious threat to international peace and

security. We unequivocally denounce terrorism in all of its forms and manifestations and fully support the work of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and the activities of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate in strengthening United Nations counter-terrorism coordination and coherence. In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that Armenia is fully committed to contributing to the work of the Committee with a view to advancing cooperation under the security and disarmament agenda.

Mr. Akiapo (Côte d'Ivoire) (*spoke in French*): On behalf of the delegation of Côte d'Ivoire, I too would like to warmly congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your election, Mr. Chair. Your enlightened leadership of our debates is a genuine guarantee of the success of our work.

My delegation 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).

The international security context has grown increasingly complicated over the years owing to the slow pace of disarmament in general and the emergence of new strategic challenges that are further weakening multilateralism and various pillars of international peace and security. Our environment is still characterized by a proliferation of small arms and light weapons, which fuel conflicts, along with terrorism and organized crime, the failure to achieve the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), the recurring use of chemical weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, the takeover of outer space for strategic defence and the growing threats affecting cyberspace. These security challenges are all sources of concern for my delegation.

Concerning the illicit flow of small arms and light weapons, my delegation notes that despite the many forums for addressing the issue and the various important mechanisms that our States and multilateral institutions have established in order to tackle this scourge, the battle to effectively curb the illicit trafficking all over the world of 800 million small arms and light weapons, which are responsible for the deaths of more than 500,000 people every year, appears daunting. It is therefore crucial that we redefine our current strategies to combat the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. That is why my delegation

has high hopes for the Biennial Meeting of States on the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, to be held in 2020. We also hope that the issue of ammunition will be integrated into the Programme of Action. In implementing the Programme in 2017 and 2018, Côte d'Ivoire has worked on renovating its armouries, training its security forces in neutralizing improvised explosives, digitizing its system for managing its weapon stocks and marking 42,200 weapons that belong to its defence and security forces.

The issue of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, which play a major role in many States' security systems, is also a source of concern for my delegation. The doctrine of nuclear deterrence is far from imaginary, given the modernization of existing nuclear weapons as well as their means of delivery. Likewise, the recent termination of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty and the stalemated talks on Iran's and North Korea's nuclear programmes demand genuine awareness on the part of the international community. In that context, my country, which is a signatory to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which completes and further strengthens the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, hopes that specific non-proliferation measures will be taken during the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons planned for 2020, which will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Treaty. While we await that important event, my delegation calls on the nuclear Powers to reduce the nuclear threat, including by lowering the operational status of their nuclear-weapon systems and providing effective security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States.

We all know that outer space has become a major strategic arena, and if we are not careful, this common heritage of humankind could be subject to restrictive measures by some States with advanced technologies. That is why my delegation believes that we have to establish additional norms in order to protect our common heritage from inappropriate use. Similarly, cyberspace is also the object of greedy desires and attempts to militarize it. In that regard, my delegation was pleased with the productive exchanges in September during the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international

security. In our view, its efforts, which complement the work of the Group of Governmental Experts on advancing responsible State behaviour in cyberspace in the context of international security, strengthen multilateralism and will ultimately contribute to the adoption of more consensus-based rules in accordance with international law, with a view to effectively protecting cyberspace.

Particular attention should be paid to the role and contribution of local structures and initiatives such as the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament and nuclear-weapon-free zones. In that regard, my delegation would like to commend the invaluable role played by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, in Lomé, with regard to sharing good practices, particularly in combating the proliferation and illicit use of small arms and light weapons. We urge partners to make substantial multifaceted contributions in order to improve the Centre's quality of service.

In conclusion, I hope for productive exchanges during this session with the cordiality that has always characterized the work of our Committee, despite the complexity of the subjects we address.

Mr. Madriz Fornos (Nicaragua) (*spoke in Spanish*): The delegation of Nicaragua is pleased to congratulate you on your election, Mr. Chair, and to wish you every success in your work. We also congratulate the other members of the Bureau.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by the representatives of Indonesia and El Salvador on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Central American Integration System, respectively (see A/C.1/74.PV.3).

It is unjustifiable and unacceptable that four years into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, expenditures on developing, modernizing and testing weapons of all kinds are actually increasing. We must direct those resources towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and towards peace. Nicaragua reiterates to the international community the importance of making further progress towards general and complete disarmament, for which the top priority is still the elimination of nuclear weapons, in accordance with the 1996 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (A/51/218, annex). The use or threat of use of nuclear weapons represents a crime against humanity and a violation of human rights

and the Charter of the United Nations. It is our firm belief that the only guarantee for preventing the use or threat of use of weapons of mass destruction and their non-proliferation by non-State actors is the absolute and total elimination of nuclear weapons.

We look forward to the early entry into force and universalization of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, adopted in 2017, which for the first time in history prohibits the existence, the use and the threat of the use of nuclear weapons, including nuclear testing. Nicaragua ratified that Treaty, which complements the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), in accordance with its article VI. We look forward to the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which should play a leading role in maintaining regional security and stability. Each new ratification is extremely important for the Treaty, and we urge the eight countries on which the Treaty's entry into force depends to sign and ratify it as soon as possible.

Nicaragua believes firmly that we can strengthen the non-proliferation regime and international peace and security through the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, which are an important contribution to achieving nuclear disarmament. At the regional level, we reiterate the importance of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, as well as the proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a zone of peace. We deplore the failure to comply with General Assembly resolution 49/71, on convening a conference on the establishment of a zone in the Middle East free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and we urge the international community to work to achieve it as soon as possible. The conference is an important part of the final outcome of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

The Government of Nicaragua supports the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, signed on 14 July 2015. We want to emphasize how this agreement showed that dialogue and diplomacy are the only appropriate ways to solve such problems. Within the framework of multilateralism, we urge the parties involved to refrain from any measure that could complicate the implementation of the Plan.

We support the work and efforts of the Disarmament Commission, which should maintain its relevance for deliberating in depth on all specific

disarmament issues with the objective of providing concrete recommendations to the General Assembly. We are concerned about the fact that the Commission was unable to complete its 2019 organizational and substantive meeting in 2019 owing to non-compliance with the host country agreement, particularly the failure to issue entry visas for representatives from various countries. That is an obstacle to full and equal representation within the Commission and therefore violates the right of Member States to participate in conditions of equality and non-discrimination. We urge the host country not to obstruct the work of the Disarmament Commission or the First Committee. We hope that this situation can be overcome and that the Disarmament Commission will be able to hold its 2020 session.

Nicaragua attaches special importance to compliance with the NPT, which is a legally binding international consensus instrument of the global system for non-proliferation, disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The international community needs to see the nuclear-weapon States take concrete measures to fulfil their commitments under article VI of the Treaty without delay and their unequivocal commitment to negotiating effective measures on nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament, under strict and effective controls.

We believe it is essential to continue to strengthen the legal regime for outer space in order to ensure safety and transparency in space activities. We especially support the adoption of a treaty on the prevention and prohibition of the placement of weapons in outer space and the use or threat of use of force against satellites or other types of outer-space objects. We consider that the draft treaty submitted by Russia and China to the Conference on Disarmament constitutes a good basis for those negotiations. Nicaragua and Russia will commit bilaterally to refraining from being the first to place weapons in space.

Our country is committed to taking the necessary steps to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit arms trafficking. At the national level, we have incorporated the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects by enacting a law controlling and regulating firearms, ammunition, explosives and related materials.

The security of our citizens is one of our main strengths, as Nicaragua is recognized as the third least violent country in Latin America, with a homicide rate of 7.5 per 100,000 inhabitants. In that regard, we have developed a series of specific policies and programmes in our fight against the great scourges of modern times — terrorism, crime and drug trafficking.

Many of us have pointed to the stagnation of the disarmament machinery, but we have not yet been able to solve the real problem, which is the lack of political will on the part of some States to make real progress, especially in the area of nuclear disarmament.

Mr. Da Gama (Guinea-Bissau) (*spoke in French*): As this is the first time that my delegation has taken the floor during this session, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chair, and the other members of the Bureau on your election to lead the First Committee, and to assure you of the full cooperation of the delegation of Guinea-Bissau throughout your mandate.

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

The Committee's work is taking place in a context marked by growing tensions among the key international players in the area of disarmament, despite the fact that the Secretary-General has made the issues of disarmament and non-proliferation a focus of his concerns. It is therefore up to us in the First Committee to take ownership of and advance our collective commitments to disarmament and non-proliferation in a transparent manner. The United Nations must pursue its primary goal of maintaining international peace and security, in accordance with Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations and the very first resolution adopted by the General Assembly, in 1946 (resolution 1 (I)). Our actions in this area should be constantly guided by the tragic memory of the attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Because of this, Guinea-Bissau signed and ratified the Treaty of Pelindaba, which made Africa a nuclear-weapon-free zone, in accordance with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons within the framework of strengthening the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. We are also pleased that similar treaties have entered into force in other parts of the world, with the exception of the Middle East, which

remains a source of concern for my country. The risks of an accidental nuclear detonation and its potentially enormous humanitarian consequences are still present and are certainly not limited to countries that possess those weapons. For that reason, Guinea-Bissau calls not only for countries to respect the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons but also for all nuclear-possessor States to confine their use of nuclear energy to strictly civilian purposes.

The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is a major source of concern for my country, which is why we acceded to the Arms Trade Treaty and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition. The disastrous consequences of that scourge are clearly visible in the Sahel region, where several terrorist groups are operating with significant military arsenals, posing a real challenge for Member States in the region. Those criminal networks engage not only in near-daily acts of terrorism but also all sorts of transnational organized crime that seriously impede the development not just of the region, which is one of great potential, but all the neighbouring countries in the subregion, including Guinea-Bissau.

The various military conflicts in Guinea-Bissau, which have been aggravated by our past history, including a war of national liberation, have done a great deal to facilitate the proliferation, illicit trafficking and illegal possession of small arms and light weapons. In order to address that challenge, my country has worked consistently to tackle disarmament and reintegration as a major part of our defence and security-sector reform, in cooperation with the United Nations and other partners. Having ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions, my country has committed to destroying its small stockpile of cluster munitions under article 3 of the Convention. We had planned to accomplish that by 1 May, but unfortunately for technical reasons that was not possible. In that regard, I would like to affirm my country's determination to respect its obligations under the Convention by destroying our stockpiles and submitting a report as soon as possible, or by first submitting the report and subsequently destroying the stockpiles.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Guinea-Bissau's determination to fully comply with all international requirements with regard to disarmament, which is a prerequisite for international peace and security.

Mr. Tiare (Burkina Faso) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I would like to convey my delegation's congratulations to you, Sir, on your election as Chair of the First Committee. I also congratulate the other members of the Bureau on their election.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements made 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).

We are once again meeting to review the progress made in the area of international peace and security. Our view this year is that we are working against a backdrop of multiple uncertainties in various fields, including international peace and security. In the light of those international concerns, my delegation reiterates its faith in multilateralism as a means of finding solutions to global problems, including in the field of disarmament, which has occupied an important place on our Organization's agenda since its creation. We have legitimate concerns about the possibility of humankind's survival in the face of the existence of nuclear stockpiles and States' willingness to acquire or modernize them.

We must bear in mind that nuclear weapons constitute a real threat to all of us, whether by deliberate or accidental detonation. That is why we must spare no effort in ridding the world of these weapons, which have immeasurable consequences at many levels. The adoption in July 2017 of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was a positive step on the path to disarmament and in our fulfilment of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. My delegation commends the convening on 26 September of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, which both offered the international community an opportunity to recall the importance of protecting humankind from the dangers posed by the existence of thousands of nuclear weapons and enabled us to renew our commitment to nuclear disarmament and underscore the importance and urgency of achieving that goal.

That commitment must now be translated into concrete action with a view to achieving the results we seek. My delegation also welcomes the convening in April of the third session of the Preparatory Committee of the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. We hope that countries will continue to work constructively to ensure that the Review Conference is a success. We also want to reaffirm the importance and usefulness of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which is an integral part of the global non-proliferation regime, despite the persistent acute need to achieve its entry into force, more than two decades after its adoption. We therefore commended the convening in New York on 27 September of the eleventh Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

My delegation also welcomes the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various parts of the world, including in Africa, thanks to the Treaty of Pelindaba. We should keep in mind that the establishment of these zones is a disarmament and non-proliferation measure that should be supported and added to. With regard to other weapons of mass destruction, my delegation urges for the universalization of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention. The fact is that while advances in technology and biology can be beneficial to humankind, they still pose many challenges that we must confront.

The illicit traffic and proliferation of small arms and light weapons continue to pose a threat to peace and security in many parts of the world, including the Sahel, which in recent years has been facing a situation of unprecedented insecurity, as Burkina Faso and the other countries of the Group of Five for the Sahel are well aware. My delegation welcomed the holding in August in Geneva of the fifth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty and calls for its full implementation. Burkina Faso also welcomed the holding in 2018 of the third Review Conference of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. We are also looking forward the convening here in 2020 of its seventh Biennial Meeting of States, which will be an opportunity for States to engage constructively and set national objectives.

Anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions continue to be a source of insecurity and to cause enormous damage in many countries. We therefore call for the universalization and full implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty.

With regard to space, another subject that concerns us all, we must continue our efforts to prevent its militarization. As for cyberspace, while it is a platform that is essential to the development of all States, it also represents a threat, given the increasing number of cyberattacks we have been witnessing on State infrastructures, which not only threaten peace and security but also slow our achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In that regard, my delegation welcomes the work of the Open-ended Working Group on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security and the Group of Governmental Experts on advancing responsible State behaviour in cyberspace in the context of international security, which is helping us to address that issue.

In conclusion, my country would like to emphasize the vital role of multilateral cooperation in maintaining and preserving our collective security system. It is therefore our duty as States Members of the United Nations to work to that end by concerting our efforts to ensure that future generations inherit a peaceful and more secure world.

Mr. Suárez Moreno (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chair, and the other members of the Bureau on your election. You can count on our full support and cooperation.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (see A/C.1/74/PV.3).

We affirm the importance of the work of the First Committee in a world characterized by increasing tensions and conflicts, and in which the belligerent rhetoric of unilateralism is used in attempts to completely undermine the rules-based international order by systematically attacking the spirit and purpose of multilateralism and eroding the international security architecture. The threat of the use of force, the use of armed force and the application of illegal unilateral coercive measures as instruments to assert geopolitical interests undermines confidence among the members of the international community and increases the risks of conflict, which can lead to miscalculations with catastrophic consequences. The failure of some nuclear States to comply with their unambiguous obligations and commitments, as well as their withdrawal from various

previously agreed-on disarmament and arms-control agreements, are issues of great concern that should mobilize us today to consider them and take action.

For Venezuela, respect for the three pillars of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is a key factor in guaranteeing life on Earth, given that the mere existence of nuclear weapons constitutes a terrible threat to human survival. For that reason, we urge for full compliance with the Treaty's goals of non-proliferation, disarmament and the peaceful development of nuclear energy. We urge nuclear-weapon States to reduce their arsenals until they have eliminated them completely. We also call on States to eliminate the role of such weapons in their security doctrines and military strategies. It is worrying that some States have increased the role of nuclear weapons in their security doctrines and their budget allocations for modernizing them. Venezuela condemns the use of so-called nuclear deterrence as an excuse for justifying the possession of such weapons, since it contributes to a state of collective insecurity that can be avoided only through the definitive elimination of nuclear weapons.

Venezuela believes firmly that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones plays an essential role in strengthening the non-proliferation regime. For that reason, we call for the convening as soon as possible of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction. If that Conference is not held — and it has been pending since the 2010 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons — it may have a negative impact on the 2020 Review Conference. My country is a State party to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which for the first time established the illegality of the possession of nuclear weapons. For that reason, we encourage countries that have not signed or ratified the Treaty to join this important effort to strengthen the disarmament and non-proliferation regime. It constitutes an essential complement to other fundamental instruments in this area, such as the NPT, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the nuclear-weapon-free-zone treaties.

For Venezuela, outer space represents a common heritage of humankind to which all nations must be guaranteed equal access in order to use it peacefully through international cooperation, scientific research and technology transfer. We question the growing belligerent rhetoric and the publication of new security doctrines that frame outer space as a theatre of war.

That is why we believe we must work to create a binding international legal framework to prevent the start of an arms race in outer space. In that regard, we appreciate the 2008 initiative by Russia and China to draft a treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space, as well as the General Assembly resolutions that have been introduced in that regard.

We are concerned about the increasingly destabilizing role played at the global level by small arms and light weapons, given that they are used all over the world to cause death. In that regard, my country recognizes the successful outcome of the third Review Conference of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, and we urge for strengthening national, regional and international measures aimed at preventing the shipment and transfer of small arms and light weapons to non-State actors.

In the field of information and communication technologies, it is important to adopt a constructive approach to development in order to prevent malicious behaviour that could affect international peace and security. It is therefore important to work to formulate a binding legal framework for guaranteeing responsible uses of such technology.

In conclusion, Venezuela reaffirms its commitment to multilateral diplomacy aimed at safeguarding international peace and security through the First Committee's important work. We therefore call on the States Members of the Organization to demonstrate responsible behaviour and encourage the necessary efforts to be taken in order to arrive at consensus solutions that will enable us to reduce the risks of conflict and achieve a context of peace and security for future generations.

Mr. Mouanda (Congo) (*spoke in French*): Mr. Chair, allow me to convey the congratulations of the Congolese delegation on your election to the chairmanship of the First Committee. I would also like to commend the outstanding work carried out during the seventy-third session by your predecessor, His Excellency Mr. Ion Jinga, Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements made by the representative of Indonesia, on behalf of the members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries,

and by the representative of Zambia on behalf of the Group of African States (see A/C.1/74/PV.3).

On the eve of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations, which we will celebrate next year, the issue of the general and complete disarmament of the planet remains at the heart of the international agenda. While we cannot but recognize the progress made to date through the various instruments that exist in the area, the issue of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons unfortunately remains the subject of divisions between Member States.

Today more than ever the threat posed by all categories of weapons, particularly those of mass destruction, is a reality that we cannot ignore. This therefore requires that we act in a concrete manner; responding appropriately is imperative. Given the threat of these types of weapons falling into the hands of non-State entities, my delegation recommends strengthening confidence measures at all levels at the international, regional and national levels.

Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) clearly defines the measures that must be undertaken in order to systematically eliminate such a potential development. The current context must guide us towards achieving a positive outcome of the upcoming Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to be held in 2020. This is an opportunity to invite the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty annex 2 countries, which have not yet ratified it, to do so in order for it to enter quickly into force.

No Member State of the Organization can be denied the use of nuclear energy for civilian purposes. This is an inalienable right of all Member States. My delegation reiterates its commitment to the goal of general and complete disarmament as well as its support for the policy of dismantling all nuclear arsenals.

Chemical and bacteriological weapons, the use of which inflicts suffering and devastation on civilian populations, is another threat that requires the ongoing attention of the Committee. In that vein, my country welcomes the new powers attributed to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) during the fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The OPCW can now initiate proceedings against country that it believes is responsible for the use of chemical weapons. Any

action undertaken as part of this process must strictly respect the principles of international law.

The proliferation of small arms and light weapons poses a major challenge to peace and security in all regions of the world, particularly in developing countries. In the Central African subregion, of which my country is a part, this phenomenon is flourishing and feeds on transnational crime, terrorism and various forms of illicit trafficking. In that context, I am pleased to report that my country, the Congo, has joined the Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa, as well as the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly.

In the context of the implementation of these disarmament instruments, which also include the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, a number of measures have been undertaken. A national commission to combat the proliferation of small arms and light weapons has been established, and related legal documents are currently being promulgated by the Government of the Republic of the Congo. In the meantime, the national committee for following up on the activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, which was established with the same goal by decree 2000-307, of 3 April 2007, is provisionally undertaking the activities that will be carried out by the commission.

My country is deeply concerned by the uptick in international terrorism. In order to contribute to eradicating this threat in its various forms and prevent terrorists from carrying out attacks, the Republic of the Congo is taking measures that include addressing illicit trafficking in fraudulent documents, which are helping terrorists to achieve their goals, and strengthening our border control efforts.

Here I wish to commend and further encourage the sustained technical assistance provided by international and regional organizations working in the area of non-proliferation and counter-terrorism, including the

International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Civil Aviation Organization and INTERPOL.

As is evident, my country is committed to joining international efforts in the area of disarmament and international security. We remain convinced that the challenge of disarmament can be met only through a multilateral effort. In that respect, we are deeply convinced that the United Nations represents the sanctuary of multilateralism.

Mr. Kyaw Moe Tun (Myanmar): Myanmar associates itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (see A/C.1/74/PV.3), and I would like to add following points in my national capacity.

The United Nations was founded more than 70 years ago with the objectives of bringing about peace and security and lessening the threats to humankind. Although significant progress has been made throughout the years, the world continues to face high levels of violence, extremism, terrorism and domestic and regional conflicts, which have resulted in civilian casualties and mass displacements on an unprecedented scale.

We have not been able to fulfil the principal purpose of the United Nations, to maintain international peace and security. The threat of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear-weapon States, is a cause of great concern amid renewed ?? conflicts and the emerging trend of unconventional security threats. Nuclear disarmament has always been the highest priority on Myanmar's disarmament agenda. In order to accomplish that priority, we are working with the international community towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Since 1995, Myanmar, together with like-minded countries, has demonstrated its dedication to nuclear disarmament by submitting a draft resolution on that issue in the First Committee every year. I would like to take this opportunity to express Myanmar's deep appreciation to Member States for their co-sponsorship and support of the resolution. This year we will submit the draft resolution once again and look forward to receiving continued support from all Member States.

Myanmar welcomes the adoption of the various arms-control control, disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and agreements that were

concluded and reached bilaterally, regionally and in multilateral forums. However, on the other hand, we share concerns about the recent ending of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, adopted more than three decades ago. The Treaty was aimed at a reduction of nuclear arsenals and the elimination of an entire category of nuclear weapons of the two largest possessors of nuclear weapons.

Moreover, we are witnessing conflicts persisting, terrorism spreading and the risk of a new arms race growing. Worldwide military expenditures have shown an alarming increase. According to World Bank data, total military expenditures reached more than \$1.78 trillion in 2018. Today the world is under the dangerous threat of increasing armaments. In that regard, we call on all States parties to arms-control, disarmament and non-proliferation agreements to adhere to and implement honestly all the provisions of those agreements so as to save our planet and succeeding generations from the scourge of war.

Myanmar recognizes the NPT as the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime. Since we are only months away from the 2020 NPT Review Conference, Myanmar would like to urge all parties to the NPT, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, to comply fully and urgently with their obligations under article VI of the Treaty. With the strong commitment of the parties to the Treaty, we are confident that it can be implemented effectively.

The successful adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons also marks progress in our nuclear-disarmament endeavours. As a signatory to the Treaty, Myanmar is actively considering its ratification, and we strongly encourage fellow member countries to join the Treaty as a demonstration of their political will for nuclear disarmament. We also believe that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) plays a crucial role in the achievement of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. My delegation welcomes and congratulates Zimbabwe, which recently ratified the CTBT. We call on all States that have not signed or ratified the Treaty, particularly the remaining annex 2 States, to do so without further delay.

We also reaffirm the importance of regional nuclear-weapon-free zones, including the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, to the existing global non-proliferation regime. We continue to support ongoing efforts to establish such zones, especially in the

Middle East. In that regard, we welcome the decision to convene the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction next month. Myanmar also stands ready to continue playing a constructive role in contributing to peace and stability on the Korean peninsula, and we call on all the parties concerned to redouble their efforts to reduce tensions and work for a peaceful solution to the situation in the Korean peninsula.

Information and communications technologies (ICTs) play an important role in furthering the common good of humankind and the sustainable development of all countries. We stress that promoting the use of ICTs for peaceful purposes is in the interest of all States in order to ensure that they are not used to create conflict. In that regard, we welcome the establishment in accordance with General Assembly resolution 73/27 of the Open-ended Working Group on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security, and we support the holding of a series of consultative meetings within the Working Group.

Myanmar reiterates its firm belief in the Conference on Disarmament (CD) as the sole multilateral negotiation forum for disarmament and non-proliferation and is grateful to the 2019 Presidents of the CD for their sincere efforts to move it forward. However, like other speakers, we regret that another CD session has once again concluded without a consensus being reached on a draft programme of work. We urge the incoming presidents of the CD and its members to do their best and show true flexibility so that the CD can resume its mandate as a negotiation forum by adopting a balanced and comprehensive programme of work.

Myanmar strongly believes that the United Nations Disarmament Commission still has a unique role in building trust and confidence among Member States on various disarmament issues. It is the only specialized body in the United Nations with universal membership in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. We are concerned about its inability to convene its organizational and substantive meetings in 2019, and we hope that the substantive meetings will be held in 2020 in a formal setting so that it can fulfil its mandate.

In conclusion, we are all here today for the purpose of creating a peaceful and secure world of prosperity and happiness. As we witness growing tensions and

challenges and threats posed by multiple stakeholders, disarmament and non-proliferation become extraordinarily urgent and important issues in our efforts to guarantee the peace and security of current and future generations. We must therefore redouble our efforts to make tangible progress in our disarmament and non-proliferation negotiations. We call on all Member States to demonstrate good faith and political will, promote mutual understanding, enhance trustworthy cooperation and ensure responsible collective action in striving for a world without nuclear weapons.

Mr. Ousmane Koussouri (Niger) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chair, on your election to lead the First Committee, as well as the other members of your Bureau. I can assure you of our full collaboration in ensuring the success of your important mission.

Our presence here in this temple of peace that the United Nations symbolizes rightly attests to the desire of nations to spare humankind from the horrors of a new nuclear holocaust and to work together to build a safer world. The goals of disarmament and the limitation of arms have been at the heart of our Organization's efforts to maintain international peace and security since its founding. In line with the final document (A/S-10/4) of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, held in 1978, the Niger is fully committed to contributing to efforts to curb all nuclear threats. The Niger also ratified the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 9 October 1992.

My country has always sought to promote regional and international peace, security and stability. The Niger ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) on 9 September 2002 and plays a very active role in implementing its provisions. The Niger is home to one of the most important seismic stations of the global network of the international monitoring system installed by the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), while another station for detecting radionuclides has been installed in northern Niger and is in the process of being certified. On 4 December 2013, we created the Nigerien High Authority for Atomic Energy, tasked with the monitoring, coordination and promotion of all peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including nuclear electric-power generation and ionizing radiation, in collaboration with all the relevant national and international entities. The High Authority also has a national database

that receives data from seismic, hydro-acoustic and infrasonic stations from all over the world in order to examine them and identify any nuclear tests violating the CTBT, as well as other seismic events. The Niger was chosen to represent Africa as Vice-Chair of Working Group B, a subsidiary body of the CTBTO that deals with the CTBT's compliance regime and therefore with all technical and scientific issues related to global monitoring.

The Niger has also created a national committee for nuclear security, which gives all actors in the security arena a formal framework for defining the actions required for assessing activities and making recommendations for creating a national nuclear security strategy to be integrated into global, national and international strategies. In addition, the Niger is a founding member and active participant in the activities of the forum of national authorities and bodies responsible for nuclear safety and security in the countries of the Group of Five for the Sahel and Senegal.

One reason for working for the entry into force of the CTBT that is just as important is that the technology used in its verification system has many civil and scientific uses that can be used to benefit Member States' economic and social development, as well as to prevent and manage disasters. In that regard, the Niger is putting its interest in human health into practice in the context of controlling and eradicating malaria, as well as in fighting cancer through nuclear medicine and radiotherapy. My country welcomes the excellent cooperation we have with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in many sectors of socioeconomic development and would like to emphasize the importance of the IAEA's ongoing support.

In the context of disarmament, the international community is working to regulate the production of all weapons of mass destruction and ultimately to eliminate them. West Africa and the Sahel continue to be seriously affected by the uncontrolled production and proliferation of firearms and their ammunition because of the armed conflicts that they fuel and their consequent impact on the region. With a view to promoting general disarmament, the Niger has become a signatory to almost all legal instruments, regional and international, aimed at fighting terrorism and organized crime. At the national level, we established a national commission for collecting and controlling illicit arms in 1994.

My delegation would like to take the opportunity of this debate to make a solemn appeal to CTBT annex 2 States to ratify the Treaty so that it can enter into force, because security, peace and culture in the world are priceless. We also welcome the progress that the Arms Trade Treaty has made and call for its universalization in order to enable it to fight the illicit arms trade more effectively.

In conclusion, I would like to recall that on 7 June, at the 89th plenary meeting of the General Assembly at its seventy-third session, the Niger was elected a non-permanent member of the Security Council for a two-year term. While championing an African vision for international peace and security, the Niger plans to highlight the security threats that the countries of the Sahel and the Lake Chad basin are confronting today.

Mr. Monyane (Lesotho): I would like to begin by congratulating you, Sir, and the other members of the Bureau on your election to lead the First Committee. We are confident that your experience, talent and energies will ensure a successful outcome of its work.

My delegation aligns itself with the common position expressed in the statements delivered by the representatives of Zambia, on behalf of the Group of African States, and Indonesia, on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (see A/C.1/74/PV.3).

The objective of maintaining international peace and security and achieving a world without nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction was the *raison d'être* for the formation of the United Nations. The need to secure the global community has never been greater. Sadly, the threat of the use of such weapons continues to shatter our hopes for a peaceful world. That is so despite the fact that over the years the General Assembly has adopted numerous resolutions on the issue of arms control and disarmament, including small arms. Nuclear, chemical and biological weapons constitute a clear and present danger to global peace and security, as well as to the future survival of humankind. In that regard, the total elimination of weapons of mass destruction remains the only absolute and viable panacea against their use or threat of use.

The time has come for the international community to demonstrate the resolve and commitment needed to ensure that the issue of arms control and disarmament is addressed on a multilateral basis in order to secure global peace and security. In recent years, new aspects

have become increasingly important in international security. They include terrorism, illegal arms, drug trafficking and nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. The United Nations has had to grapple with crisis situations in many parts of the world, in accordance with its mandate to maintain international peace and security.

As today's problems become ever more global, multilateralism is more important than ever. We need to demonstrate the importance of multilateralism as a major facet of international relations. In September we marked the second anniversary of the opening for signature of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, as well as the commemoration of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. Lesotho and three other Southern African countries, Botswana, Tanzania and Zambia, joined the steadily increasing number of States Members of the United Nations becoming signatories to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Lesotho will therefore continue to support all efforts to enhance the Treaty's institutional fabric.

I want to express our concern about the slow pace of progress in improving adherence to the objectives and legal obligations of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). While the NPT is an important pillar in the pursuit of nuclear disarmament, it has not attained universality in the 50 years since its adoption. It is the only legal regime for preventing the spread of nuclear-weapon technology, promoting cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy and furthering the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament. It is our hope that the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to be held in New York in 2020, will provide an opportunity for all Member States to build consensus and work in earnest to achieve the objectives of the NPT.

Moreover, it has long been accepted that the NPT's future credibility will depend on effective implementation of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). However, there is still no international ban on nuclear-weapon testing, because the CTBT is still struggling to garner the ratifications needed for its entry into force, a situation that is further exacerbated by the fact that nuclear-weapon States continue to invest heavily in new nuclear-weapon technologies. Those developments raise concerns about the possibility that the risk of nuclear use is increasing and the legal

obligations for non-proliferation and disarmament are being undermined. That state of affairs surely calls for action on our part as Member States.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Lesotho's support for all United Nations resolutions on arms control and disarmament and especially on the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones around the world, which are designed to achieve the goals of nuclear disarmament and thereby promote and strengthen regional and global peace and security. In that spirit, I want to reaffirm my country's commitment to the Treaty of Pelindaba, which paved the way for the African continent to become a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to call on the entire international community to join hands in bridging the gulf between rhetoric and action and to fast-track the implementation of the NPT. We also reiterate the need for the speedy entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in order to ensure that humankind can live in peace without fear of extinction.

Mr. Ousseïn (Comoros) (*spoke in French*): I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr. Chair, and the other members of the Bureau on your election to lead the First Committee.

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

This seventy-fourth session of the First Committee of the General Assembly is taking place in a dangerous international context, in which the risks associated with the use of nuclear weapons are as serious as they were during the Cold War. The Union of the Comoros is deeply concerned about this increasing risk, since any use of nuclear weapons would have catastrophic humanitarian consequences on a global scale. The total elimination of nuclear weapons remains the only absolute guarantee against their use or the threat of their use in order to protect the present and future generations from that danger. It is incumbent on all of us to advance multilateral response strategies that can transform the current global situation into one that will benefit all of humankind. In that regard, the adoption by 122 States on 7 July 2017 of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons represents an important step forward. It complements other nuclear-weapon

treaties, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and those establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones such as the Treaty of Pelindaba, to which the Comoros is party. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, although not yet in force, plays an important role in strengthening global norms against the use, proliferation and possession of nuclear weapons by all States.

In that context, we would like to emphasize that ongoing activities such as nuclear testing and the potential development and modernization of nuclear arsenals constitute a threat to international security that is in serious contravention of the non-proliferation regime and threatens to plunge us into the vicious cycle of a new nuclear arms race. Moreover, nuclear weapons are in no way a legitimate means of defence, and their use or threat of use cannot be justified under any circumstances. In line with its long-standing commitment to nuclear disarmament, the Union of the Comoros was one of the first countries to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, on 20 September 2017. Today our ratification procedure for the Treaty is progressing well. My delegation welcomes the recent progress that has been made in enabling it to enter into force as soon as possible and calls on all States that have not yet done so to sign it. Every new signature or ratification strengthens the momentum towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons, an essential ingredient in the maintenance of international peace and security.

I will now turn to the issue of small arms and light weapons. The illicit transfer and trafficking of small arms and light weapons are a serious obstacle to international peace and security. That is why the Comoros is a signatory to the Arms Trade Treaty, which is extremely important to our continent's fight against illicit trafficking in the region, which demands strict controls. The Comoros has taken major steps to implement the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, including by strengthening our policy and legislative frameworks for managing small arms and light weapons. The effects of their widespread availability and use have historically contributed to many conflicts, particularly in Africa. Terrorism and other serious criminal activities that threaten international peace and

security are also consequences of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

In conclusion, the Comoros is committed to greater and more effective participation in the issues to be discussed during the upcoming thematic debates.

Mr. Kadiri (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): It is a real pleasure to see you in charge of the work of our important Committee, Mr. Chair. I would first like to congratulate you on your election to chair the Committee and to assure you of the full support of the Moroccan delegation as you carry out your duties. I would like to also congratulate the other members of the Bureau.

The Kingdom of Morocco associates itself with the statements made by the representatives of Indonesia, on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, Zambia, on behalf of the Group of African States, and Tunisia, on behalf of the Group of Arab States (see A/C.1/74/PV.3), and would like to add some observations in its national capacity.

Morocco fully shares the beliefs and concerns of the international community regarding the development and proliferation of destructive weapons, which continue to pose a direct threat to international peace and security. We believe that the best guarantee for international peace and security lies not in military doctrines but rather in peaceful coexistence, which enables the creation of conditions conducive to development and to political, economic, social and cultural exchanges. Morocco, which has always favoured consensus and an inclusive approach, remains firmly convinced that multilateralism, negotiation, dialogue and diplomacy are fundamental elements in a general, complete and irreversible disarmament aimed at achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world. That is truer than ever today when we consider the uncontrolled spread of multifaceted threats from non-State actors and terrorist or armed groups that exacerbate the risks both of the proliferation of destructive weapons and of armed conflict. Beyond the suffering they inflict, such scenarios deeply undermine international, regional and national efforts to combat them and obstruct the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals and lasting peace. However, far from compelling us to retreat or resort to a new arms race, the current crises represent an opportunity for the international community to work to restore multilateralism and to re-engage and renew dialogue. We therefore welcome the many positive

signs we have seen recently in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.

The first is the international community's reaffirmation at the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of the Treaty's pre-eminence as an essential international instrument. Over the past 50 years, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) has proved an unquestionably effective tool for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and has directly contributed to reductions in the major nuclear Powers' arsenals, the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, several nuclear-weapon States' renunciation of weapons and limits on the emergence of new nuclear Powers.

Secondly, Morocco also welcomes the upcoming Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction, to be convened following the General Assembly's adoption on 22 December 2018 of decision 73/546. This long-awaited Conference is a preliminary success that we must support and that comes on the eve of the major NPT Review Conference to be held in 2020. Morocco believes that establishing new nuclear-weapon-free zones will reinforce our aim of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons.

Thirdly, the international community had an historic opportunity to engage in important discussions on security in cyberspace during the first substantive session of the Open-ended Working Group on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security, established by the General Assembly in its resolution 73/27. As a connected developing country, Morocco attaches great importance to developments in the field of information and telecommunications as well as cybersecurity. We welcome the establishment of the Open-ended Working Group, aimed at formulating rules, standards and principles for States' responsible behaviour on a basis of consensus. Morocco also voted in favour of resolution 73/266, entitled "Advancing responsible State behaviour in cyberspace in the context of international security", and is a member of the Group of Governmental Experts established following its adoption. As a member of both processes, Morocco believes that the Open-ended Working Group and the Group of Governmental Experts should work in a complementary manner, in accordance

with their respective mandates, in order to ensure that developments in the field of information and telecommunications continue to further serve States' development, progress and security.

Peace is at the centre of the United Nations mandate. It is therefore urgent that we work to reform our Organization so that it can better assist States and play a leading role in preventing conflict and finding peaceful solutions. That is why Morocco will continue its firm support for the Secretary-General's efforts to reform the United Nations, including through his Agenda for Disarmament, in order to enable the Organization to respond to the challenges that pose an equal threat to us all. Those efforts include confidence-building measures that should be encouraged and consolidated in the current global context. It is that spirit of renewed commitment that should guide the international community's actions when it comes to investing in new frontiers such as outer space or cybernetics, in order to enable humankind to take advantage of its shared patrimony.

Lastly, it seems clear today that beyond their use or the threat of their use, the very existence of destructive weapons continues to entail human, ecological and security costs that we can avoid if the international community shows real political will. That necessarily requires our firm commitment to the security, disarmament and non-proliferation architecture.

As a stakeholder committed to achieving peace at the regional and international levels, Morocco has been working constantly to promote the entry into force and universality of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and is actively contributing to the work of its Preparatory Committee and to strengthening cooperation with its Provisional Technical Secretariat. The Kingdom of Morocco also supports all General Assembly resolutions on disarmament and remains committed to contributing to efforts within the framework of voluntary and comprehensive disarmament and non-proliferation initiatives.

Lastly, the existence and illicit trade in destructive weapons poses a danger that fuels and perpetuates conflicts, terrorism—including nuclear terrorism—and all forms of trafficking, and severely affects States' sovereignty and the most vulnerable segments of society, that is, women, young people and children. The current international environment and its increasing challenges make it imperative that we work to achieve

the goals of disarmament and non-proliferation. That is why the international community must preserve the principle of consensus and restore the values inherent in negotiations and multilateralism. You can count on the full support of my delegation in this, Mr. Chair.

The Chair: I shall now call on delegations wishing to speak in exercise of the right of reply. I should like to remind all delegations that the first statement is limited to 10 minutes and the second to five minutes.

Mr. Al-Mouallimi (Saudi Arabia) (*spoke in Arabic*): It is strange and cynical that the representative of Syria can speak about lessons and preach sermons on terrorism while his country's Government has committed every possible form of terrorism against the Syrian people, including the use of chemical weapons, according to the reports of the Fact-finding Mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

The Syrian regime's continued reluctance to fulfil its legal obligations, as detailed in the decision adopted at the fourth special session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention, and its commitments according to Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), which calls on Syria to cooperate fully with the OPCW, as well as its inconsistencies in its first and subsequent declarations on the destruction of its stockpile of chemical weapons despite the reports substantiating the Syrian Government's use of chemical weapons in Syria, in addition to other fact-finding missions' reports attesting to Syria's use of chemical weapons, compel us to urge the Syrian authorities to fully cooperate with the teams concerned to implement all the relevant resolutions pertaining to the use of chemical weapons, as we stated in my country's statement in the general debate (see A/C.1/74/PV.7) earlier this week.

It is extremely ironic that the representative of the Syrian authorities should claim that our Kingdom kidnapped the Prime Minister of Lebanon. That is a false and unfounded allegation that has been debunked by Prime Minister Saad Hariri himself. Furthermore, if we are talking about accusations about kidnapping the Lebanese Prime Minister, what does our colleague the Syrian Ambassador have to say about the assassination of Lebanon's former Prime Minister Mr. Rafiq Hariri, who was murdered in 2005 by bloody hands linked to the Syrian authorities, and before him Lebanon's martyred Prime Minister Rashid Karami, who was assassinated

by the Syrian authorities in 1987? Syria assassinated two Lebanese Prime Ministers and is now accusing Saudi Arabia of kidnapping and detaining someone for a few days or hours, despite the fact that the Prime Minister himself has rejected the accusation. Syria is also responsible for the assassination of two elected Presidents in Lebanon. Its series of assassinations and murders has been long-standing and continuous, and with regard to officials in Syria and Lebanon the Syrian regime has a blood-drenched record.

Ms. Mudallali (Lebanon), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

Half a million people have been martyred in Syria itself as a result of the Syrian regime's attacks on its own people. These are not fabricated accusations but facts, established by Security Council resolution 1636 (2005), which endorsed the conclusion reached by an international independent investigation commission based on evidence that proves the involvement of high-level Syrian officials in the assassination of Rafiq Hariri. The resolution indicated that Syria had not cooperated with the fact-finding mission and warned against direct or indirect interference in the domestic affairs of Lebanon.

Those who murdered Rafiq Hariri should be the last people to make baseless accusations. Saudi Arabia has provided as much assistance as possible for the development of our brother State of Lebanon, while Syria has provided Lebanon with terrorist militias such as Hizbullah and interfered in it militarily, setting Lebanon back years in terms of progress and development. What Syria has offered Lebanon is explosions and killings, targeting not only its Prime Ministers but also journalists such as Salim Lawzi, who was killed by the Syrian authorities in Lebanon.

Mr. Hallak (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): In exercising his right of reply, the representative of the Bani Saud Wahabi regime, a sponsor of takfiri terrorism all over the world, has made a statement full of hypocrisy and fallacies in a desperate attempt —

The Acting Chair: I now give the floor to the representative of Saudi Arabia on a point of order.

Mr. Al-Mouallimi (Saudi Arabia) (*spoke in Arabic*): I referred respectfully to the Syrian representative as the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic. I request that the Acting Chair prevent the representative of Syria here today from using inaccurate terms and disrespectful

language when referring to the representative of any given regime. That is unacceptable and should be prevented out of respect for the Committee itself and for the representatives present.

The Acting Chair: I encourage all delegations to respect one another.

I now give the floor to the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic on a point of order.

Mr. Hallak (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): The speaker before me has perhaps not paid attention to what his colleagues have communicated to him in writing, as he refers to my country as a regime, allowing himself what he forbids in others. We did not interrupt him on a point of order. His language was simply disrespectful. He tries to deny using disrespectful language while he desperately tries to prevent others from using the same kind of terms.

The Acting Chair: I encourage all delegations to respect one another.

Mr. Hallak (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): I will use the same expressions that the Saudi representative used. In his right of reply, the representative of the Saudi regime, which has sponsored takfiri terrorism all over the world, made a statement full of hypocrisy and fallacies in a desperate attempt to cover up the crimes that this regime has been committing in Iraq, Yemen, Syria, Afghanistan and many other countries. The terrorism that it supports has reached many Western capitals.

It is unreasonable that the Saudi regime should contribute more than \$100 million to the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre while at the same time continuing to violate Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism by spending billions of dollars to finance terrorist organizations in Syria and other parts of the world in order to spread the Wahabi ideology, which incites death, destruction and hatred of other faiths.

The Saudi regime is based on oppressing the Saudi people, particularly in the eastern part of the country. The regime has demolished the town of Al-Awamiyah entirely and beheads more than 150 people every year in the same way that the terrorist organization Da'esh does. It wastes billions arming and supporting terrorist groups with weapons instead of channelling that money to develop and advance Saudi society. It has spent a great deal of money that would have been better spent

on the Saudi people but instead went to buy weapons and equipment from the stockpiles of various European countries, destined not for Saudi Arabia but rather sent directly to terrorist organizations in Syria through neighbouring countries.

Everyone knows that Saudi Arabia established and financed the Al-Qaida terrorist organization and that the United States enacted a law for holding Saudi Arabia accountable for its officials' involvement in the attacks of 11 September 2001. Everyone knows that Saudi Arabia kidnapped the prime minister of another State and that had it not been for international pressure, the involvement of a permanent member of the Security Council and the threat that the issue would be referred to the Security Council, we would never have known the fate of the kidnapping victim. The allegations claiming that my country has been involved in any assassination in Lebanon are nonsense, lies and fabrications. We can understand that the representative of the Saudi regime would try to make such claims to cover up all the crimes his regime is linked to.

The regime in Saudi Arabia is responsible for many murders and much destruction and intimidation in various parts of the world, not just the countries that I mentioned, and including my own. Yesterday I referred to photographs of devices of Saudi origin used by terrorist groups in a laboratory to mix chemical substances for use as chemical weapons (see A/C.1/74/PV.8).

The representative of Israel gave a statement full of lies, fallacies and allegations that lack the simplest criteria for truth. We are once again shocked by a statement by this entity, which makes accusations against other countries with the aim of distracting attention from the threats of Israeli nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, including biological and chemical weapons. At the same time the Israeli entity ignores international resolutions, including the Security Council resolutions that call on it to join the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to subject all its nuclear facilities and activities to oversight by the International Atomic Energy Agency. Furthermore, it refuses to join any conventions related to the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction, whether nuclear, chemical or biological.

The Israeli entity not only possesses nuclear weapons but has threatened to use them several times, notably during the October 1973 war of liberation. We would still like to know — and we can ask this question

of many States — what the Israeli entity's purpose is in possessing rockets with a range of more than 5,000 kilometres capable of carrying nuclear warheads. Which countries are targeted by the Israeli threats? The Israeli nuclear military programme could not have continued without protection and support, material as well as technological, including nuclear material, or without experts, all supplied with the assistance of a group of States, some of them permanent members of the Security Council. Israel's nuclear crimes are perpetrated jointly by the Israeli entity and those who protect Israel's possession of nuclear weapons. How long will this spoiled child remain singularly different?

Regarding what the representative of the Saudi regime said about my country's commitment, my country has fulfilled all its obligations as a party to the Chemical Weapon Convention. We have cooperated with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. The Saudi regime should stop sending toxic chemical substances and experts to terrorist organizations in order to train terrorists on my country's territory. I will conclude with a line of poetry that says that if I am criticized by a capricious person, that is proof that I am right.

Mr. Balouji (Islamic Republic of Iran): I would like to respond to the absurd accusations and comments made by the representative of Israel. What we have said about that entity is based on international facts. Israel is occupying Palestinian territory. It has been killing Palestinians on a daily basis for more than half a century. It has committed acts of aggression 17 times against its neighbours and in areas beyond. Those are facts. The Security Council has adopted a total of 85 resolutions concerning Israel, and Israel has rejected and refused to comply with all of them. Nuclear weapons in the hands of such a regime therefore pose the greatest possible threat to peace and security in our region. That was what we said in our statement (see A/C.1/74/PV.8). I believe that those are the plain facts and that it is our duty to express those facts here in the First Committee.

We find it ironic that the representative of the Israeli entity is making these accusations even though Israel has rejected all the calls by a majority of States Members of the United Nations to accede to the various treaties and conventions dealing with weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. International reports have confirmed that since 1948 Israel has used chemical and biological weapons, including depleted uranium,

white phosphorus and other internationally prohibited weapons, many times against the peoples of Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and Palestine. The Israeli entity habitually violates Security Council resolutions with regard to fighting terrorism. It has provided terrorist organizations with arms and munitions, as well as toxic chemical agents in Syria, and has been bringing terrorism to our region for decades. International and United Nations reports have proved that the Israeli regime has used chemical weapons and toxic chemical materials against civilians, including white phosphorus and depleted uranium, as I mentioned earlier. It is also using many other kinds of internationally prohibited weapons. I repeat that the Israeli regime has brought terrorism in all its forms to our region. It has brought us nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, in addition to terrorist organizations that have killed hundreds of thousands of innocent people in our area.

The Israeli regime has violated every convention to which we are party, along with norms of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, as well as the few conventions pertaining to disarmament to which the Israeli regime is committed. If we look at any part of the world where there is instability, we find that the Israelis have supplied it with all kinds of armaments and munitions in order to destabilize it. Israel is the number-one actor known to be engaged in the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in unstable areas. In addition to nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, the Israeli regime's large arsenal of sophisticated conventional offensive weapons continues to threaten the peace and security of the region and beyond. However, although every other State in the Middle East adheres to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as the most essential condition for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region, the Israeli regime, the only country in the region that is not a party to the NPT, continues to refuse to join it despite the long-standing international calls for it to do so, and stubbornly objects to all regional and international efforts aimed at establishing that nuclear-weapon-free zone. One such endeavour was the adoption of a separate resolution on the Middle East by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which was an essential and integral part of the package for the Treaty's indefinite extension.

Again, every effort aimed at implementing that resolution, including the relevant action plan of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, has so far failed, solely because of the Israeli regime's refusal to participate in the planned 2012 Helsinki conference on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. The 2015 Review Conference even failed to adopt a final document owing to Israel's stubborn policies, and now Israel has irresponsibly announced that it will not take part in the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction, to be held in New York in November. On 29 August 2018, Iran, a country without nuclear weapons, was threatened with atomic annihilation by the Israeli Prime Minister, a warmonger who was standing next to an actual nuclear-weapon factory and whose gall is beyond shameless. My delegation therefore categorically rejects all of the accusations that the Israeli representative made about my country.

Mr. Jang Il Hun (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): I will be brief. My delegation denounces the statements by the representatives of Bulgaria and Liechtenstein as provocative acts of interference in the internal affairs of my country. As is commonly recognized, the decision to accede to international treaties and conventions is a sovereign right of any State. When it comes to missile launches, it is quite absurd and impertinent on their part to single out our justifiable self-defence measures. Furthermore, Bulgaria and other Western countries that have called for our ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban-Treaty would be well advised to apply it to themselves first, if they so wish.

Mr. Al-Mouallimi (Saudi Arabia) (*spoke in Arabic*): First, the problem that my colleagues from the Syrian delegation have is that they love the Arabic language and Arabic literature but do not understand them or memorize their verses beyond what they studied in secondary or more likely elementary school. That said, their understanding of poetry is limited, incomplete and inaccurate. I will pass over that and refer them to the Arabic-language textbooks that their children are studying so that they can correct the verse that my Syrian colleague cited.

Secondly, while the Syrian representative talked vaguely about Iraq, Afghanistan and the four corners of the world, he is completely ignoring everything that is going on in his own country as well as in Lebanon, his

neighbour. We talk about the destruction that the regime in Syria has caused. He says that a Saudi Arabian city was destroyed. While we sometimes destroy cities to develop and rebuild them, we do not, however, bombard and raze them to the ground, as the Syrian authorities have done in Hama, Homs and Aleppo as well as other ancient Syrian cities. It is enough to say that if they sink to the depths we rise to the heights. We will not respond to their accusations and fabrications. Everything that we have said about what the Syrian authorities have done is documented with figures and evidence in international reports and Security Council resolutions, while all their claims are mere talk that does not even deserve a response.

Mr. Hallak (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): First, the truth is that I do not want to have to respond to the representative of the Saudi regime with regard to the Arabic language. But had he been paying attention to his own words while giving us a lesson on the Arabic language — and I ask him to go back and listen to the recording and the words he used — he would have noticed how he was switching back and forth between classical Arabic and his own dialect. Yet he wants to give us lessons in Arabic. He is trying to gauge our level of education. My response to him is that my country's level of education is a thousand years ahead of Saudi Arabia's.

Secondly, we fought and will continue to fight all agents of the Saudi regime, including the terrorists that it supports in my country. This is our duty as a State, and we will continue to do so. However, we all know that during the 1980s, Saudi Arabia established and financed the Al-Qaida terrorist organization, which has been responsible for explosions, killings and terror in many countries, including this very city. That is why, as I indicated earlier, there is a United States law, the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, that seeks to hold accountable those Saudi officials from the regime who were involved in the attacks on the United States in 2001. This law is still in effect. Perhaps the Saudi representative would like to address that point.

International reports have confirmed that Saudi Arabia and its ruling regime were involved in financing and spreading terrorism in order to spread the Wahabi takfiri ideology, which rejects any opposition, including from Saudis themselves. Al-Awamiyah, the city in Saudi Arabia that the Saudi representative mentioned, was destroyed not for the purpose of building a better city in its place, but because there were people in the

city opposed the oppression to which the Saudi regime was subjecting its citizens.

As for the representative's attempts to refer to international reports, my response is that those reports exist only in his imagination. When we are authorized by the relevant authorities in my country, we can share with everyone the information on the Saudi regime's involvement in acts of murder and liquidation in Lebanon. Because he referred to Lebanon, we too will

restrict our discussion to Lebanon. His regime was fully involved in all the events that he brought up. That is why he is pushing to implicate other States, in order to deny the Saudi regime's responsibility. We all know what happened in the Saudi consulate in Turkey with regard to the recent killing of one of the regime's own people who had been its former agent.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.