



# General Assembly

Sixty-ninth session

## First Committee

5<sup>th</sup> meeting

Friday, 10 October 2014, 10 a.m.

New York

Official Records

Chair: Mr. Rattray ..... (Jamaica)

*The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.*

### Agenda items 87 to 104 (continued)

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

**Mr. Van der Kwast** (Netherlands): I thank you, Mr. Chair for starting on time, which is a good exercise for all of us in making the United Nations more effective.

Allow me first to congratulate you on your assumption of the Chair and to assure you of the full support of my delegation. We thank you for your outreach, including your consultations in Geneva and the transparent way in which you and the Bureau have organized the work so far.

We align ourselves with the statement delivered by the observer of the European Union (see A/C.1/69/PV.2) and would in addition like to make the following remarks.

The Netherlands considers it indeed very good news that so far 121 States have signed the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and 53 States have already ratified it, allowing for an early entry into force of this landmark Treaty by Christmas of this year. The Treaty will set the standard for the regulation of the international trade in conventional arms. The Netherlands has almost finished its own ratification process, and we expect to be able to conclude that procedure as soon as possible.

We would like to thank Mexico for its excellent leadership in the lead-up to the First Conference of States Parties. We made a lot of progress during the

first preparatory meeting and look forward to returning to Mexico for the Conference of States Parties itself. We hope further progress can be made during the second preparatory meeting, which will be held in Berlin, especially concerning our road map towards the First Conference of States Parties.

The Netherlands is fully committed to the goal of a world without nuclear weapons. For us the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament in accordance with article VI of the NPT and an important element in the further development of nuclear energy applications for peaceful purposes.

We will continue to promote the full implementation of the 2010 action plan, which is our common road map towards the 2015 Review Conference. However, we share the concern expressed by many in this room that the implementation of the actions under the nuclear disarmament pillar are lagging. We do not agree that the international strategic situation is a reason to stop nuclear disarmament efforts, as is claimed by some. Even in these troubling times, we should redouble our efforts to find common ground and to make progress in that regard. We therefore look forward to next year's NPT Review Conference and are committed to working with all States towards a successful conclusion and substantial outcome of the Conference. With our partners of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative, we have submitted 12 working papers and will come up with further concrete proposals to contribute to a positive outcome.

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The issue of the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons will be further discussed at the Vienna conference in December. For us, the humanitarian consequences of a nuclear-weapon detonation underpin all of our efforts to further the cause of nuclear disarmament. However, we cannot ignore the security dimension in this discussion. In that respect, we hope that the Vienna conference will contribute to a successful outcome of the NPT Review Conference.

The start and conclusion of a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT) remains a priority for the Netherlands. We welcome the two positive meetings of the FMCT Group of Governmental Experts, in which a Dutch expert is participating. We hope that the work of the Group can make a positive contribution to the early start of negotiations on an FMCT.

The Nuclear Security Summit hosted by the Netherlands in March led to substantial results with regard to reducing the amount of civil nuclear material in the world, improving the security of that material and of radioactive sources, and improving international cooperation. One of the remaining tasks will be to further strengthen the security of all civil and military nuclear materials and to create robust nuclear security architecture for the years to come. We look forward to the final Summit, to be held in Chicago.

On Syria, the international community last year acted promptly to destroy Syria's declared chemical weapons stockpile. The Joint Mission of the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), led by the Dutch Special Representative, Sigrid Kaag, worked effectively to complete the irreversible dismantling of the Syrian chemical weapons programme. We also see this as a success for international diplomacy and the United Nations. However, the second report of the OPCW fact-finding mission presents convincing evidence that toxic chemicals have been used systematically and repeatedly since last April. According to the report, helicopters were used for the delivery of such chemicals, a capability that only the Syrian regime possesses. The Netherlands condemns in the strongest terms the use of chemical weapons by the Syrian regime against its own population. Syria must ensure that its chemical weapons programme is completely and irreversibly dismantled.

Today small arms and light weapons are still responsible for the biggest part of arms-related casualties worldwide. In practice, they remain the

real weapons of mass destruction. Although the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States, in May, was a success, we should not lose sight of the continuing importance of the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. Much more work needs to be done with regard to tracing and tracking, as well as with regard to a strong connection with the ATT.

The Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention was already a success story, and continues to be so. During this year's Review Conference, in Maputo, all States parties agreed to the political commitment to clear all anti-personnel mines before 2025, thereby effectively ending the threat from these horrible weapons once and for all. We will now have to work together to assist countries with minefields to be able to live up to this commitment.

In 2015 the First Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions will take place in Dubrovnik. Its universalization and strengthening of the norms are the main challenges for this successful Treaty. We therefore call upon all States that have not yet done so to accede to the Treaty.

Both in the Conference on Disarmament (CD) and in the First Committee, much attention has been and is given to the prevention of an arms race in outer space. Recent discussions in the CD underlined again that this is an acute problem that demands a speedy solution, as more players are active in outer space. In the long run, the Netherlands sees benefits in a treaty on the prevention of an arms race in outer space. But negotiating a treaty takes time. While we think we should act now, the European Union code of conduct, which is widely supported, should for the moment be our starting point, as it can be implemented immediately. We will further elaborate on those different elements during the thematic debates.

**Mr. Patriota** (Brazil): I congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the chairmanship of the First Committee. The Brazilian delegation reaffirms its full confidence in your leadership as Permanent Representative of the sister nation of Jamaica. I also take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Ms. Angela Kane for her opening remarks (see A/C.1/69/PV.2), and to commend her work.

Brazil associates itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Mexico on behalf of the New

Agenda Coalition (see A/C.1/69/PV.2) and with that to be delivered by the representative of Costa Rica on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States.

It is Brazil's long-standing position that the implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) has suffered from a fundamental imbalance. While we have fared well on the non-proliferation objectives, we cannot say the same about the commitments on disarmament. The compliance deficit by the nuclear-weapon States harms the integrity of the NPT regime and jeopardizes the success achieved on the non-proliferation front. In order to have a successful 2015 Review Conference, unequivocal and concrete commitments by the nuclear-weapon States to move forward are clearly needed. A meaningful Review Conference must not only reaffirm the nuclear-disarmament-related commitments agreed to at the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences, but also build upon them, proposing new concrete objectives for the next five years.

As the Oslo and Nayarit conferences emphasized, nuclear weapons have long-lasting, devastating, indiscriminate effects, affecting civilians the most, which makes them incompatible with international law and international humanitarian law. Their elimination is therefore an ethical imperative as well as a legal obligation. Brazil commends the Government of Austria for deciding to host the third conference on the issue and urges the nuclear-weapon States actively to take part in it.

As the 2015 Review Conference approaches, the international community has an opportunity to seriously consider what a concrete road map to nuclear disarmament would look like and under what time frame it may be implemented. In that regard we would like to call attention to the working paper submitted by the New Agenda Coalition to the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference. It was designed to kick-start the debate on the way forward towards a clear, legally binding and multilateral commitment on the part of all States to the goal of nuclear disarmament with clearly defined benchmarks and mutually agreed timelines. For Brazil, that commitment will lead to the development of a comprehensive set of prohibitions that include banning the development, production, acquisition, possession, stockpiling, retention, testing, use and transfer of such weapons and providing for their complete elimination.

We voice our frustration with the failure so far to convene a conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. Brazil believes that the successful convening of the conference represents an essential part of the NPT and of the current review cycle. We believe the conference could be a useful tool in helping to foster trust and confidence among States of the region. As a member of the Treaty on the establishment of the first denuclearized zone in a densely populated area of the planet, the Treaty of Tlatelolco, Brazil is ready to continue contributing to efforts leading to the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones throughout the world.

Brazil, together with Argentina, has developed a successful model of regional cooperation and confidence-building, the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials. We believe the Agency can serve as a source of inspiration for our partners in the Middle East and elsewhere that strive for the establishment of zones free from nuclear weapons. As a demonstration of our commitment to promote nuclear-weapon-free zones and to the ultimate goal of ridding the world of these weapons, Brazil, together with New Zealand, will introduce at this session the draft resolution entitled "Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas".

Brazil attaches the utmost importance to the Conference on Disarmament (CD) as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. We reiterate the need to overcome the stalemate that for the past 18 years has been preventing it from carrying out substantive activities. Complete, verifiable and irreversible nuclear disarmament must remain a global priority, and that should be reflected in concrete, decisive steps, with the urgent launching of negotiations on a comprehensive, legally binding instrument to ban nuclear weapons. Brazil believes that those negotiations must take place within the existing multilateral system, either at the Conference on Disarmament or, if that is not viable, at the General Assembly.

Launching multilateral negotiations on a nuclear disarmament convention would make unnecessary the treatment of interim measures in the CD, such as a fissile material treaty or a negative assurances treaty. We would, however, be left with the issue of negotiating a treaty on the placement of arms in outer space. We welcome the submission by Russia and China of a revised proposal for a draft treaty on prevention of the

placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects, which is an excellent basis to start discussions on the matter. The use of outer space for military purposes is firmly under way. As a developing country with a peaceful space programme, Brazil attaches high priority to the objective of preserving outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes. In that connection, Brazil is joining other delegations in presenting a draft resolution entitled “No first placement of weapons in outer space”.

Brazil deeply regrets that, almost two decades after the conclusion of negotiations on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), there are still no prospects for its entry into force, which only proves the lack of efficacy of the step-by-step approach. While negotiations on a comprehensive convention on nuclear disarmament do not begin, Brazil urges once again all countries that have not acceded to the CTBT, in particular annex 2 countries, to do so as a matter of urgency.

I wish to reiterate Brazil’s firm commitment to the effective and efficient implementation of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards system. During the past year, two issues stood out in the IAEA safeguards agenda — the development of the so-called State-level concept for the application of safeguards, and the unfolding of negotiations aimed at resolving concerns related to Iran’s nuclear programme.

Regarding the State-level concept, Brazil wishes to commend the IAEA secretariat for the way it has conducted the preparation of the supplementary document requested by the IAEA General Conference, a very important step in the development of the concept. An unprecedented process of consultations and technical meetings between the secretariat and member States took place this year, introducing a new and encouraging dynamic in how safeguards issues are dealt with at the Agency. The discussions have in fact given room for greater accountability and transparency on the part of the secretariat, and for closer involvement by member States in the development of proposed new policies.

As to the negotiations on Iran’s nuclear programme, Brazil considers that there is no alternative to a political, negotiated solution to the issue. We should all strive to preserve the positive atmosphere stemming from last November, which allowed for the agreements reached both within the IAEA and with the P-5+1. We reiterate our call on all parties to remain engaged towards a

comprehensive, long-term solution to the issue and the normalization of the application of the IAEA safeguards in Iran.

The international community must be permanently committed to eliminating risks and threats arising from any possible destructive use of nuclear energy. That includes preventing terrorists or other non-authorized actors from gaining access to nuclear devices, materials and facilities. As Brazil stressed at the Nuclear Security Summit that took place earlier this year in the Netherlands, it is not civilian nuclear facilities but atomic bombs that pose the greatest security risk to our societies. The most effective way to reduce the risk that non-State actors make use of nuclear energy for destructive purposes is the total elimination of all nuclear arsenals. These concerns led Brazil and 14 other countries to submit a statement entitled “In larger security: a comprehensive approach to nuclear security” during the Nuclear Security Summit.

Brazil has been closely following progress in the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons and welcomed the announcement that all category 1 chemicals declared by Syria had been verified as destroyed. Such a landmark achievement reinforces the role of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons as an exemplary venue to promote a world free of weapons of mass destruction. We hope that those positive developments will contribute to the universalization of the Chemical Weapons Convention, especially in the Middle East. Brazil is also deeply concerned at the possibility that toxic chemicals, namely, chlorine gas, have been used as weapons against the Syrian people.

Brazil considers that, 40 years after its negotiation, the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) remains a fragile regime. The mechanisms at the disposal of the BWC are clearly insufficient to promote confidence and improve international cooperation in the field of peaceful biological activities. We are ready to resume negotiations on an effective and legally binding verification regime, based on a protocol to be negotiated by States parties, aiming at universal implementation. States parties should undertake all efforts to prevent actions and decisions within the BWC that would raise unnecessary obstacles to developing countries, especially in scientific progress and the transfer of technology.

With regard to conventional arms, the international community has now marked a milestone. Brazil commends all 53 signatories of the Arms Trade Treaty

(ATT) for depositing their instruments of ratification. The ratification process of the ATT in Brazil is under way, and we expect the Treaty to be considered by the newly elected legislature in the first quarter of 2015. Brazil has been participating as a signatory of the Treaty in the preparatory process for the first Conference of State Parties. We encourage all countries that have not yet signed the Treaty, especially major producers and exporters of conventional arms, to consider joining it as soon as possible.

During this session Brazil will continue to engage and support initiatives that, while preserving the free flow of information and the right to privacy, are aimed at improving multilateral norms and principles regarding information and communication technologies, including on matters of governance. As many countries are developing offensive capacities in cyberspace as part of their military doctrines, there is a growing concern about the vulnerability of critical infrastructure and possible conflict escalations prompted by virtual attacks. Brazil favours a discussion of legal standards for international peace and security concerns related to information and communication technologies. We welcome the discussions within the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security, established by General Assembly resolution 68/243. Having been chosen to preside over the Group, Brazil is confident that fruitful discussions will be held within the Group of Governmental Experts.

Allow me, as a final remark, to reaffirm the commitment of the Brazilian delegation to the work of the First Committee, which is a body dedicated to freeing the world from the peace and security threats associated with weapons of mass destruction and other weapons. It is its responsibility to guide the work of the wider membership with a view to the full attainment of the Charter's objectives. For my country, that can be achieved only by promoting a world free of weapons of mass destruction. Brazil will continue to strive for a multipolar and cooperative international order based on balanced, non-discriminatory and legally binding obligations applicable to all. We are convinced that that is the only road that will lead to an international order that promotes peace, stability and well-being, a goal shared by all our countries.

**Mr. Sadykov** (Kazakhstan): We congratulate you, Sir, on your election as Chair of the First Committee and assure you of our full support and cooperation.

Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are the main priorities of Kazakhstan's foreign policy. Having closed down one of the largest nuclear test sites, and voluntarily renouncing the fourth largest nuclear arsenal in the world, we are consistently taking practical measures to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons.

On the eve of the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), we believe that it is critically important for all parties to the Treaty to take resolute and realistic steps to effectively implement the obligations provided for in the outcome document and action plan adopted by the 2010 NPT Review Conference. We express our concern over the fact that while in general the non-nuclear States to the NPT fulfil their commitments under the Treaty, the nuclear-weapon States do not take decisive action to get rid of nuclear weapons.

In that regard, we note the particular importance of realizing the provisions of resolution 68/32, which declares 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. We fully support the proposal to start negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament to draft a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention. As an important step in that regard, Kazakhstan proposes the adoption by the international community of a universal declaration on the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free world, by which all States Members of the United Nations would reaffirm their commitment to that goal. The delegation of Kazakhstan will continue consultations on its draft resolution.

The entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is an important element in strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime. We welcome the ratification of the CTBT by Brunei Darussalam, Chad, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq and Niue. At the same time, we call on those States on whose signature and ratification depends the Treaty's entry into force to do so as soon as possible and without any preconditions. The moratorium on nuclear-weapon tests voluntarily declared by some of the nuclear-weapon States is a positive step, but it is not an alternative to a legally binding document.

We express deep concern over the nuclear tests conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and about its nuclear programme. We urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to fully comply with its obligations under the various Security Council resolutions and to return to the negotiating process in the Six-Party format.

This year marks the fifth anniversary of resolution 64/35, initiated by Kazakhstan, which designates 29 August, the date of the official closing of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site, as the International Day against Nuclear Tests. The resolution is fully consistent with the objectives of the CTBT and calls for action to raise public awareness of the effects of nuclear tests and to ban nuclear testing. To celebrate the International Day, Kazakhstan this year hosted the twenty-first World Congress of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War. We also organized an international conference dedicated to the twenty-fifth anniversary of the anti-nuclear movement "Nevada-Semey", which is a truly popular national movement that has demonstrated to the world that ordinary people not only desire to but also can stop the nuclear madness. That movement was the initiator and driver for stopping all nuclear tests and closing the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site in Kazakhstan. Upon its closure in 1991, other nuclear test sites in Nevada, Lop Nur and Mururoa ended their nuclear tests.

In support of our joint efforts, Kazakhstan has also launched Project ATOM — Abolish Testing Our Mission — aimed at informing the world community about the documented catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear-weapon testing. We note the great importance of discussions on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear explosions held in Oslo in 2013 and in Mexico this year. As a country that has experienced all the disastrous consequences of nuclear explosions, we fully support the direction of those deliberations. We also hope that the process will give a new powerful impetus to our common efforts towards a total ban on nuclear testing and to get rid of the deadly weapons. We intend to actively participate in the third conference, to be held in Vienna in December this year.

The most important event in the field of non-proliferation in 2014 without a doubt was the signing of the protocol to the Semipalatinsk Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia. The establishment of the zone is the result of the collective efforts of all five Central Asian States in their quest

to provide security, stability and peace in the region. The nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia is a real contribution to the implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to strengthening regional and global security. We hope for the earliest ratification of the Protocol by all the nuclear-weapon States. Kazakhstan, in its capacity as Chair of the Treaty, will, on behalf of the five countries constituting the zone free of nuclear weapons in Central Asia, introduce a draft resolution for the consideration of the First Committee, and encourages Member States to adopt it by consensus.

We firmly believe in the need to establish nuclear-weapon-free zones throughout the world, and we hope that in future the entire planet will become a nuclear-weapon-free zone. Kazakhstan is concerned at the failure to implement the decisions of the 1995 and 2010 NPT Review Conferences regarding convening a conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. We urge all the parties concerned to demonstrate strong political will and to organize the conference before the holding of the NPT Review Conference in 2015.

We are convinced that the Conference on Disarmament should be the only forum for the development of multilateral instruments in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. We believe it is important to overcome existing differences as soon as possible and to start the substantive work of that forum on the following topical issues of disarmament: universal nuclear disarmament, by adopting a legally binding, non-discriminatory and universal instrument and by drafting and signing a treaty banning the production of fissile material for weapons purposes; prevention of an arms race in outer space; and provision of negative security assurances to countries that do not possess nuclear weapons.

Kazakhstan is actively participating in the work of the Group of Governmental Experts for the preparation of negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT). We expect that the Group's intensive work will be completed in the near future by the adoption of the FMCT by the Conference on Disarmament.

Kazakhstan has supported the resolution entitled "Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations" on the understanding that the Open-ended Working Group will not serve as an independent platform parallel to the Conference on Disarmament

and the Disarmament Commission. It is our view that the Open-ended Working Group's outcome recommendations should be presented for further consideration and possible approval by those two established disarmament bodies.

We believe it is critically important to prevent an arms race in outer space, and we support the proposal for the adoption of a legally binding international instrument on the subject. While supporting in principle the proposal for the development and adoption of an international code of conduct for outer space activities, we consider it necessary to take into account the views of all the countries concerned, with the objective of reaching a consensus document. We proceed from the understanding that the code will not be a legally binding alternative to the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

Kazakhstan recognizes the inalienable right of each State party to the NPT with regard to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, including the development of appropriate technologies in compliance with the requirements of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and under its full control. We consider it equally vital to make progress in the negotiations on the Iranian nuclear programme, and we support the early conclusion of a comprehensive agreement on the issue.

Kazakhstan's real contribution to facilitating the peaceful use of nuclear energy is the establishment of the IAEA low-enriched uranium bank on our territory. We are at the final stage of negotiations with the IAEA on a host country agreement. The bank will store low-enriched uranium, which would be provided by the IAEA to its member States in the case of an unexpected disruption of supply due to non-economic reasons. The bank in no way limits the inalienable right of each country to develop its own nuclear technology, including the full nuclear cycle.

We would like to place on record our appreciation for the successful joint work with the IAEA, the United States and the Russian Federation in strengthening nuclear security at the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site. We consider the IAEA as the main international institution responsible for setting standards and requirements on nuclear security, and we call for strengthening its potential.

We also attach great importance to, and actively participate in, the Nuclear Security Summits. We are

confident that the successful outcomes of the three Summits — Washington, Seoul and The Hague — have significantly strengthened the security of nuclear materials throughout the world. We hope that the next Nuclear Security Summit, to be held in the United States in 2016, will significantly contribute to our joint efforts in that field.

Nuclear security is of particular significance in the light of the growing threat of nuclear materials falling into the hands of terrorist organizations or criminal groups. In that context, the strict implementation of the requirements of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) is of special importance. In order to facilitate the practical implementation of that resolution at the subregional level, as well as to commemorate the tenth anniversary of its adoption, Kazakhstan, together with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), organized a seminar in March this year. It was attended by representatives of more than 30 countries from Asia and the Middle East, as well as all permanent Member States on the Security Council.

Kazakhstan fully implements the requirements of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction and has unique experience and immense potential in ensuring biological security. Noting the growing threats posed by the spread of extremely dangerous infections, we place great emphasis and importance on international cooperation in that area. That is one of the reasons for creating a central reference laboratory in Kazakhstan that will serve as a main centre for research and developing technology to counter the spread of highly dangerous human and animal diseases.

We note the completion of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons/United Nations mission in Syria. We call on all parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction to fully implement its provisions, including the destruction of all existing stockpiles of chemical weapons in the agreed time frame.

We welcome the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in December 2014, which will greatly contribute to international peace and security. Together with the ATT, we need to ensure rigid enforcement of

the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons with a well-defined and clear mandate, procedures and structures for the International Tracing Instrument.

In conclusion, I should like to express our sincere hope that during this session, through constructive dialogue, we will be able to find solutions for the critical issues on the agenda of the First Committee.

**Mr. Sinhaseni** (Thailand): It is a pleasure to see you, Sir, in the Chair. Allow me to offer my warmest congratulations on your election. I also extend to the other members of the Bureau our sincere congratulations. My delegation is confident that with you at the helm, the current session of the First Committee will be brought to a successful and fruitful conclusion. I note and must congratulate you on the punctual start of the meeting. May it continue throughout the session!

Thailand aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, as well as with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of the Philippines on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (see A/C.1/69/PV.2)

Next year we will celebrate the seventieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations. However, the world still faces varied and diverse threats. The widespread possession and deployment of various types of deadly weapons persist and, even more worrisome, increasingly by non-State actors. Arms and armed conflicts remain the largest obstacle to global peace and security. They also hinder economic and social development.

Still, Thailand maintains its hope and vision of a world free of nuclear weapons. We are heartened by and welcome the positive momentum generated by the international Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons. We actively participated in those held in Nayarit and Oslo. We also look forward to participating constructively in the forthcoming Conference, to be held in Vienna later this year. It is our fervent hope that those Conferences will result in serious discussions leading to concrete outcomes.

Nuclear-weapon-free zones are concrete confidence-building measures. We therefore hope to see meaningful and conclusive consultations leading to the signing of the Protocols to the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, commonly known as the Bangkok Treaty. In the same vein, we also hope to see substantive progress in discussions on the Helsinki

conference. In order to preserve the credibility of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), there needs to be some progress to report on a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction at the 2015 NPT Review Conference.

Next year will also mark the seventieth anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. To honour the memory of those who perished, it is our responsibility to educate the younger generation. Last month, Thailand joined Cuba and Mexico in co-hosting an event in Bangkok to observe the first International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. At that event, Thai youth participants delivered short speeches on the theme "A World Free of Nuclear Weapons". One youth eloquently pointed out,

"A world without nuclear weapons is like a neighbourhood where we can accept and understand that differences do exist, be able to appreciate it, and be able to come to agreeable terms without the use of force, a world where fear does not thrive or control our actions."

That was a strong message. Perhaps it will find resonance among us here today.

Our steadfast commitment to non-proliferation continues. Thailand seeks constantly to enhance its capacity to implement Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). We recently established a national subcommittee made up of more than 30 concerned agencies dedicated to improving coordination on non-proliferation. We also invited United Nations experts to brief those agencies at a workshop held in Bangkok. Participants gained a clearer understanding of their distinct roles in non-proliferation efforts, made useful contacts and shared their unique perspectives on the difficulties of implementation. We see workshops such as that as substantially improving coordination. We hope to conduct more in future.

The Proliferation Security Initiative, the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and the Nuclear Security Summit are all important non-proliferation initiatives. The third Nuclear Security Summit, convened in The Hague in March, adopted an important communiqué that stresses the importance of strengthening the nuclear security architecture and enhancing a nuclear security culture. The Thai delegation impressed upon the Summit the critical need to raise awareness about nuclear security. We also emphasized the need to close the gaps in capacity

and to involve all stakeholders. We are pleased to have contributed to the third Nuclear Security Summit by hosting the last Sherpa meeting in Pattaya prior to the Summit.

Nuclear energy and technology have enormous benefits. However, the use of nuclear energy must be accompanied by adequate technical know-how and appropriate safeguards. Thailand encourages all countries to implement safeguards consistent with all the relevant International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and other agreements. At the same time, we call upon the IAEA to continue to provide technical cooperation to requesting States.

The elimination of all weapons of mass destruction must also be comprehensive. Thailand renews its call for universal adherence to, and strict implementation of, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention.

We remain troubled by the continued proliferation of small arms and light weapons. We see the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects as the principal multilateral cooperation framework to address this common and widespread problem.

The Arms Trade Treaty will enter into force in less than three months. We hope to become a State party to the Treaty in the very near future. Our inter-agency consultations have been convened to review and assess existing frameworks and regulations. We wish the first Preparatory Meeting and the Conference of States Parties every success. Thailand hopes to participate as an observer.

As one of the first countries to sign and ratify the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention, Thailand has worked consistently for 15 years to fulfil its obligations on mine clearance, victim assistance and mine-risk education. We have been particularly active in the area of mine victim assistance. We stand ready to share our experience should there be interest from our friends and partners.

Finally, the Conference on Disarmament must play an active role. We renew our appeal for an expansion of membership in order to inject dynamism and inclusiveness into the work of that important body. We recognize and commend the active and crucial role of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific. We thank

outgoing Director Sharon Riggle for her tireless efforts, and we encourage the Regional Centre to continue to work closely with Member States.

**Mr. Zinsou** (Benin) (*spoke in French*): I would like to join previous speakers in congratulating you, Sir, on your election as Chair of the First Committee, as well as to express the willingness of my delegation to support your efforts to ensure that the Committee carries out fruitful work. Congratulations also go to the other members of the Bureau.

Benin aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Group by the representatives of Indonesia and Nigeria, respectively (see A/C.1/69/PV.2). We would like to make some complementary remarks on the items with which the Committee is seized.

Benin takes note of the reports drawn up by the Secretary-General on the various agenda items. Those very helpful reports provide a good basis for fruitful deliberations.

The holding of the annual sessions of the First Committee provides an opportunity to reflect and consider ways and means of achieving the ideal, which is building a world free of the nuclear threat and of conventional weapons. Nuclear accidents and the daily toll of small arms and light weapons, which have truly become weapons of mass destruction, should prompt the world to persevere in its search for ways to achieve their total elimination under reliable control. We reiterate our firm support for the pertinent resolutions on nuclear weapons, as well as for the various calls for their total destruction.

The bilateral efforts during the summit meetings between the United States and Russia, the two biggest nuclear Powers, to limit and reduce their stockpiles of strategic offensive nuclear weapons certainly constitute welcome progress. However, the international community must remain vigilant to mobilize against upheaval in the strategic balance, which could lead to a resurgence of the Cold War, as the current geopolitical situation makes us fear. It is important that the major nuclear Powers continue their negotiations to agree on new stockpile reductions, bringing us little by little to the zero option. However, that impetus should be supported by greater efforts at the multilateral level to define, in a consensual fashion, the principles that should apply to us all and establish a binding verification regime to ensure the effective application

and scrupulous respect for disarmament commitments undertaken. It is therefore important to reinvigorate the disarmament machinery in order to promote weapons control, particularly military spending, in the spirit of Article 26 of the Charter of the United Nations.

The role of the Disarmament Commission and of the Conference on Disarmament, which are the multilateral forums for dialogue and negotiation, is very important in that respect. That is why Benin is seriously troubled by the difficulties facing the Commission, which completed its cycle without making any significant headway on the items on its agenda. We call on States to show the necessary political will to ensure that the new cycle under way makes significant and expected progress on the various issues at hand. In many ways, the situation is the same at the Conference on Disarmament, a victim of the self-imposed consensus rule.

Benin supports all initiatives designed to support the implementation of the outcomes of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which took important decisions to make nuclear non-proliferation a commitment for one and all. In that regard, Benin acknowledges and recognizes the mobilization of non-governmental organizations and civil society as a whole, which have been very much in the vanguard of the struggle for nuclear disarmament.

Benin regrets that the conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons, initially scheduled for 2012, is still only at the planning stage. Benin launches a pressing call for the holding of the conference, which would undoubtedly be a major step towards achieving a denuclearized world.

Africa resolutely supports the struggle against using the atom for military means, as evidenced by the signing and entry into force of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty — the pride of the African continent, which is profoundly committed to promoting peaceful nuclear energy under the strict, total and unconditional control of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Benin advocates the peaceful settlement of existing disputes in the field of nuclear non-proliferation and for mobilization of the international community to support the holding and success of the next NPT Review Conference, over which Africa will preside.

Benin also reaffirms its firm commitment to the framework established on the basis of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and subsequent resolutions to prevent the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction by terrorists. Those efforts must be stepped up when it comes to the current exacerbation of the confrontations with violent religious extremist groups.

Conventional weapons and their munitions are a scourge that continues to take its toll. Weapons of that kind are now regulated by the Arms Trade Treaty. That legally binding Treaty has already garnered the 50 ratifications necessary for entry into force, which will take place in December. The Treaty is a major achievement on the part of the United Nations for the good of humankind. The proliferation of small arms and light weapons and their munitions remains a major problem for the international community. The ease with which armed groups can acquire them to wage asymmetric wars against States requires the consistent implementation of the Treaty. The international community can maintain international peace and stability only if it is able to agree on measures to restore the transparency of flows and confidence-building measures to stop the dispersal of stocks of small arms and light weapon and their munitions and accessories.

Those are the concerns that Benin wishes to share during this debate, which is so important for promoting dialogue among Member States on crucial issues relating to international peace and security.

**Mr. Koncke** (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): Allow me to begin by congratulating you, Sir, and the other members of the Bureau on your elections. I am confident that your acknowledged leadership will guide our work to a fruitful conclusion.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement to be made by the representative of Costa Rica on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Uruguay is strongly committed to fighting the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, their destabilizing accumulation and undue use. Conventional weapons truly are weapons of mass destruction in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean, threatening civilian populations, women and children in particular.

As a signatory to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), my country is pleased to be one of the first 50 countries to have ratified the Treaty. That enables its entry into

force. For Uruguay, the ATT is a very important step towards international regulation and more responsible trade in conventional weapons, including small arms and light weapons, their parts, components and munitions. Regulating this trade, as we understand it, will have fundamental consequences for armed conflict, principally in helping civilian victims of armed violence, promoting peace and security and respect for human rights and humanitarian law while also destabilizing arms transfers to conflict zones.

Nevertheless, we must bear in mind the central objective of the ATT, which is to save lives. To do that we must join forces and make greater efforts in order to prevent attacks against civilian populations and the rise in the number of civilian victims.

At the national level, to achieve the full implementation of the ATT, Uruguay has been updating its legislation and aligning it with the new parameters and standards established in the Treaty. The United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects is a vitally important instrument, an international benchmark for making progress in combating the illicit trafficking in such weapons.

In that regard, we highlight the adoption by consensus of a final document at the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument. Nevertheless, we believe the non-inclusion of ammunition in the review of the implementation of the Programme of Action means its analysis is incomplete. Uruguay will continue to advocate for the inclusion of munitions in the analysis, as well as language relating to border control.

As a non-nuclear-weapon State, Uruguay is committed to strengthening the disarmament and non-proliferation regime. My country's support for that multilateral legislative framework takes the form of a foreign policy that gives priority to, and advocates the need to continue to make progress in, universal, multilateral, non-discriminatory, transparent and open negotiations involving all countries. We reiterate the importance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as a cornerstone of the disarmament and non-proliferation regime. We therefore urge the 2015 NPT Review Conference to produce specific advances in favour of nuclear disarmament in a balanced way between the three pillars

of disarmament — disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

To that end, we believe there is a need for greater commitment and political will, for putting in place complementary instruments to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and for starting negotiations to facilitate the ultimate objective of a world free of nuclear weapons. The Oslo and Nayarit International Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons have shown that there are limitations to prevention and how vulnerable we are to offensive or accidental use. The humanitarian consequences of destruction caused by nuclear weapons must lead urgently and explicitly to their prohibition. That is why we advocate the implementation of the commitments taken on under the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

With regard to complementary instruments, we underscore once again the extreme importance of a prompt entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. We therefore urge the Treaty's annex 2 States to ratify it promptly. We also urge all States of the international community to maintain their moratorium on testing of nuclear or other explosive devices of that nature.

With regard to pending negotiations, my country calls on the Conference on Disarmament to start negotiations without delay on a non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable treaty to prohibit the production of fissile material for manufacturing nuclear weapons. We urge the launch of negotiations on a legally binding agreement on negative security assurances. That is vital for non-nuclear-weapon States so that they do not suffer the catastrophic consequences of the use or threat of use of those weapons.

Uruguay has always promoted the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones throughout the world. We were a member State of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which established Latin America and the Caribbean as the first zone free of nuclear weapons in a densely populated area. My country urges the nuclear-weapon States and any other State referred to in the relevant protocols establishing these zones that have not yet signed or ratified those protocols to do so as soon as possible. We also urge the nuclear-weapon States to amend or withdraw the reservations or interpretations that have been made unilaterally.

We regret the ongoing lack of implementation of the commitment undertaken to hold a conference on the

establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. We urge parties to come to a rapprochement and to hold the conference as soon as possible.

Strengthening the general and complete disarmament regime under strict and effective international control requires the effective implementation of those conventions calling for the prohibition and elimination of other weapons of mass destruction. In that regard, we reiterate that for Uruguay, the total elimination of chemical and biological weapons is a priority for disarmament and non-proliferation.

My country also urges the prompt universalization of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction. We urge all States that possess such weapons to meet their obligations under the Convention and to destroy their stockpiles. Uruguay welcomes Syria's accession to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). We reiterate the importance of Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) and the decision of the Executive Council of OPCW. Those instruments set out the establishment of a joint mission and procedures for destroying the chemical weapons programme in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Uruguay recognizes the value of the Conference on Disarmament as a true multilateral forum for the international community for disarmament negotiations, as well as the role it plays in negotiations on priority disarmament matters. Nevertheless, the Conference has not been able to set out a programme of work that responds to the aspirations and needs of the international community. Uruguay believes that one of the possible ways to revitalize the work of the Conference on Disarmament would be to expand its membership to those States that have shown a legitimate interest in being part of it. My country has made clear its aspiration to become part of the Conference on Disarmament, just as have the other States that have been advocating an expansion of that body since 1982.

It is our responsibility to spare no effort in advancing the objective of disarmament and to curb proliferation, in line with the Charter of the United Nations, the supreme body that we set up to maintain international peace and security.

**Mr. Ja'afari** (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to congratulate you, Sir, on your

election to chair the work of the First Committee at this session. I also congratulate the members of the Bureau and Ms. Angela Kane, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, for her important role. I should also like to thank the Chair of the First Committee during the previous session.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (see A/C.1/69/PV.2).

My country's delegation fully supports the global aspiration to create an international community free of the use of force or threat of the use of force — a world based on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and observant of the the principles of justice, sovereign equality and peace among peoples and States. We are ready to contribute to all genuine international efforts aimed at achieving those noble goals we aspire to.

As the Committee knows, the world faces many challenges, especially the threat of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, above all nuclear weapons. We would like to emphasize the fact that today, more than four decades after the conclusion of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), it is necessary for the nuclear-weapon States to comply with article VI of the NPT with a view to working seriously towards nuclear disarmament and to put an end to the exception represented by Israel, which refuses to comply with nuclear disarmament.

My country stresses the inalienable right of States parties to the NPT, in line with article IV of the Treaty, to acquire nuclear technology and to use it for peaceful purposes — of course, in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). My country opposes any attempt to construe the Treaty's text with a view to violating that right or limiting use.

The Conference on Disarmament is the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. It is very important that the rules of procedure and other rules of the Conference be respected. That is a *sine qua non* condition for the success of any action agreed among the parties. To that end, we stress the importance of the Conference adopting a balanced and comprehensive programme of action and that that programme should include the establishment of subsidiary bodies to conduct negotiations concerning the programme for the total elimination of nuclear weapons, consistent with a well-established, binding and unconditional timetable.

Negotiations need to be conducted concerning a legally binding, unconditional international instrument that would guarantee negative security assurances for the non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. There is also a need to hold negotiations on an arms race in outer space and on a prohibition on the production of fissile materials.

The reality is such that in our world the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons shows us all the involvement of States — small and large, producer and non-producer States — in the transfer of small arms and light weapons to terrorist groups and to non-State actors in order to stoke crises and undermine the stability of entire States. The terrorist acts perpetrated by extremist terrorist groups in Syria would never have taken place without the support they have received in terms of weapons, financing, training and shelter coming from Arab countries, countries of the region and other countries from throughout the world. That is a reality that everyone knows about the groups involved in terrorist acts in Syrian territory.

One of our major concerns regarding the Arms Trade Treaty is the opposition to including in the text of the Treaty clear wording prohibiting categorically the export of weapons to non-State actors and to armed terrorist groups. The reality that we see today in Syria, as well as in certain countries of the region and elsewhere, has substantiated our concerns about the Treaty. Weapons are reaching terrorist groups that some like to describe as being active non-State elements. The fact that weapons are reaching those groups has eroded regional security and stability, as we have seen recently in the separation zone in the Syrian Golan.

The Syrian Government firmly condemns the use of nuclear weapons and believes that usage is an odious crime and that the perpetrators should be brought to account. We are convinced that the use of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, is reprehensible and immoral. Based on our firm conviction to transform the Middle East into a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, we believe it is now necessary to show the whole world that we are against the use of chemical weapons. To do that Syria acceded to the 1992 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction. Syria has honoured its commitments arising from its accession to the Convention. We have done so with great success, notwithstanding difficult conditions. We pledge to

implement all the provisions of the Convention as part of being a party to it.

Were it not for Syria's cooperation with the Joint Mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the United Nations, the Mission would never have carried out its work. Many United Nations officials, including the Special Coordinator of the Mission, Ms. Sigrid Kaag, have noted their gratitude to the Syrian Government for its fruitful and constructive cooperation, which led to an unprecedented feat in the history of the OPCW.

The second report of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission investigating allegations of the use of chlorine in Syria — a usage that our Government has firmly condemned — is currently being discussed within the organization's Executive Board. It includes many structural gaps. The report is a technical report par excellence that needs to be addressed within the framework of the OPCW exclusively. In spite of that, a handful of countries have used the report to tarnish Syria's reputation. That does nothing for the credibility of the organization. We trust that that report will not be politicized so as to undermine the credibility of the OPCW, as happened in the past with regard to the credibility of the NPT.

Certain countries continue to protect and defend the inhumane barbaric practices of Daesh, the Al-Nusra Front and other terrorist groups. Those States have provided them with many categories of weapons, including chemical weapons. Those terrorist groups have used those reprehensible weapons against the Syrian people and against the Syrian army on more than one occasion.

Countries that support terrorism in our country continue to level completely unfounded accusations against the Syrian Government, forgetting the many reports that note their participation. I am talking specifically about the regimes of the Governments in Turkey and Saudi Arabia. Those countries have been involved directly in supplying terrorist groups with chemical weapons, not to mention other instruments of death and other crimes. In line with the pertinent international resolutions calling for accountability on the part of all countries that have provided terrorist groups in my country various kinds of weapons, it is necessary to remember that the Turkish Government itself created 106 terrorist groups active in Syria. It also helped to create the so-called Free Syrian Army in

Turkish territory. It helped train elements there before sending those criminal elements to my country.

The Turkish Government, in line with the principle of good-neighbourly relations between States and given the historic relations between the Syrian and Turkish peoples, would have been better off offering aid to Syria so that it could surmount the crisis. Instead, the Turkish Government, which draws its inspiration from the same intellectual religious extremist ideology as the terrorist armed groups, has been transformed into the main support base for those groups. In the Ain Al-Arab border region today, events are taking place that prove the involvement of that Government in massacres perpetrated by Daesh against Syrian people in the region.

My country once again calls on Member States to work to rid the Middle East region of all weapons of mass destruction. In that connection, I would like to reiterate the initiative proposed by my country at the end of 2003, during its mandate in the Security Council, which we called on the Council to adopt. We stress that ridding the region of nuclear weapons cannot be done without Israel, the only nuclear-weapon State in the region, acceding to all treaties in that field. Israel must subject its nuclear facilities to IAEA safeguards, without any restrictions or conditions, on an equal footing with all other States Members of the United Nations and States parties to the NPT.

Certain nuclear-weapon States, including some of the five permanent members of the Security Council, have provided Israel with sophisticated nuclear technology for decades. Those States continue to protect the Israeli nuclear exception, contrary to their commitments under the NPT. That has made it possible for Israel to produce nuclear weapons and delivery systems that threaten the peace and security of the entire Middle East.

That threat goes even beyond the region. Some countries in the world aspire to the success of a conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. That conference was to have taken place in Helsinki at the end of 2012. However, during the IAEA General Conference in September 2012, Israel declared that it would not be attending the Helsinki conference. That led to the failure of international efforts that had been made at the 2010 NPT Review Conference, which thus lost all its validity. Some even wanted to give the impression that the holding of the conference would

be tantamount to promoting Israeli's interests, rather than encouraging Israel to take part in the Helsinki conference to help rid the Middle East of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

In conclusion, we wanted to draw attention to these points so that Member States assume their responsibilities when it comes to trafficking in all categories of weapons, be they lethal or non-lethal, to armies and terrorists of neighbouring countries. Syria believes that sooner or later, terrorism will also come to those countries, just as it exists in Syria today as it suffers from terrorism.

**The Chair:** Before giving the floor to the next speaker, I wish to remind representatives to limit their interventions to 10 minutes when speaking in their national capacity.

**Mrs. Natividad (Philippines):** My country joins other delegations in thanking you, Mr. Chair, and your country for taking on the important and challenging task of leading to a fruitful conclusion the work of the First Committee at the sixty-ninth session. We assure you and the Bureau of our full support and cooperation.

The Philippines aligns itself with the statements made on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the of the Non-Aligned Movement (see A/C.1/69/PV.2). As their statements comprehensively encompassed the Philippines long-standing positions on a wide range of disarmament issues, allow me to underscore a few that are of the utmost importance to my country.

The continued existence of thousands of nuclear weapons remains a global problem that concerns us. When the world is experiencing major conflicts and when insecurity and mistrust abound, the danger posed by nuclear weapons in our midst cannot but alarm us. The slow progress not only in reducing but also getting rid of nuclear weapons stems from skewed security perceptions and a reliance on the comfort of deterrence. We have always pushed for diplomacy and dialogue as the only way to wean States away from deterrence. It is for that reason that the Philippines has consistently engaged in, and lent its support to, endeavours that could potentially take us closer to our goal.

Nuclear weapons on its territory is something that the Philippines forswears in its Constitution. Resorting to such weapons has never been, and will never be, an option for my country. Our long-standing position on the total and complete elimination of nuclear weapons

stems first and foremost from our commitment to our own people in ensuring their safety, whether at home or overseas, most particularly in areas where the nuclear threat exists. It also emanates from the commitment we made as a responsible member of the international community to foster global peace and security.

The Philippines commends all like-minded countries and our partners in civil society for tirelessly forging ahead until we reach our goal of global zero. It is imperative at this stage of our work that we not only welcome but participate in every effort that will jump-start stalled nuclear disarmament discussions.

The recent observance of 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons is one such undertaking. We encourage all Member States to get on board and celebrate the day every year as we continue to build positive momentum towards our goal of global zero.

The Philippines also lends its strong support to the ongoing humanitarian discourse on the catastrophic effects of nuclear weapons. From Oslo to Nayarit, and later this year to Vienna, we see those discussions as productive not only in providing hard facts about the consequences of nuclear-weapon detonations to human life and to the environment, but also in terms of leading the way towards a legal framework for the total and complete elimination of those deadly weapons, which have no place in the secure and stable world we all strive for. We urge all Member States, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, to take part in those Conferences. Altogether, the legal, humanitarian and moral bases for complete and total disarmament will continue to be our compass on the road towards a nuclear-weapon-free world.

The Philippines continues to support calls made since 1996 for the urgent commencement of discussions on a nuclear-weapons convention that will finally outlaw and ban nuclear weapons. We call on the Conference on Disarmament (CD) immediately to start work on a nuclear-weapons convention and urge all other States to intensify efforts towards the fulfilment of that long-overdue task. We believe the CD has had its long hiatus, and it is time to get back to work. The Philippines has been unwavering in its support for the enlargement of the membership of the CD, a new membership that will finally fulfil the mandate of the CD and one that will finally get the work done.

The Philippines also calls on the remaining annex 2 States that have yet to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) to muster the necessary political will to do so as soon as possible. We have joined calls for the voluntary moratorium on all nuclear tests pending the Treaty's entry into force. However, it is time to move from the voluntary to mandatory by way of the CTBT's entry into force.

Another item in our list of long-overdue tasks is the immediate commencement of negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT) that will prohibit the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons. The Philippines exhorts all the relevant States — especially those that consider the entry into force of the CTBT and the immediate start of negotiations for an FMCT as the all-important first steps towards nuclear disarmament — to provide added impetus to those efforts.

With the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons just around the corner, and with the convening of the conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, as agreed in the consensus outcome document of the 2010 Review Conference, remaining uncertain, it is time that the international community — Governments, non-governmental organizations, academia and civil society — come together to help move that agenda forward. The delayed conference has undoubtedly and unavoidably had an impact on this year's disarmament meetings, including in the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the third Preparatory Committee meeting for the 2015 Review Conference.

While it is our collective wish that the 2015 Review Conference not suffer the same fate as previous disarmament meetings, there is deep concern that the conference on the Middle East will once again take centre stage. The Philippines therefore calls for the convening of the conference at the earliest possible time, preferably before the 2015 Review Conference, so that we can finally take the first step towards implementing the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and eventually achieve lasting peace in that region. The Philippines stands ready to work with all parties and to contribute to making that elusive goal a reality.

My country, along with the other nine member States of ASEAN, is also working tirelessly to ensure lasting peace in our own region. The Philippines welcomes the recent meeting held between ASEAN and the five permanent members of the Security Council to thresh out the remaining concerns of both sides with regard to the Protocol to the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone — the Bangkok Treaty. While we maintain our position that the nuclear-weapon States should sign and ratify the Protocol as soon as possible and without reservations, we believe continuing that dialogue will provide us with a greater understanding of each other's positions.

In the area of conventional weapons, the peace that will soon come to the southern Philippines would not be possible if not for the commitment of both the Government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front to engage in normalization activities that will involve a programme for the decommissioning of arms and weapons. For so long the presence of tens of thousands of firearms, including loose ones, has posed a serious challenge to the peace process. We are hopeful that we can put those weapons beyond use in exchange for peace.

The Philippines remains supportive of the full implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects to curb the proliferation of those weapons, which claim millions of lives worldwide. My country, as a signatory to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), looks forward to the Treaty's coming into force in December. We are working towards our own ratification, which we hope can take place before the first Conference of States Parties to the ATT, in 2015.

**Mr. Nkoloji** (Botswana): Let me begin by congratulating you, Sir, and other members of the Bureau on your election to lead the deliberations of the First Committee during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly. I also wish to thank your predecessor, Ambassador Ibrahim Dabbashi of Libya, for his effective leadership of the Committee during the sixty-eighth session.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Group (see A/C.1/69/PV.2).

It is the time of year when we meet again to take stock of what has been happening throughout the world

with regard to peace and security. We certainly remain challenged in making the world a safe place to live, given the complexity of challenges that emerge on a daily basis, precipitated by various factors.

The continued existence of nuclear weapons, terrorism, the illicit trade and transfer of small arms and light weapons and the outbreak of diseases are some of the challenges that pose a threat to peace and security, stability and development. The fact that nuclear weapons still exist brings into question the commitment by the nuclear-weapon States to achieve complete disarmament. The potential catastrophic humanitarian impact of the use of those deadly weapons should compel us to consider eliminating them. My delegation therefore wishes to reiterate the position of the Non-Aligned Movement that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against their use or threat of use.

Let me at this point, on behalf of my delegation, commend the Governments of Norway and Mexico for hosting the International Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons. We look forward to another round of constructive discussions in Vienna in December.

Similarly, we look forward to the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which will take place in 2015.

The importance of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty entering into force as early as possible cannot be overemphasized. We therefore add our voice to those of other delegations and urge the eight annex 2 States to sign and ratify the CTBT.

Botswana remains deeply concerned about the illicit transfer, manufacture and circulation of small arms and light weapons. Their accumulation and uncontrolled spread in all regions of the world is a cause for serious concern, because those arms continue to be the weapons of choice in most conflicts, with lasting consequences for the innocent. It is against that background that we remain committed to the fight against trafficking in small arms and light weapons and to the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Insofar as implementing the Programme of Action is concerned, my delegation is of the view that marking, tracing and record-keeping are indispensable in the fight against the illicit trade in those weapons. In line with the provisions of the Southern African Development

Community Protocol, the United Nations Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, Botswana has acquired marking machines, with the assistance of the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs of the United States Department of State. To date, we have marked all arms in the possession of the State, except for those held by the military. The exercise to mark those in civilian possession will commence in the near future.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to reaffirm its continued support for the efforts of the international community aimed at fighting challenges to peace and security. The theme for this session of the General Assembly — “Delivering on and implementing a transformative post-2015 development agenda” — should serve as encouragement for us to work hard, collectively and with a high tolerance for one another, to overcome threats to peace and security, which continue to be the greatest challenge to human development.

**Mr. Sergeyev** (Ukraine): On behalf of the delegation of Ukraine, allow me to congratulate you, Mr. Chair, and other members of the Bureau on your elections.

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

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

civilian purposes, through the removal of all of its existing stocks from our national territory in March 2012. Ukraine regards the NPT as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and renders comprehensive support to its effective implementation, further strengthening and universalization.

Twenty years ago, on 14 January 1994, in Moscow, the Presidents of Ukraine, the United States of America and the Russian Federation signed a trilateral statement whereby the arrangements on the practical realization of the decision of Ukraine to renounce nuclear weapons and become a non-nuclear-weapon State were envisaged. At the same time, the twentieth anniversary of Ukraine’s decision to renounce nuclear weapons took place against the background of the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, occupation and annexation of its territory in the autonomous Republic of Crimea and destabilization of the situation in the south-eastern regions of Ukraine. Such actions of the Russian Federation are a grave violation of the imperative norms of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act and a number of bilateral and multilateral agreements that ensure the territorial integrity of Ukraine, the inviolability of its borders and non-interference in domestic affairs.

Such actions were especially cynical, as they were committed by the State guarantor of the territorial integrity and political independence of Ukraine under the Memorandum on Security Assurances in Connection with Ukraine’s Accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, signed in Budapest on 5 December 1994. In particular, the States signatories to the Memorandum reaffirmed their obligation to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine, and that none of their weapons would ever be used against Ukraine except in self-defence or otherwise in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

We deem it necessary to emphasize that the Memorandum was signed in connection with Ukraine’s adherence to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a non-nuclear-weapon State and in pursuance of its commitments to eliminate all nuclear weapons from the territory within the specified period of time, and it was duly implemented by the Ukrainian side.

Since the provisions of the Budapest Memorandum have been totally neglected and brutally violated by

the Russian Federation as one of its States signatories, we call on the Conference on Disarmament urgently to develop and conclude a multilateral, legally binding instrument in order to provide security assurance to non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

Let me also express Ukraine's concern about the unilateral actions of the Russian Federation to denounce the agreement between Ukraine and the Russian Federation on the status and conditions of deployment of the Black Sea fleet of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine of 28 May 1997. Under the provisions of article 5 of the agreement, the Russian Federation is obliged not to have nuclear weapons in the Black Sea fleet, which is stationed on the territory of Ukraine. As a result of those unprecedented events, and taking into consideration the strategic location of Crimea in the region, we cannot exclude the deployment of nuclear forces of the Russian Federation on the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, which constitutes a serious challenge to the existing non-proliferation regime and must be tackled by the international community.

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

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

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

the IAEA and to conclude and put into effect additional protocols. We also continue to insist that negotiating and concluding the fissile material cut-off treaty will be essential both to constrain nuclear proliferation and to advance the goal of nuclear disarmament.

However, we must admit that the total elimination of nuclear weapons cannot be achieved in a short period of time. It requires a long-term approach with practical steps and effective disarmament measures to be taken by the international community in a transparent, non-discriminatory, verifiable and irreversible manner, building a system of mutually reinforcing instruments for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons. From that perspective, we supported the adoption of the resolution that established the Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations (resolution 67/56).

Ukraine consistently supported the discussions on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons held in Oslo in 2013 and in Nayarit in 2014, which once again demonstrated the need to exert all efforts so that such weapons will never be used again.

At the same time, we proceed on the understanding that the only way to protect the world from nuclear proliferation is to make the Ukrainian rejection of nuclear weapons a success story. Otherwise, it will become much more difficult to convince any country to reject a national nuclear programme.

The revitalization of the multilateral disarmament institutions and negotiations are among the ultimate tasks of the international community. It is my pleasure to inform the Committee that on 23 September Ukraine signed the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which sets new international standards and provides a forum for transparency and accountability in the conventional arms trade. Ukraine welcomes the official entry into force of the ATT in December and calls on all countries that have not done so to become signatories and State parties to the Treaty.

**Ms. Bolaños Pérez** (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Sir, and other members of the Bureau on your recent elections to the lead the work of the First Committee. We are pleased to see a representative of our region chairing this important forum. I assure you that you can count on the full support of my delegation in ensuring the smooth conduct of the Committee's work.

We align ourselves with the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (see A/C.1/69/PV.2).

Guatemala does not possess nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction. We have never suffered the devastating consequences of nuclear weapons, cluster munitions or chemical weapons. However, we do have millions of small arms and light weapons circulating. Such weapons have not been stigmatized in the same way, but they cause the deaths of hundreds of thousands of persons every year throughout the world. These weapons have caused the deaths of hundreds of thousands in my own country and contributed to our bloody history in the second half of the twentieth century.

That violence unfortunately continues today. These weapons have exacerbated and prolonged the internal armed conflict, and today illicit trafficking in weapons fosters the armed violence and insecurity that my country is suffering, exacerbating the commission of crimes and gender-based violence. In Guatemala we have a growing flow of weapons linked to organized crime and gang activity, but many weapons also remain from the armed conflict.

There is no doubt that fighting trafficking in weapons is one of the priorities of my Government. The impact of this scourge on society in Guatemala is immeasurable. That is reflected in the number of those who have died or been wounded and also in the fragile social fabric, the climate of insecurity and the high cost associated with regard to our development capacity. No country can take on these complex challenges alone, even less so a developing country that for the past 20 years has been emerging from a protracted conflict.

This problem transcends borders, countries and regions. It is a cross-cutting matter affecting international security and also socioeconomic development, health and stability. We must therefore have a multilateral framework that recognizes not just the responsibility of States to protect their civilian populations from the negative effects of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, but also recognizes the link between such weapons and the exacerbation of gender and sexual violence. There must also be mechanisms in place for international cooperation to combat the illicit trafficking in weapons and to mitigate their impact on civilian populations.

That is why we welcome the adoption and imminent entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), the first legally binding instrument that aims to considerably reduce the human cost of weapons proliferation at the global level, to prevent weapons suppliers from taking advantage of the weakest link in the weapons chain and transferring them to the illicit market, and to set out the responsibilities of each participating stakeholder. Guatemala signed the Treaty shortly after it opened for signature. We hope soon to complete the domestic process for its ratification.

We are proud to belong to a region whose leadership in this area has been recognized. We therefore welcome Mexico's offer to host the First Conference of States Parties to the ATT. We once again reiterate our support for the candidature of Trinidad and Tobago to host its permanent secretariat.

My delegation would like to underscore the importance of the full implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and its follow-up mechanisms. We welcome the success of the latest Review Conference, but we note with concern the lack of progress made at the recent Fifth Biennial Meeting of States, particularly in dealing with munitions in the Programme of Action, although that point has been repeated by many delegations, including mine. Munitions constitute the very lethality of firearms; leaving out the need to address illicit trafficking in that regard leaves the undertaking incomplete.

Guatemala strongly condemns the use of cluster munitions by any actor and under any circumstances. We reiterate that such use is a violation of the principles enshrined in international humanitarian law. We reaffirm our commitment to contribute to the effective implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We welcome the recent holding of the Fifth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, held in San José. That was a successful meeting and helped to build momentum towards the preparations for the review conference that will take place next year in Croatia. My country is very proud of the recent declaration of Central America as the first zone free of cluster munitions.

With regard to nuclear weapons, this year once again we regret the lack of progress made, at least with regard to efforts by nuclear Powers. We regret that we were not able to make specific recommendations

during the third meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held this year in New York. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) continues to be the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime, as well as an essential foundation for achieving nuclear disarmament. For the NPT to remain relevant and be implemented effectively, we must pay equal attention to the three pillars of the Treaty, that is, nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The three are closely related and mutually reinforcing.

As a State party to the Treaty, we are committed to the promotion of its universalization and the observance of each of its provisions. Its implementation is a legal obligation, and all States must clearly show commitment to the letter and spirit of this international legal instrument. Less than a year away from the 2015 Review Conference, it is of the utmost importance that the international community not satisfy itself just with continuing to reiterate the commitments already undertaken, whose implementation cannot continue to be put off indefinitely. And that not just because it runs counter to the letter and the spirit of the Treaty, but also because of the inopportuneness of the arguments being made by the nuclear Powers at the current stage. The NPT was not designed to be a standing regime. Rather, it is the result of commitments made towards fulfilling obligations by all parties. Clearly, non-nuclear-weapon States have fulfilled our part of the bargain. Now we need the nuclear-weapon States to do the same.

In spite of what I have said here, we do have a certain measure of optimism, given the renewed interest and drive on the part of the international community in advancing the view that makes it clear that we will not wait for a small group of nuclear-weapon States to decide if and when nuclear disarmament is going to be achieved — which, let us recall, is not just the ultimate goal that all of us must aspire to; all of us must work actively to ensure it. We therefore support the consideration of the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons as part of the debate on nuclear disarmament at the United Nations as a priority of the Organization.

In that regard, the conferences held in Oslo in 2013 and Nayarit in 2014 were key to launching that discussion. We hope that the upcoming conference in Vienna will continue to build on the momentum of the two previous conferences. There is no doubt that the

use of nuclear weapons runs counter to the principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations, and is incompatible with international humanitarian law.

Nuclear-weapon-free zones are an essential component of nuclear disarmament. Guatemala is proud to be part of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which established the first nuclear-weapon-free zone in an inhabited region of the world. The Treaty served as a model and inspiration for other denuclearized zones. Having succeeded in establishing a zone free of nuclear weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, it is also a matter of ensuring that the zone is not at risk of a nuclear threat. We therefore call for the withdrawal of all interpretative declarations to the Treaty. We regret that it has not been possible to hold the conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons. We call on all interested States to step up their efforts for the early holding of the conference.

Faced with the unacceptable risk to humankind posed by the very existence of these weapons, we support all initiatives that in the meantime aim to mitigate the risk and aim for their total elimination. We therefore consider it essential to maintain the moratorium on nuclear testing until the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. We would like to take this opportunity to renew our country's support for the Treaty and to call upon those that have not yet done so to sign and ratify this important instrument, especially annex 2 States, without whose adherence the Treaty's entry into force is impossible.

**Ms. Kasese-Bota (Zambia):** Zambia has the honour of joining other delegations that have spoken before it in congratulating you, Mr. Chair, and the other members of the Bureau on your election to chair the deliberations of the First Committee at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly. Zambia has every confidence in your abilities and we assure you of our total cooperation and full support as you execute your mandate in the First Committee.

Zambia wishes to align itself with the statement that was delivered by the Permanent Representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and that of the Permanent Representative of Nigeria on behalf of the African Group (see A/C.1/69/PV.2)

Zambia takes cognizance of and expresses its gratitude to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs for her inspirational remarks on comprehensive disarmament and international peace and security.

Zambia is concerned about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. Zambia is further concerned that past testing and manufacturing of nuclear weapons have not only had unacceptable humanitarian consequences, but have undermined progress on global development. Zambia envisages that at this session the First Committee will come up with a refined approach that will provide an opportunity for a global common treaty that will prohibit nuclear weapons. In order to ensure better lives for future generations, the consequences of the production, deployment and stockpiling of nuclear weapons should be adequately negated by all Member States.

Zambia joins all global peace custodians in calling upon all the nuclear-armed States to scale back on investing in nuclear weapons. Zambia takes this opportunity to urge concerted efforts and a collective endeavour by all Member States to stop the nuclear arms race.

Despite the first Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, held in Oslo in 2013, and the Second Conference, in Mexico, attended by 146 Member States, little progress has been made. My delegation is of the considered view that this session will open a new window for concerted efforts towards positive results when Member States gather again during the third Conference, to be held in Vienna in December. There are no ultimate winners in nuclear warfare. We therefore urge all Member States to work together towards a nuclear-weapon-free world.

With regard to other weapons of mass destruction, Zambia joins the African Group in condemning the use of chemical weapons in recent years, which use that has led to the loss of many lives, including among innocent women and children. We urge the international community to work together and to encourage States that have not yet ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention to do so.

With regard to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), Zambia fully supports the Treaty's provisions and joins in congratulating the Member States that have contributed to the 50 ratifications, which will bring the Treaty into force on 24 December. With the ATT coming into force, it is hoped that the proliferation of illegal firearms will be controlled or drastically reduced. Zambia is of the considered view that the deliberations of the First Committee at this session will

be energized with renewed international commitment to enforce the ATT.

I once again wish to reiterate my delegation's commitment to a nuclear-weapon-free world. We urge all States to join in negotiating a treaty banning nuclear weapons completely. Furthermore, Zambia supports all initiatives to rid the world of weapons of mass destruction and to put control measures on all forms of trade in arms and other conventional weapons, as agreed under various conventions.

**Mr. Tuy** (Cambodia): At the outset, allow me to join previous colleagues in congratulating you, Sir, on your assumption as Chair of the First Committee. I assure you of Cambodia's support and cooperation for the success of our session in the areas of disarmament and international security.

While my country aligns itself with the statements made by the Permanent Representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and by the Permanent Representative of the Philippines on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (see A/C.1/69/PV.2), I wish to share Cambodia's views on all disarmament and international security agenda items.

Despite slow progress in the field of disarmament, over the years we have worked relentlessly through the United Nations and regional mechanisms and international forums to reach our common objectives on issues of nuclear non-proliferation. Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are constantly on the agenda of our discussions here at the United Nations, and elsewhere at regional and other international forums. Therefore, we should work harder to live up to our commitments agreed at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and contemplate taking up more commitments at the next Review Conference, in 2015.

My delegation continues to attach importance to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), which Cambodia signed and ratified in 2000. While looking forward to its entry into force, Cambodia is of the view that deliberations on all the provisions of the CTBT need to be reviewed accordingly. Cambodia welcomes the first observance of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons at the ministerial level, which was held on the sidelines of the general debate of the sixty-ninth session, here in New York. At that event, we again reiterated the

international commitment and mobilized international efforts to work further towards a nuclear-free world.

Along those lines, the Royal Government of Cambodia, in cooperation with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, will host two consecutive workshops in Phnom Penh, namely, the Asia 2014 conference on the non-conventional threat of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear explosives, from 14 to 16 October, and a workshop on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), from 15 to 17 October. The workshop will focus on cross-discipline experience-sharing to facilitate the identification of effective procedures and capacity-building in response to national and regional requirements.

Regarding regional efforts, all member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have continued to engage with the nuclear-weapon States, the five permanent members of the Security Council, to sign the Protocol to the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone. My delegation commends the working-level meetings between ASEAN member States and the nuclear-weapon States held here in New York on 8 October. Cambodia welcomes the commitment expressed by the two sides to move forward to the signing of the Protocol at the earliest opportunity.

While considering that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) remains the cornerstone for addressing the issue of such weapons, Cambodia welcomes the positive outcomes of the third session of the Preparatory Committee for 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty, held in New York from 28 April to 9 May. It is important that we evaluate the results of the NPT over the years and move forward to the next five years for the implementation of the Treaty. It is also my delegation's conviction that the conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction should be convened soon.

The presence of landmines and explosive remnants of war is still recognized as posing a constant threat to human security and national development agendas. Recognizing at the regional level the need to address mine issues since 2012, ASEAN has been working towards establishing an ASEAN regional mine action centre to be based in Cambodia. We welcome the humanitarian and technical assistance from international donors in support of the activities of the centre for its smooth functioning. Furthermore, Cambodia will organize a

regional seminar on the establishment of the regional mines action centre on 18 and 19 October in Seam Reap province, with the participation of ASEAN member States and other relevant national and international institutions.

In 2012, along with the Permanent Mission of Australia, the Permanent Mission of Cambodia hosted in New York a photographic exhibition to celebrate the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. The exhibition focused the world's attention on landmine issues and made the voice of victims heard. It also depicted vividly the costs of mines and explosive remnants of war even long after the end of conflict.

In committing to the mine-ban movement in 2011, Cambodia was honoured to assume the presidency of the eleventh Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. With that meeting, the Mine Ban Convention was in a sense returning to the place where it all started 20 years ago — the human tragedy and suffering of the victims in Cambodia and similar such regions, like Mozambique, Angola, Afghanistan and Bosnia and Herzegovina, where the commitment to put an end to these inhumane and deadly weapons was born. We highly commend the firm solidarity among all State parties to the Ottawa Convention, as well as all concerned international and non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders that have collectively worked towards our noble cause of a mine-free world.

In order to join the international community's concern about the continued loss of human life due to armed conflict, Cambodia, along with other countries, signed the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) on 18 October 2013. The ATT aims to regulate the trade in conventional weapons and to provide the impetus for the effective monitoring and stabilizing of arms flows and trade, particularly in conflict-prone regions. As the Arms Trade Treaty will enter into force in December 2014, Cambodia, in cooperation with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, will organize a workshop on the theme "Regional legal assistance on the Arms Trade Treaty", to be held in Siem Reap province from 18 to 19 November. The aim of the workshop will be to facilitate expert assistance to States in the Asia-Pacific region that have signed, or signalled an intention to sign, the Arms Trade Treaty.

We cannot overlook the issue of small arms and light weapons, which still claim civilian and military lives and pose a threat to the security of humankind, especially in warring and post-conflict countries. Cambodia therefore attaches great importance to the United Nations-led process to combat the illicit use of small arms and light weapons by setting out an arms and explosives-management policy and by creating a national committee to implement it. With the assistance of United Nations-led action plans, Cambodia has been successful in curbing the illegal possession of small arms and their uncontrolled use and has been pursuing its national policy.

Finally, I wish to state that while we are challenged by armed conflicts and the fear of the illegal proliferation of weapons in many parts of the world, it is more important than ever that we make collective efforts to address the challenges through further commitments and cooperation from all States.

**Mr. Masalla** (United Republic of Tanzania): The delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania wishes to congratulate you, Sir, and the Bureau on your well-deserved election. You have our confidence and assurance of cooperation and support.

We equally acknowledge the presence and applaud the commitment of Ms. Angela Kane, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, and welcome her statement made during the commencement of our deliberations (see A/C.1/69/PV.2).

My delegation associates itself with the statements made on behalf of the African Group and of the Non-Aligned Movement by the representatives of Nigeria and Indonesia, respectively (see A/C.1/69/PV.2).

The United Republic of Tanzania advocates the total, complete and irreversible disarmament of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. We reiterate our continued opposition to the possession and development of nuclear weapons and oppose all efforts to wage war by whatever weapons, nuclear or other.

When the First Committee was established, its principal objective was to assist the United Nations to discharge its primary responsibility of ensuring peace, security and human development. It behoves all of us to remember that that goal has not been achieved in line with the pillars guiding the disarmament machinery. It is a stalemate that all Member States need to surpass

in order to overcome the challenges that remain unaddressed or that have continued to receive partial or wrongful answers.

It should be recalled that its substantive session in 2014, the Disarmament Commission failed to adopt recommendations for achieving the objectives of nuclear disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, owing to a lack of consensus among Member States. A similar stalemate occurred at the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

The humanitarian and development consequences of any nuclear detonation would undoubtedly be catastrophic. Such an occurrence would certainly have effects across borders, but it would also irreparably contaminate our environment and produce dire consequences for the natural ecosystem, destroying it for generations to come. It is therefore in the interest of the very survival of humankind that nuclear weapons not be used under any circumstances. A legal instrument prohibiting such use should therefore strengthen the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) by fulfilling the NPT's disarmament and non-proliferation objectives.

The United Republic of Tanzania is party and signatory to several of the legally binding international and regional instruments in effect relating to disarmament and arms control. They include but are not limited to the Nuclear-Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), the fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT), the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the Arms Trade Treaty and the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. We subscribe to the central objectives of those instruments aimed at, inter alia, controlling, reducing, combating and eradicating the possession of nuclear weapons as well as chemical and biological weapons and the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

Furthermore, being a signatory to the 1996 African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty - the Pelindaba Treaty - Tanzania supports and is fully committed to the ethos on the establishment of nuclear-free zones worldwide. Such initiatives are certainly an invaluable contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security. For Africa, the implementation of the

Pelindaba Treaty since its entry into force, in 2009, constitutes an important step towards the strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime on the continent and in the world at large. In that regard, the United Republic of Tanzania adds its voice and support to the call for the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons. Tanzania believes that effort will contribute to peace and stability not only in the Middle East, but also in the entire world. In the same vein, we call on all nuclear-weapon States to ratify, without reservations, international treaties and protocols related to the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) continues to work with member States to promote the peaceful use of nuclear technology and nuclear energy worldwide. Through its programmes, the IAEA encourages nuclear safety and security standards. In that regard, the United Republic of Tanzania commends and supports the IAEA's important role in promoting the safe and secure use of nuclear technology.

The United Republic of Tanzania fully supports the total elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in all their forms. Our basic principle in that connection is the sanctity of human life, wherever people live and in whatever conditions. The people in my country and in the subregions in which my country shares membership — the International Conference on the Great Lakes, the East African Community and the Southern African Development Community — neither produce nuclear weapons nor desire to see them in their localities. They have been and continue to be recurrent victims of illicit small arms and light weapons, and that tends to be true for the largest part of Africa. It is therefore in my delegation's interest, an interest I hope is shared by most of us here today, that we will not continue to pay lip service with regard to this anathema. Let us do away with these weapons.

The United Republic of Tanzania believes in the importance of the use of outer space for peaceful purposes and is deeply concerned about the implications of the arms race and the deployment of ballistic missile systems in space. My delegation therefore calls upon the international community to underline the importance of strict compliance with the relevant disarmament agreements and the existing legal regime concerning the use of outer space.

In conclusion, the United Republic of Tanzania reiterates that nuclear disarmament is possible, because neither the possession nor the existence of nuclear

weapons is necessary or desirable for the collective peace of States. Our common purpose as humans is to pursue global development, peace and security. We can best do that if we are free of the fear or terror that comes with the possibility of nuclear detonations and their catastrophic consequences. The United Republic of Tanzania strongly believes, and will continue to believe, in the pursuit of that positive path towards the achievement of a nuclear-free world. It is high time that nuclear weapons be abolished, before they abolish the world community.

**Mr. Sareer** (Maldives): I wish to congratulate you, Sir, on your election to the chairmanship of the First Committee. I should like to assure you and the other members of the Bureau of my delegation's full support in the work ahead. Let me also take this opportunity to thank the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms. Angela Kane, and the Office for Disarmament Affairs for their efforts to support the work of the Committee.

The Maldives does not produce any armaments or weaponry, nor has it any ambitions to do so. The Maldives may not have the resources to contribute towards strengthening and enforcing a global non-proliferation and disarmament regime, yet the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction is as real to us as to any other country in the world.

As a community of nations, we believe every one of us has a moral imperative to do our part to preserve peace and security. That is why every year we come to the First Committee and raise our voices about non-proliferation, stockpiling, arms in outer space and disarmament. That is also why we do our part to address issues, such as by signing and submitting regular reports on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the Biological Weapons Convention.

We highlight the dangers that weapons of mass destruction pose. We endeavour to contribute to discussions focused on channelling scarce resources from research and development on weapons towards social development and the eradication of poverty. More important, we give moral support to those who stand up in opposition in this regard. That is why the Maldives has followed disarmament debates with keen interest and hope from their initial stages, including nuclear non-proliferation negotiations.

Let me pose a few simple questions. Do stockpiles and arsenals of nuclear weapons make the globe more secure? Is there a need for stockpiles of the most destructive weapons? Would not the world be a better place without the existence of nuclear or other weapons of mass destruction? I know there are dissenting views on those questions. We hope that the disarmament debates will eventually lead to consensus on the total elimination of these unwanted weapons from the face of the Earth.

There is also the question of the implicit humanitarian consequences of a nuclear strike. No nation on Earth has the ability to deal with the repercussions of nuclear weapons, which some regard as a symbol of pride. The use of nuclear weapons would not only cause the gravest of humanitarian emergencies, it would also have catastrophic global ramifications for the environment, climate, health, social order and human development. In a worst-case scenario, it could lead to the annihilation of an entire nation.

The Maldives welcomes the increased attention to the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, as reflected in the conferences held in Oslo last year and in Mexico City in February this year. We further welcome Austria's initiative to host the third Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons in December. We also welcome the designation of 26 September each year as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, which was launched a few days ago. No doubt those initiatives serve to strengthen the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, thereby contributing to the growing momentum to firmly strengthen international efforts towards nuclear disarmament.

Conventional weapons pose an equal threat to humankind. Small arms and light weapons in the wrong hands constitutes a greater threat in further destabilizing already fragile situations. It increases the risk of escalation into civil war and large-scale regional and international conflict. The Arms Trade Treaty, adopted in April 2013, is a clear demonstration of the global community's resolve to control these conventional weapons. We eagerly await its entry into force in December. The Maldives is in the process of acceding to the Treaty in the near future.

The Maldives is well aware of the fundamental importance of compliance with commitments made in the context of disarmament. On a national level, our stringent domestic laws and control measures

have ensured that illicit trade in arms does not occur at all, either among the local population or with other countries. At the international level, the Maldives annually submits its report to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms.

The Maldives has always advocated regional disarmament in order to ensure peace, security and stability. It has continuously supported the establishment of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace since the General Assembly adopted a declaration on the matter in 1971 (resolution 2832 (XXVI)).

The First Committee has a major responsibility to address all these disarmament issues. We keep hearing statement after statement in support of reducing the number of weapons in order to make the world more safe and secure. Where we stand is therefore clear. We, as a global community, have a moral responsibility to making headway in this endeavour for the sake of future generations. My delegation stands ready to work with all members to that end.

**Mr. Momen** (Bangladesh): I congratulate you, Sir, on your election as Chair of the First Committee at its sixty-ninth session. You can count on the Bangladesh delegation's fullest cooperation in discharging your responsibilities.

Bangladesh aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (see A/C.1/69/PV.2). However, in my national capacity, I should like to highlight a few points on disarmament and non-proliferation issues.

As a signatory to all major multilateral disarmament treaties — including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the Arms Trade Treaty — Bangladesh is committed to general and complete disarmament, a commitment that flows from its constitutional obligation to disarmament.

Achieving global nuclear disarmament is one of the oldest goals of the United Nations. The horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki so strongly shook our conscience that the very first resolution that the General Assembly adopted — resolution 1 (I) — envisioned a world free of nuclear weapons. Nuclear disarmament has been on the General Assembly's agenda since 1959, and supported by every Secretary-General.

Despite that being so, the first word that comes to mind when talking about nuclear disarmament is simply “disappointment”. Perhaps no other United Nations goal remains as painfully underachieved as the goal of nuclear disarmament. Sixty-eight years have elapsed since the adoption of that first resolution. Unfortunately, the rhetoric on nuclear disarmament has not yet been matched by concrete and tangible achievements.

Humankind today, as it was sixty years ago, is still confronted by an unprecedented threat of self-extinction arising from the massive and competitive accumulation of nuclear weapons sufficient to destroy all human lives on Earth. Interestingly, many are now legitimately worried about the safety and security of nuclear arsenals. The time has now come to conclude a comprehensive convention that will ensure the objective of a world free of nuclear weapons. Many world leaders expressed that view during the first ever High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament (see A/68/PV.11), held on 26 September 2013.

Bangladesh’s position on nuclear disarmament has been consistent, straightforward and unambiguous. Convinced that nuclear weapons cannot guarantee security and peace for humankind, we have unequivocally reaffirmed our commitment to a world free of nuclear weapons. The only purpose that nuclear technology serves for us is its peaceful use under comprehensive International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards that may help to address the key development challenges of many countries. In that regard, with the assistance and strict supervision of the IAEA, Bangladesh has been working on the civil and peaceful use of nuclear technology, especially in the agriculture, energy and health sectors.

Unfortunately, a handful of States, insensitive to the security of the majority, continue to possess, or seek to possess, such weapons to guarantee their security. Valuable resources that could feed and provide a decent living to deprived people are being diverted and used to create yet more sophisticated nuclear weapons with the power to annihilate humankind and the world. We urge that handful of nuclear-weapon States to ponder for a brief moment on the fact that while they spend more than \$105 billion each year just on research and the testing of new nuclear arsenals, an average of only \$50 billion per annum would be sufficient to halve the

poverty of nearly 5 billion people in the world and meet all eight Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

Following five decades of struggle against nuclear testing, the CTBT was humankind’s first silver lining towards a comprehensive, globally verifiable non-proliferation regime banning any and all nuclear explosions. Thirty days from its adoption, Bangladesh, an annex 2 State, demonstrated its full faith in the CTBT and was the first country from South Asia to sign the Treaty, in 1996, and ratified it in 2000. The fact that after 18 years, 183 signatures and 163 ratifications the Treaty has yet to enter into force is a great disappointment for us. We call upon the eight remaining annex 2 States whose ratifications are necessary for the Treaty to enter into force to ratify the Treaty without further delay. The entry into force of the CTBT would mark a vital step towards the reduction and eventual elimination of nuclear weapons by constraining their development and qualitative improvement.

The Conference on Disarmament (CD) has remained deadlocked for almost two decades, wasting valuable resources and time. The last time the Conference agreed to negotiate was in 1996, in connection with the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. Ever since, the CD has remained stagnated and unable to undertake substantive work. We call on the CD to agree on a balanced and comprehensive programme of work. We urge all States to demonstrate the necessary political will so that the CD fulfils its negotiating mandate. We also call for the urgent commencement of negotiations in the CD on the early conclusion of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons, following the mandate set out in resolution 68/32.

While the spectre of nuclear danger remains ever daunting, conventional weapons are turning out to be the real weapons of mass destruction in many parts of the world. The horrific consequences of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons have devastated many societies, killing and maiming millions of civilians. The limitation, reduction and regulation of conventional arms are therefore a matter of cardinal importance. It is indeed an encouraging development that the Arms Trade Treaty is coming into force in December. As a signatory to the Treaty, we hope that it will put an end to the illegal trade in, and the illegitimate use of, conventional weapons that are continuing to cause untold suffering to humankind.

Bangladesh considers outer space to be a common heritage of humankind. We support strengthening the international legal regime and the development of a code of conduct for outer space activities, so as to protect and preserve access to space for all and to prevent its weaponization.

Historically, pursuing disarmament through multilateral engagement has been difficult. As the challenges of disarmament and international security become increasingly complex and intertwined, we must learn to make multilateralism work to create a more secure world. It is our sincere hope that our collective endeavour here in the First Committee will contribute to revitalizing the United Nations disarmament machinery and safeguard international peace and security through effective arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament.

**Mr. Sano** (Japan): At the outset, I should like to extend my congratulations to you, Ambassador Rattray, on your assumption of the chairmanship of this important First Committee. I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation and look forward to closely working with you and all other colleagues to carry out meaningful tasks.

The overall objective of nuclear disarmament is to achieve a safer world without nuclear weapons, and for that purpose it is important to take realistic and practical steps in a progressive manner. Japan, together with other members of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI), has worked actively to strengthen the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) regime, and this April hosted the NPDI Ministerial Meeting in Hiroshima. The participating ministers issued the Hiroshima statement, which includes realistic and practical approaches towards nuclear disarmament.

Japan has proposed that we should work towards reductions in three areas: the number of nuclear weapons, the role they play and the incentive to possess them. We have proposed prevention with regard to three aspects: the emergence of new nuclear-weapon States, the proliferation of nuclear-weapon-related materials and technologies, and nuclear terrorism. Japan is determined to make further efforts to further develop building blocks towards a world without nuclear weapons.

The year 2015 marks the seventieth anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It

is crucial that all States more resolutely and urgently fulfil their disarmament commitments and work to ensure that nuclear weapons are not used and do not proliferate. Japan believes that eliminating nuclear weapons is possible through substantive and constructive engagement with those States that possess nuclear weapons. In that respect, Japan will once again introduce at the First Committee the draft resolution entitled "United action towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons". We strongly hope that our draft resolution will enjoy as many sponsors and supporters as possible.

The year 2015 will also coincide with the NPT Review Conference, which is expected to agree on a new package for the action plan that will provide us with a fresh road map towards 2020. Although there are contentious issues ahead, and the prospects for the Conference are not so bright, we should unite our efforts with a sense of urgency for the success of the Conference.

It was disappointing that at its 2014 session the Conference on Disarmament (CD) once again was unable to reach agreement on a programme of work. However, we can evaluate the open and inclusive discussions held during the meetings of the informal working group on the programme of work. A series of structured and substantive discussions on all items on the agenda of the Conference also took place under the schedule of activities. Those discussions contributed to maintaining momentum for future negotiations and to preserving the CD's expertise on the core issues. In that context, we expect that the current discussions and the outcome of the Group of Governmental Experts on a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT) will provide further impetus to the CD. Japan appreciates the Canadian leadership in the Group and will continue to support the Group's efforts to formulate productive reports next spring.

The nuclear and missile development programmes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including its work on uranium enrichment, pose serious threats to the peace and stability of the region and the entire international community, as well as to the NPT. Japan expresses its strong concern about the repeated ballistic missile launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, its announcement indicating the possibility of further missile launches and a nuclear test, and its ongoing activities at Yongbyon, including the restart

of the 5-MW graphite moderated reactor and further renovation of the uranium enrichment facility.

Japan strongly urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to refrain from any further provocative action and to halt all related activities. A nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea would be totally unacceptable, as it would seriously undermine the international non-proliferation regime centred on the NPT and risk the reversal of efforts made in favour of a world free of nuclear weapons. Japan urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to comply fully with all its international obligations and commitments, including under Security Council resolutions and the 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. We once more strongly urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to completely abandon all its nuclear weapons and missile development programmes in a verifiable and irreversible manner and to return to compliance with its IAEA safeguards agreement and with the NPT.

As for the Iranian nuclear issue, Japan has strongly urged Iran to ratify the IAEA additional protocol as well as the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and to fully cooperate with the IAEA on the removal of international concerns regarding its nuclear activities. Japan welcomes the relevant measures taken relating to the first steps under the joint plan of action and hopes that the ongoing negotiations of the EU 3+3 with Iran will lead to a final and comprehensive resolution of the issue. While welcoming the relevant steps taken to date, Japan regrets the fact that Iran has not implemented some of the measures it agreed with the IAEA as the third step in the framework of cooperation. In that context, Japan fully supports the efforts by the IAEA and urges Iran swiftly and steadily to implement measures such as those related to a possible military dimension.

With respect to the Chemical Weapons Convention, it is important to destroy all of the Syria's chemical weapons and production facilities and to prevent the further use of chemical weapons in that country. Japan appreciates the excellent work done by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the United Nations, the United States and other countries on the elimination of Syria's chemical weapons, in which Japan continues to play a constructive role in order to achieve that task. In addition, Japan has been committed to making the fullest possible efforts to complete the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons in China and has made significant progress.

With regard to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), Japan welcomes the valuable discussion during the current intersessional process to promote common understanding and effective actions in advance of the next Review Conference, to be held in 2016. We will continue our efforts to enhance BWC implementation, with a particular focus on responses to the rapid advances in the life science field as well as dual-use issues.

Japan welcomes the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which will take place in December. In order to make the ATT function smoothly and effectively, it is essential for States parties to make the necessary decisions at the First Conference of States Parties, next year. As a strong supporter of the ATT, Japan appreciates the leadership of the Government of Mexico in the current preparatory stage and will continue to engage constructively in the preparatory process in the lead-up to the Conference.

With regard to small arms and light weapons, the consensus adoption of the outcome document of the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States shows the collective will of the international community to resolve issues concerning stockpile management and matching needs and resources for international assistance in the field. We are confident that putting into action the measures agreed in the outcome of the Fifth Biennial Meeting (A/CONF.192/BMS/2014/2, annex), under "Way forward", will make a significant contribution to addressing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

With regard to the Anti-personnel Mines Convention, it is significant that outcome documents, beginning with the Maputo+15 Declaration, were adopted by the Third Review Conference in June. That illustrates States parties' aspiration to complete time-bound obligations by 2025, including on mine clearance. As a long-term advocate of mine action programmes, Japan will continue to support those who face a serious challenge in removing anti-personnel mines by strengthening regional cooperation, including South-South cooperation. As the Chair of the Mine Action Support Group, Japan is also determined to continue to play an active role in advancing mine action.

I should like to conclude my statement by stressing that when it comes to disarmament and non-proliferation education, Japan has long advocated raising awareness throughout the world, especially among the younger generations and concerning the humanitarian

consequences of the use of nuclear weapons. Based on our distinct historical background, we always bear in mind the importance of spreading awareness across generations and national borders, including by deepening our understanding of their scientific aspects. As this is a universal issue for every member of the international community, we hope that the discussion on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons will not only serve as a driving force of nuclear disarmament but will also serve as a bridge, or a catalyst, to unite the different groups of thought instead of dividing them.

**The Chair:** I shall now give the floor to those representatives who have asked to speak in exercise of the right of reply. May I remind delegations that statements in the exercise of the right of reply are limited to 10 minutes for the first intervention and to 5 minutes for the second intervention.

**Mr. Ceylan** (Turkey): I take the floor in response to a delegation's baseless allegations, which we categorically deny.

Unfortunately, we have once again seen attempts to divert attention from the enormous destruction and human suffering caused by the Syrian regime in Syria. Turkey has not only been a safe refuge for more than 1.5 million Syrians who have had to flee Syria for their lives, but it has also ensured that cross-border humanitarian assistance reached millions of people in dire need on the Syrian side of the border, well above and beyond our international obligations and in support of the United Nations. Turkey will never regret the humanitarian assistance it has provided to desperate Syrians, but those who miscalculate the unique role of Turkey in maintaining regional stability and enhancing international peace will certainly do so.

**Mr. Kim Ju Song** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): This is the first time that our delegation takes the floor to exercise its right of reply against a delegation that commented on the nuclear deterrence of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Our right of reply is directed at the delegation of Japan.

The Japanese have been making a fuss about a missile attack or a nuclear test from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Let me remind the First Committee that it is none other than the Japanese Government that has allocated \$250 million from its 2014 defence budget for the purchase and development of the latest interceptor missiles and for increasing its capabilities, allegedly to cope with such an attack. It also

plans to purchase F-35 Lightning Stealth Fighters, P-1 sea patrol planes and patrol helicopters. The assertion about the nuclear threat and missile attack is a crafty and sinister attempt to justify Japan's arms build-up and re-invasion scheme against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Since its defeat in the Second World War, Japan has never abandoned its scheme for re-invasion and has gradually increased military spending. It has drastically increased military expenditures in the twenty-first century, making full preparations to stage overseas aggression at any moment. It decided to invest \$46 billion for this year's military spending, 2.8 per cent higher than last year. One should not overlook that most of those funds are used for the development and production of advanced missiles essential for pre-emptive attacks against other countries.

Japan's assertion about military exercises for its overseas aggression is intended to hide its aim of commanding the sea and air around the Korean peninsula in case of emergency. That cunning sophistry is also aimed at lessening the vigilance of the world public towards Japan, which is becoming further militarized and lurching to the right, so as to achieve its ambition for re-invasion at any cost. The current Japanese Government is a rare extremist rightist one in the history of Japan since its defeat in the Second World War. In a little more than a year after coming to power, the Government has enacted various laws to lay the legal ground for expanding its armaments. Late last year, it adopted documents for bolstering the navy and air force of the Self-Defence Forces in order to militarily contain neighbouring countries and regions. Meanwhile the Prime Minister and other senior leaders have stepped up efforts to turn the country ultra-rightist by visiting the Yasukuni Shrine.

Japan's arms build-up and its re-invasion scheme are now bringing dark clouds of war to North-East Asia. Such moves can never be allowed.

**Mr. Sano** (Japan): I do not want to play catchball with the young, promising colleague from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea — something that is almost an annual event, but not productive. However, for the sake of clarification, let me very briefly exercise my right of reply to one point made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea about our arms in Japan.

Japan adheres to a basic policy of maintaining an exclusive national defence-oriented policy, not

becoming a military Power that poses a threat to other countries. Japan will continue to adhere to the course that it has taken to date as a peace-loving nation.

**Mr. Kim Ju Song** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Our delegation does not feel the need to reply to the old-fashioned and very provocative arguments. Everyone knows about our clear posture. Everyone in the region of North-East Asia is also aware that Japan is rebuilding its military might — I do not know for what purpose, but it is very clear to the entire world.

I should like to reiterate my position that, given the old-fashioned theories that the Japanese delegation comes up with every year against the Democratic

People's Republic of Korea, I do not feel the need to reply. In fact, the only reply we can make to this nonsense argument from the Japanese delegation is to reject entirely what it has said against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

**Mr. Sano** (Japan): In reply to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's remarks, I will not repeat the Japanese position since I already stated it in my previous intervention. For a detailed explanation, please refer to the home page of the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

*The meeting rose at 1 p.m.*