



# General Assembly

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## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 8 December 2010

[on the report of the First Committee (A/65/410)]

### 65/58. Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 51/45 B of 10 December 1996, 52/38 N of 9 December 1997, 53/77 Q of 4 December 1998, 54/54 L of 1 December 1999, 55/33 I of 20 November 2000, 56/24 G of 29 November 2001, 57/73 of 22 November 2002, 58/49 of 8 December 2003, 59/85 of 3 December 2004, 60/58 of 8 December 2005, 61/69 of 6 December 2006, 62/35 of 5 December 2007, 63/65 of 2 December 2008 and 64/44 of 2 December 2009,

*Recalling also* the adoption by the Disarmament Commission at its 1999 substantive session of a text entitled “Establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned”,<sup>1</sup>

*Determined* to pursue the total elimination of nuclear weapons,

*Determined also* to continue to contribute to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects and to the process of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, in particular in the field of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, with a view to strengthening international peace and security, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Recalling* the provisions on nuclear-weapon-free zones of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament,<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/54/42), annex I.

<sup>2</sup> Resolution S-10/2.



*Stressing* the importance of the treaties of Tlatelolco,<sup>3</sup> Rarotonga,<sup>4</sup> Bangkok<sup>5</sup> and Pelindaba<sup>6</sup> establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones, as well as the Antarctic Treaty,<sup>7</sup> inter alia, for achieving a world entirely free of nuclear weapons,

*Welcoming* the Second Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia, held in New York on 30 April 2010, and noting that one hundred and fifteen States are currently parties and signatories to these treaties,

*Underlining* the value of enhancing cooperation among the nuclear-weapon-free-zone treaty members by means of mechanisms such as joint meetings of States parties, signatories and observers to those treaties,

*Reaffirming* the applicable principles and rules of international law relating to the freedom of the high seas and the rights of passage through maritime space, including those of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,<sup>8</sup>

1. *Welcomes* the continued contribution that the Antarctic Treaty<sup>7</sup> and the treaties of Tlatelolco,<sup>3</sup> Rarotonga,<sup>4</sup> Bangkok<sup>5</sup> and Pelindaba<sup>6</sup> are making towards freeing the southern hemisphere and adjacent areas covered by those treaties from nuclear weapons;

2. *Notes with satisfaction* that all nuclear-weapon-free zones in the southern hemisphere and adjacent areas are now in force;

3. *Notes* that the Russian Federation has initiated internal procedures to ratify the appropriate protocols to the Treaty of Pelindaba, and also notes the positive announcement by the United States of America of its intention to begin the process of ratification of the protocols to the treaties of Pelindaba and Rarotonga;

4. *Calls upon* all States concerned to continue to work together in order to facilitate adherence to the protocols to nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties by all relevant States that have not yet done so, and in this regard notes the positive announcement by the United States of America of consultations to be conducted with the parties to the nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties in Central and South-East Asia in an effort to sign and ratify the relevant protocols;

5. *Welcomes* the steps taken to conclude further nuclear-weapon-free-zone treaties on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned, and calls upon all States to consider all relevant proposals, including those reflected in its resolutions on the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in the Middle East and South Asia;

6. *Affirms its conviction* of the important role of nuclear-weapon-free zones in strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and in extending the areas of the world that are nuclear-weapon-free, and, with particular reference to the responsibilities of the nuclear-weapon States, calls upon all States to support the

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<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 634, No. 9068.

<sup>4</sup> See *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 10: 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IX.7), appendix VII.

<sup>5</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1981, No. 33873.

<sup>6</sup> A/50/426, annex.

<sup>7</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 402, No. 5778.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

process of nuclear disarmament and to work for the total elimination of all nuclear weapons;

7. *Welcomes* the progress made on increased collaboration within and between zones at the Second Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia at which States noted their intention to foster cooperation among the nuclear-weapon-free zones to fully implement the principles and objectives of the treaties and to exchange relevant ideas and best practices in areas of mutual interest;

8. *Congratulates* the States parties and signatories to the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba, as well as of Central Asia and Mongolia, for their efforts to pursue the common goals envisaged in those treaties and to promote the nuclear-weapon-free status of the southern hemisphere and adjacent areas, and calls upon them to explore and implement further ways and means of cooperation among themselves and their treaty agencies;

9. *Encourages* the competent authorities of the nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties to provide assistance to the States parties and signatories to those treaties so as to facilitate the accomplishment of the goals;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled “Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas”.

*60th plenary meeting  
8 December 2010*