

2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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National measures taken in its capacity as a non-nuclear-weapon State, pursuant to action 20 of the action plan in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Report submitted by Mexico

I. Introduction

1. Recalling the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons of 8 July 1996; in accordance with the spirit of article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; and bearing in mind paragraph 4(c) of the 1995 decision entitled “Principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament” and the practical steps agreed in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Mexico submits herewith its report on national measures taken in its capacity as a non-nuclear-weapon State, pursuant to action 20 of the action plan in the Final Document of the eighth Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in 2010, with the aim of encouraging the submission of such information by nuclear-weapon States and other States parties to the Treaty.
2. Mexico has tirelessly sought to contribute to the establishment of a more peaceful and secure world, based on respect for international law and the principle of the peaceful settlement of disputes, not on the illusory stability supposedly offered by weapons.
3. Mexico has maintained an active, consistent and committed position in favour of nuclear disarmament, emphasizing the urgent need to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons, under the principles of verification, irreversibility and transparency.
4. Mexico has advocated for approaching nuclear disarmament from a humanitarian perspective, with a focus on the prohibition of nuclear weapons to prevent the terrible health, social, environmental and economic impacts of this type of weaponry.



5. In this context, since the adoption of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Mexico has taken steps to promote the universality and full implementation of this international agreement, consistently lending equal importance to the three interdependent pillars of the Treaty: disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses.

6. The use of nuclear weapons and the threat of their use are a violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, contravene the principles of international humanitarian law and would constitute a war crime. For this reason, Mexico is very concerned about the recent nuclear-weapon threats, the raising of the operational alert of nuclear arsenals, the fact that there are voices seeking to justify the use of this weaponry, that there are still States that seem willing to carry out new nuclear tests, and that nuclear-weapon States continue to increase their arsenals instead of reducing and eliminating them, in accordance with their obligations and commitments under the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Nuclear weapons must never again be used, by any actor, under any circumstances.

7. Mexico will therefore continue to promote progress in the area of nuclear disarmament and will seek the universality of existing international instruments, as well as their full implementation, strengthening and operation.

II. Nuclear disarmament

8. Consistent with its strong pacifist tradition, and as the main promoter of the first nuclear-weapon-free zone in a densely populated area of the planet, Mexico does not accept that nuclear weapons underpin international security or constitute a bulwark for strategic balance. On the contrary, increases in military expenditures, boasts of possessing nuclear arsenals and so-called doctrines of nuclear deterrence represent threats of the use of force that are contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and encourage proliferation.

9. Mexico is a non-nuclear-weapon State that is aware of the devastating short- and long-term effects that an intentional or accidental nuclear detonation could have on the population and the environment, both regionally and globally. For that reason, the total elimination of nuclear weapons has been an essential element of the position that Mexico has maintained at the multilateral level, in accordance with its foreign policy principles and the principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations.

10. Mexico believes that innovative and decisive actions are required to advance nuclear disarmament. In particular, work and decisions related to nuclear disarmament must be person-centred. The centrality of multilateralism in relation to nuclear disarmament must be underscored, recognizing that nuclear disarmament is in the interest of, and the responsibility of, each member of the international community, without detracting from unilateral, bilateral or regional initiatives, or from the special responsibility of the nuclear-weapon States to achieve and sustain a nuclear-weapon-free world. It is also essential to recognize that disarmament is a common cause, built on tangible and specific commitments made in sensitive and complex security situations, in which a willingness to fulfil the obligations undertaken should be demonstrated.

11. In accordance with this position, Mexico has participated at the highest possible political level in all high-level plenary meetings to promote and commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

12. In that regard, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Marcelo Ebrard Casaubón, participated in the 2019, 2020 and 2021 high-level plenary meetings, during which he stressed that nuclear weapons pose a global threat and that a

detonation would not respect borders or discriminate on the basis of nations' level of development. He stated emphatically that nuclear weapons must never again be used, by any actor, under any circumstances. He recalled that it is unjustifiable and unacceptable that, at a time of pressing health and economic development needs, enormous economic resources continue to be allocated to maintain, increase and modernize nuclear arsenals and their delivery systems. He called for further progress towards general and complete disarmament, as international security does not depend on weapons, but on international law, solidarity and cooperation.

13. Mexico has advocated the total eradication of nuclear weapons as the only way to prevent a deliberate or accidental detonation. The international community must do its part to protect, strengthen and complement the existing nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime.

14. In recognition of the validity and importance of adhering to the principles of transparency, verification and irreversibility in nuclear disarmament, Mexico will continue to participate actively and vigorously in the forums in which the nuclear disarmament agenda is addressed, with the aim of promoting initiatives that contribute to achieving and maintaining a nuclear-weapon-free world.

United Nations General Assembly

15. Mexico participates actively in the various forums of the United Nations nuclear disarmament machinery.

16. In the General Assembly, Mexico presents, either in its national capacity or jointly with other States, draft resolutions on different aspects of the issue and on the continuing threat posed by the mere existence of nuclear weapons.

17. During the period 2015–2021, the following draft resolutions were submitted with Mexico as a co-sponsor:

- (a) Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations;
- (b) Humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons;
- (c) Humanitarian pledge for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons;
- (d) Ethical imperatives for a nuclear-weapon-free world;
- (e) Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments;
- (f) Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty;
- (g) United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education;
- (h) United Nations Disarmament Information Programme;
- (i) Nuclear disarmament verification;
- (j) Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco);
- (k) Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

18. Mexico also voluntarily submitted its respective national reports and contributions, in compliance with General Assembly resolutions and with its obligations as a State party to international treaties and instruments.

Disarmament Commission

19. Mexico participates in the Disarmament Commission. In this disarmament forum, Mexico has been critical of the lack of progress in substantive work and the methods of work employed.

20. Mexico has been emphatic about the need to shorten the Disarmament Commission's substantive sessions and to evaluate whether they should be organized in biennial cycles. This is because, so far, practice has shown the ineffectiveness of allocating significant financial and human resources of States parties and the Organization to hold annual three-week sessions at which it has been impossible to reach agreement on recommendations. Mexico has therefore advocated shortening the duration of substantive meetings, with a view to making the Commission's work more dynamic and efficient.

21. Mexico has expressed its deep concern that the 2019, 2020 and 2021 sessions of the Disarmament Commission did not take place owing to issues unrelated to this multilateral forum.

Conference on Disarmament

22. Mexico is a member of the Conference on Disarmament, the permanent forum entrusted with negotiating binding multilateral disarmament instruments.

23. Mexico has been critical of the impasse that has prevailed in this multilateral forum for more than 25 years, since the last time the Conference adopted and implemented its programme of work. The Conference should consider its programme of work not as an end in itself but only as a guide for the conduct of substantive work, and should not prejudge the actual outcome of the negotiations.

24. On the other hand, considering that there are differences of opinion on procedural aspects in this forum, Mexico has proposed the need to analyse and update the working methods of the Conference. In particular, Mexico has proposed analysing the term of the presidencies, the direct and active participation of civil society, formulas for avoiding abuse of the consensus rule and amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Conference to include gender-inclusive language.

25. Mexico has emphasized the importance of exploring alternatives to promote multilateral negotiations for effective disarmament measures, in accordance with the obligations established in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

26. It is necessary to reflect on certain anachronisms of the Conference on Disarmament and consider a serious debate about its conceptualization. Mexico is of the opinion that a fourth special session of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament could be the appropriate forum in which to hold that debate, as the Secretary-General has underlined in his agenda for disarmament.

27. Mexico has warned that the paralysis in the Conference on Disarmament has a direct impact on the effective implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. This is owing to the fact that 5 of the 13 systematic steps towards disarmament agreed upon at the 2000 Review Conference were to be accomplished through multilateral negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament.

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

28. Bearing in mind that the International Court of Justice, in its 1996 advisory opinion, stated that "there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control", Mexico reiterates that the Treaty on the

Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which entered into force on 22 January 2021, is consistent with the obligation contained in article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, is complementary to the provisions and objectives of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and other nuclear weapons treaties, and contributes to their effective implementation.

29. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons also contributes to the achievement and maintenance of a nuclear-weapon-free world by ensuring the irreversibility of nuclear disarmament once “global zero” is achieved. The Treaty also recognizes the serious implications of nuclear weapons for human survival, the environment, socioeconomic development, the global economy, food security and the health of present and future generations, as well as the disproportionate impact of ionizing radiation on women and girls.

30. Mexico would therefore like to highlight the actions that it has taken during the reporting period to achieve the negotiation and adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons of 2017 and its entry into force in 2021.

31. At the seventieth session of the General Assembly in 2015, Mexico coordinated, presented and facilitated the resolution entitled “Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations”. This resolution, which was adopted with 138 votes in favour, 12 votes against and 34 abstentions, established an open-ended working group with a mandate to substantively address new norms and legal measures on nuclear disarmament.

32. Mexico participated in the first and second sessions of the open-ended working group, which were held from 22 to 26 February and from 2 to 13 May 2016 in Geneva. Both sessions were attended by some 90 States (most of which were not part of the Conference on Disarmament), 30 international organizations, and civil society organizations and academics, who participated actively.

33. In various statements Mexico argued that, while it is not possible to make progress on nuclear disarmament without the presence of the nuclear-weapon States, the negotiations should focus on those aspects on which progress could be made by non-nuclear-weapon States, for example the development of new norms and the prevention of a humanitarian catastrophe.

34. Mexico participated in the work of the open-ended working group as part of the New Agenda Coalition and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), which reiterated their position in favour of nuclear disarmament.

35. As a result of this process, the open-ended working group recommended in its final report that a conference be convened in 2017 to negotiate a binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons.

36. In this regard, at its seventy-first session, in 2016, the General Assembly adopted resolution [71/258](#), which was submitted by Mexico together with a group of co-sponsors. The resolution incorporated the recommendations of the open-ended working group, and in particular convened a conference in 2017 to negotiate a binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their elimination.

37. As a member of the core group that promoted the negotiations of the Treaty, Mexico participated actively in the negotiating conference, which was held in New York from 27 to 31 March and from 15 June to 7 July 2017, with participants from 135 accredited States and from international organizations. The conference resulted in the adoption, with 122 votes in favour, including that of Mexico, of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the first universal instrument that explicitly prohibits this category of weapons.

38. Mexico was the fourth State to deposit its instrument of ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, on 16 January 2018. The Treaty entered into force on 22 January 2021. To date, it has been signed by 86 States and ratified by 61.

39. In addition, Mexico has participated jointly with like-minded States in outreach and dissemination activities in the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the States parties, signatory States and States that supported the adoption of the Treaty, in order to encourage the broadest possible participation in the first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, to be held from 21 to 23 June 2022 in Vienna.

Other actions

40. In parallel, Mexico has promoted nuclear disarmament at the regional level. As a member of CELAC, Mexico supported the submission of a working paper entitled “Proposal by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States on effective legal measures to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons” ([A/AC.286/WP.15](#)) to the open-ended working group in April 2016.

41. Mexico also promoted the submission of the document entitled “Treaty of Tlatelolco: A disarmament instrument” ([A/AC.286/WP.40](#)) by the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), in May 2016.

42. As part of the New Agenda Coalition and the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative, Mexico supports the submission of various working papers for the review cycle of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Nuclear-weapon-free zones

43. Mexico is the depositary of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), opened for signature in 1967.

44. Fifty-five years after the opening for signature, Mexico recalls that this Treaty, which established the first nuclear-free zone in a densely populated area of the planet, has been a legal, political and institutional reference for the creation of other nuclear-weapon-free zones, in accordance with article VII of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

45. Mexico reaffirms its unreserved support for efforts aimed at the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, through arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the respective region. Mexico respects and will respect the sovereign decisions of States wishing to conclude treaties establishing new denuclearized zones.

46. Mexico is convinced that, pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, nuclear-weapon-free zones are an effective measure that contributes to nuclear non-proliferation, since States parties undertake obligations not to develop, possess, acquire or use nuclear weapons, and to prevent the deployment on their territories of nuclear weapons belonging to another State. Nuclear-weapon-free zones also contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security.

47. Although nuclear-weapon-free zones are not an end in themselves, they represent a very important intermediate step towards general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

48. Mexico has continually reiterated the importance of nuclear-weapon States reviewing, with a view to withdrawing, the interpretative declarations that they made at the time of signing or depositing their instruments of ratification of the protocols to treaties that establish nuclear-weapon-free zones; especially those relating to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Only with the commitment of nuclear-weapon States can these zones be considered truly free of the threat of nuclear weapons.

49. Mexico has supported the adoption of resolutions on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and considers this measure to be part of the commitments undertaken by the parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1995, 2000 and 2010. Mexico is also continuously fostering dialogue and coordination among the 116 States that have established nuclear-weapon-free zones with the common goal of contributing to disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation.

50. Mexico has participated in the informal consultations regarding the fourth Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, and hopes that a date will be set for this conference to take place.

51. In addition, Mexico actively participates and collaborates in the work of OPANAL, the only regional international organization in the world dedicated to achieving nuclear disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, based in Mexico City.

52. Mexico served on the Council of OPANAL from 2014 to 2018. In particular, in 2017 it hosted the twenty-fifth regular session of the General Conference of the Agency, at which the fiftieth anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco was commemorated. The opening ceremony was led by the then President of Mexico, Enrique Peña Nieto, and was presided over by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Luis Videgaray Caso. Twenty-seven of the 33 States parties participated, nine of them represented at the ministerial level, as well as representatives of the six associated States and six international organizations. The ceremony was also attended by representatives of nuclear-weapon-free zones (Philippines at the ministerial level and Kyrgyzstan) and civil society organizations, as well as the diplomatic corps accredited in Mexico, and international experts.

53. The commemoration included the adoption of the “Declaration of the Member States of OPANAL on the 50th Anniversary of the conclusion of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)”, a text that was submitted as a working document at the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the tenth Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons ([NPT/CONF.2020/PC.I/2](#)).

54. In September 2021, Mexico served as Vice-Chair of the XXVII regular session of the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) and facilitated the event by providing facilities and technical equipment.

Nuclear testing

55. Mexico categorically rejects the conduct of nuclear tests by any State, as well as the improvement and modernization of nuclear weapons, actions that are contrary to the spirit of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. Mexico considers nuclear tests to be contrary to the efforts of the international community to promote dialogue, trust and cooperation with a view to eradicating nuclear weapons.

56. Mexico believes it is crucial for nuclear testing to stop. This is a sine qua non condition for curbing horizontal and vertical nuclear proliferation, and for the effective implementation of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty and the consolidation of the verification regime it provides for.

57. Twenty-five years after its adoption, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has contributed substantially to the non-proliferation and disarmament regime,

in particular, it has played an essential role in maintaining a near-universal moratorium on nuclear testing. Mexico has therefore continued to strongly support the work of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization, being persuaded that multilateral will and efforts in the area of nuclear disarmament and prevention of proliferation in every aspect offer the only solution for achieving lasting peace.

58. Although 172 States have ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty, which has an International Monitoring System in the process of being completed and an important international data centre, Mexico has expressed concern that it has not yet entered into force in accordance with the commitments made by the parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty at the 2000 Review Conference.

59. For this reason, Mexico has actively participated in international conferences to facilitate the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. It has also reiterated the call for annex 2 countries to ratify the treaty without preconditions for its entry into force in order to strengthen the regime prohibiting nuclear testing.

60. Ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty is an unequivocal commitment under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The adoption of concrete measures with fixed deadlines aimed at achieving the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty will be a key deliverable that will contribute to the success of the forthcoming Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

61. During the visit to Mexico of the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, Robert Floyd, on 14 and 15 February 2022, Mexico reiterated its commitment to cooperation and joint actions to encourage those States that have not yet done so to ratify the Treaty. Mexico also highlighted the complementarity between the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, as together they constitute the international legal framework for achieving a world free of nuclear weapons.

62. It should be noted that Mexico has shown its support for the work of the International Verification System by continuing to operate five monitoring stations located in its territory, which have been certified by the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty. It also promotes compliance with the agreement on the conduct of activities relating to facilities of the International Monitoring System for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Fissile materials

63. Mexico has firmly and consistently recognized the need to conclude a treaty banning fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices. Such a treaty would represent another step towards the goal of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons and the strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime, in accordance with the commitments made by the parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty at the 2000 Review Conference.

64. Mexico has maintained that the negotiation of this international legal instrument should be viewed as part of the broad and comprehensive process of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. Mexico considers that such a treaty should provide for the regulation of existing fissile materials, a verification mechanism and confidence-building measures.

65. Mexico has also participated in the high-level preparatory group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution [71/259](#) entitled “Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive

devices”. At the regional level, it participated in a regional meeting of experts from Latin America and the Caribbean for a treaty on the prohibition of fissile materials, held on 18 and 19 June 2019.

Verification

66. Mexico promotes the verification of nuclear disarmament, in accordance with the commitments adopted by the parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty in the year 2000. It is also convinced that this does the following:

- (a) It allows parties to assess the status of implementation of an agreement and provides a good indicator of how well the agreement is working;
- (b) It discourages non-compliance with the provisions of an agreement;
- (c) It provides timely warning about violation(s) of the terms of an agreement;
- (d) It confirms that obligations under an agreement are being met by helping to build confidence and trust in the agreement and in the fact that its mechanisms are operating as planned, thereby ensuring peace of mind among the parties.

67. Mexico participates in the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification, whose objective is to discuss how verification of the dismantling of nuclear weapons would be carried out multilaterally with the participation of nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States. These discussions between technical experts and diplomats are aimed at defining the capacity-building needs of countries such as Mexico that do not have nuclear weapons and are also an opportunity to strengthen cooperation among peers.

68. Mexico has taken part in the four plenary meetings held by the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification:

- (a) Washington, D.C., 19 and 20 March 2015, chaired by the United States for the purpose of launching the initiative. During the meeting an initial exchange of views was held on the general overview and some specific experience of cooperation in the field of disarmament and verification, as well as on the objectives and a future programme plan of the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification;
- (b) Oslo, 16 to 18 November 2015, where the purpose was to advance the work of the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification, establish three working groups (on monitoring and verification objectives, on-site inspections, and technical solutions and challenges), showcase achievements and lessons learned, foster dialogue between nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States, demonstrate different procedures in the various monitoring and verification regimes, and enhance understanding of other verification and disarmament research efforts;
- (c) Tokyo, 27 June to 1 July 2016, where parallel meetings of the three working groups were held. Mexico participated in the sessions of working group 1, which focused on defining the objectives and principles of a framework for action in a hypothetical scenario of monitoring, verification and disarmament of one or more nuclear weapons;
- (d) Abu Dhabi, 1 to 3 November 2016, where the participants sought to define the principles that should underpin verification;
- (e) Mexico also participated in working group meetings held from 6 to 8 March 2017 in Berlin.

69. In addition, Mexico participates in the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to General Assembly resolution [74/50](#), entitled “Verification of

nuclear disarmament”, adopted on 19 December 2019. Mexico participated in the first session of the Group of Governmental Experts held from 21 to 25 February 2022 in Geneva. It will also participate in the second session of the Group of Governmental Experts to be held from 26 to 30 September 2022 at the same venue.

Transparency

70. Mexico affirms the importance of transparency measures in accordance with the commitments made by the parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty at the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences. These measures play an important role in compliance with the obligations undertaken under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. They will determine the credibility of any disarmament measures that have been taken and the ability to assess compliance with the Treaty and adopt further measures.

71. Mexico has urged nuclear-weapon States to show greater transparency about their stocks of nuclear weapons and fissile materials.

72. Mexico is part of and actively participates in the New Agenda Coalition, which has submitted two working papers on nuclear verification and transparency. These papers promote the application of the principles of irreversibility, verifiability and transparency, which are in line with the obligations of the States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

73. The Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative, of which Mexico is a member, has submitted a working paper on the need to improve the submission of national reports as a basic transparency and confidence-building measure, in compliance with nuclear disarmament obligations under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Disarmament education

74. For Mexico, education and promotion of the values, actions and objectives of disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are vital for the achievement of a world free of nuclear weapons, and for the consolidation of a culture of peace and a safer world. In particular, it is highly important for upcoming generations to have the tools they need to achieve and maintain a peaceful and weapons-free world.

75. As part of its commitment to disarmament and in accordance with its foreign policy principles, Mexico submits a draft resolution entitled “United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education” to the First Committee of the General Assembly every two years.

76. In compliance with the recommendations of the report of the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education, Mexico has promoted various education and outreach activities on nuclear disarmament with the aim of broadening knowledge, strengthening debates on the subject and publicizing new initiatives to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and prevent their catastrophic humanitarian consequences.

77. In this context, in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021 and 2022, Mexico, in coordination with OPANAL and the James Martin Center for Non-proliferation Studies, organized the Disarmament and Non-proliferation Summer School for young Latin American and Caribbean diplomats.

78. This programme sponsored by Mexico, which covers participants’ travel and stay in Mexico City, seeks to contribute to strengthening technical capacity in the area of disarmament among new generations of Latin American and Caribbean diplomats.

This is one of the contributions Mexico makes to disarmament and non-proliferation, while also promoting peace education.

79. Owing to the health emergency caused by SARS-CoV-2, the 2020 and 2021 summer schools were held virtually. Thirty-seven diplomats and State officials from 17 States participated in the 2021 summer school. In accordance with the feminist foreign policy of Mexico, the participation of female diplomats and officials was actively promoted, and more than half of those who participated were women.

80. Senior officials from international organizations such as the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), national and foreign experts, representatives of non-governmental organizations, and diplomats with expertise in disarmament also took part in the summer school.

81. The 2022 version of this national capacity-building programme is scheduled to take place from 11 to 15 July 2022 in Mexico City.

82. Similarly, within the framework of the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly, on 7 December 2021 Mexico co-organized with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs a webinar entitled “Disarmament and non-proliferation education: 20 years of the United Nations study and looking ahead”, to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the resolution “United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education”, and to urge more delegations to contribute to the Secretary-General’s report on the study.

83. The Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations has also maintained its Youth Delegate Programme, in which youth delegates participate specifically in the consideration of disarmament and non-proliferation issues during the work of the First Committee of the General Assembly.

84. Furthermore, in accordance with constitutional provisions on foreign policy, the education programmes of the Mexican armed forces include nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in the curriculum. The Matías Romero Institute (the diplomatic academy of Mexico) offers disarmament and non-proliferation training programmes for Mexican diplomats and military and naval graduates, as well as for federal government officials who will be working with Mexican diplomatic missions abroad.

85. In collaboration with institutions of higher education in Mexico and organized civil society, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs promotes the organization of forums and discussions on the relevance of nuclear disarmament and the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons.

86. Mexico will continue to call upon all Governments to take measures to promote disarmament and non-proliferation education, based on the conviction that all States have the possibility and the duty to contribute to this cause in order ensure our common future.

III. Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons

87. Mexico complies with all its non-proliferation obligations as a non-nuclear-weapon State, in strict compliance with articles I, II and III of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

88. Mexico has been an unrelenting advocate for universal adherence to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. In various forums, including bilaterally whenever possible, it has urged States that are not yet parties to adhere to the Treaty promptly and without conditions and to refrain from taking measures that might negatively affect compliance with and implementation of the Treaty.

89. In that context, Mexico has indicated that export or strategic trade controls, as well as comprehensive safeguards, are key elements of the non-proliferation regime under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and are fundamental to cooperation for the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Safeguards

90. Mexico maintains and implements a safeguards agreement with IAEA, thereby preserving its commitment to the non-proliferation regime.

91. Mexico participates actively in the Agency's annual General Conferences. It is currently a member of the Board of Governors for the 2021–2022 period.

92. Mexico is also committed to the security of nuclear materials and international cooperation, and has therefore implemented recommendations and best practices in this area. On 17 May 2018, Mexico acceded to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management. This is a clear example of how Mexico is taking responsibility for planning and implementing effective practices, by promoting a national radioactive waste management policy in line with the highest international standards, as well as a culture of nuclear safety.

93. Domestically, security measures for nuclear and radioactive materials were strengthened with the publication, in April 2017, of the Federal Regulation for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material.

94. Mexico has also made progress in consolidating an integrated nuclear security support plan. This will allow for an effective national strategy against attacks on its nuclear facilities.

95. In March 2018, the National Institute for Nuclear Research of Mexico obtained International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 29990: 2010 certification on learning services for non-formal education and training. National and regional courses on the management of nuclear security of radioactive sources and transport have been conducted for Latin American and Caribbean countries, as well as for public institutions and private companies in Mexico.

96. In order to strengthen the sharing of experience and discuss best practices for safe and sustainable nuclear power production, Mexico, together with IAEA, has organized regional courses on the proper planning and financial optimization of nuclear projects; the evaluation of nuclear power systems; the regulatory improvement of nuclear power plant ageing programmes; improved inspection of the transport of radioactive material; the physical protection of nuclear facilities; emergency management; and leadership in nuclear and radiation safety. These courses have benefited Mexican experts as well as experts from Latin American and Caribbean countries and other regions.

Strategic trade controls

97. Mexico recognizes that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery represents a threat to international peace and security, in part due to the likelihood of their acquisition and use by non-State actors.

98. Mexico therefore supports the implementation of global non-proliferation efforts, in particular the effective implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which establishes the basis for preventing the proliferation and diversion of dual-use materials, goods and technologies; the effective implementation of Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#), as well as the implementation of the guidelines of the multilateral strategic trade control regimes.

99. Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) plays an essential role in preventing nuclear, chemical and biological material from being used by non-State actors to produce weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery or related materials.

100. Mexico was the fourteenth State to submit, in 2014, a national action plan for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), in accordance with the objectives set out in the national development plan for 2013–2018 and with Security Council resolution 1977 (2011). The plan is based on four pillars: legislative harmonization, operational measures (implementation), strengthening of cooperation and national capacity-building activities. Since the adoption of its national plan, Mexico has successfully carried out various activities under all four pillars.

101. In addition, in October 2020 Mexico sent information to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) to update its national implementation matrix.

102. As a testament to its commitment and in accordance with its national position in favour of disarmament and non-proliferation, while serving as a non-permanent member of the Security Council, Mexico assumed the position of Chair of the 1540 Committee in January 2021. Mexico seeks to contribute to the effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), given the current challenges facing the international community, in order to achieve a more peaceful and secure world.

103. During its tenure as Chair of the 1540 Committee, Mexico has sought to adapt the regime to the current needs of Member States, based on an analysis of emerging non-proliferation challenges. Mexico has also promoted a regional approach in the Committee's activities and the recognition of the individual characteristics of some Member States that do not have nuclear, chemical or biological industries.

104. Furthermore, in order to ensure that exports of nuclear material and sensitive technology do not contribute directly or indirectly to the manufacture of nuclear weapons, other nuclear explosive devices or their means of delivery, since 2014 Mexico has been a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies.

105. Reaffirming the commitments assumed by Mexico in the areas of arms control, disarmament and the prevention of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, as well as its support for multilateral treaties and strategic trade control regimes aimed at preventing the proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, Mexico has adopted various domestic legal regulations that allow full compliance with its commitments.

106. In particular, Mexico established an Export Control Committee. This interministerial body coordinates the actions of the different Mexican governmental agencies in charge of implementing export control regimes, determines the list of dual-use goods that require a licence for export and coordinates inter-institutional efforts to make risk assessments, taking into account the use and final destination of the goods.

Other actions

107. Mexico has participated in all the nuclear security summits. During the fourth summit (last meeting), held in Washington, D.C., on 31 March and 1 April 2016, Mexico endorsed the gift basket presented by the United States entitled "Sustaining Action to Strengthen Global Nuclear Security", which proposed the establishment of a contact group to discuss and promote nuclear security issues. This group has held 11 meetings and Mexico has participated in all of them.

108. Mexico also participates actively in the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction, an international initiative that seeks to prevent the proliferation of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons and related materials.

109. It should be noted that, in order to facilitate the implementation of the obligations arising from the international instruments that Mexico has signed, as well as the decisions emanating from international organizations and strategic trade regimes of which it is part, since 2019 the federal executive branch has been preparing a consolidated draft of a federal law on non-proliferation. This draft legislation is currently under final review before being submitted to the legislative branch for its consideration.

IV. Peaceful uses of nuclear energy

110. In accordance with article IV of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Mexico recognizes and reaffirms the inalienable right of all States to develop and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Mexico also reiterates that this right must be supervised by IAEA. For this reason, Mexico has signed a safeguards agreement with the Agency, thereby preserving its commitment to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

111. Mexico recognizes the usefulness of the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology in facing important global challenges, such as ensuring food security, treating diseases and combating climate change by monitoring greenhouse gas emissions and changes in the biosphere, oceans and ecosystems, as well as in mitigating the sources of greenhouse gas emissions from energy production.

112. Mexico recognizes the contribution of the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology to help States implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly in the areas of health, nutrition, agriculture, water resource management, environment and energy.

113. IAEA is the main intergovernmental forum for technical and scientific cooperation in the use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, which is why our country promotes its continuous strengthening.

114. Mexico reiterates the obligation of all States to promote transparency and certainty with respect to the activities included in their nuclear programmes. Iran, Syria and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will therefore continue to be urged to cooperate fully with IAEA in order to contribute to transparency and resolve concerns about their nuclear programmes.

115. IAEA plays a central role in monitoring the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and in reporting on nuclear security in the Middle East and in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The most essential work of IAEA includes its provision of international safeguards and cooperation to prevent the misuse of nuclear technology, facilities, equipment and radioactive materials, as well as its promotion of nuclear safety, including through radiation protection standards.

116. In addition, Mexico calls for the work of IAEA to be carried out with a balanced approach between cooperation, safety and verification activities, which constitute the Agency's three main areas of focus.

117. For more than 60 years, Mexico has used nuclear technology for the benefit of its society. Over the past 30 years, this technology has contributed to clean, economical and sustainable electricity production. Nuclear energy is considered clean

energy, and in Mexico it covers 4 per cent of the country's energy consumption, with two reactors at the Laguna Verde nuclear power plant.

118. The cooperation that Mexico has maintained with IAEA has strengthened the country's nuclear sector, both in the planning, operation and regulation of nuclear energy, and in research. This has contributed to meeting the country's development needs and complying with international treaties and programmes in the areas of nuclear safety, safeguards, security, and nuclear and radiological emergencies.

119. Mexico attaches great importance to safety and security and has therefore continued its efforts to establish an effective and sustainable national safety and security system.

120. The IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme is one of the main instruments for underpinning the non-proliferation and disarmament regime of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. In this regard, Mexico attaches great importance to the Programme and to all those mechanisms that allow for the optimal use of the resources allocated to it, especially in terms of giving greater relevance to projects to be developed in the areas of human health, food, agriculture and the use of nuclear technology for electricity generation.

121. Mexico actively promotes technical cooperation among developing countries in the Latin American and the Caribbean. It therefore continues to support the activities promoted by IAEA in regional cooperation forums such as the Regional Cooperation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean, which seeks to ensure that the States where nuclear science and technology for peaceful uses is most highly developed support the efforts of States that are relatively less developed in this area.

122. The need for safety of people, workers and the environment has guided the efforts of Mexico to maintain high standards in the peaceful use of nuclear science and technology.

123. Mexico continues to explore other ways to take full advantage of the opportunities for cooperation offered by IAEA through its Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy, as well as mechanisms to take full advantage of the Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC) initiative to detect and control zoonotic diseases.
