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General and complete disarmament

Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation

Report of the Secretary-General

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	2
II. Replies received from Governments	2
Côte d'Ivoire	2
Cuba	8
El Salvador	9
Guatemala	10
India	10
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	12
Mexico	13
Morocco	17
Portugal	18
Qatar	19
Serbia	20

* [A/79/50](#).



I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in paragraph 8 of its resolution [78/26](#) on the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the issue of the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation and to submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its seventy-ninth session.
2. Pursuant to that request, a note verbale was sent to Member States on 8 February 2024 inviting them to provide information on the subject. The replies received are set out in section II below. Any views received after 31 May 2024 will be posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs (<https://disarmament.unoda.org>) in the language of submission only. No addenda will be issued.

II. Replies received from Governments

Côte d'Ivoire

[Original: French]
[31 May 2024]

The Government of Côte d'Ivoire has placed inter-State cooperation and collaboration at the heart of its strategies as part of its disarmament and non-proliferation policy. Promoting multilateralism is thus a key approach of its security and subregional peace policy. This approach can be broken down into seven areas:

I. International conventions and instruments

Côte d'Ivoire is a party to several conventions and other international instruments dealing with disarmament and non-proliferation, including the following:

- Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Convention), ratified on 30 June 2000
- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials, ratified on 14 June 2006
- United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, ratified on 25 October 2012
- Convention on Cluster Munitions, ratified on 12 March 2012
- Arms Trade Treaty, ratified on 26 February 2015

II. Building capacities

Côte d'Ivoire regularly organizes or participates in capacity-building sessions initiated by various institutions on various topics of interest in the area of non-proliferation. These include, but are not limited to the following:

- First regional planning meeting on building the capacities of law enforcement agencies to detect illicit cross-border firearms trafficking, organized by the National Commission to Combat the Proliferation and Illegal Movement of Small Arms and Light Weapons in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), held in Grand-Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire, on 20 and 21 June 2019

- Training workshop on the effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty, held in Geneva from 8 to 13 April 2017
- Workshop for African experts on physical stockpile management, held in Ethiopia in October 2017
- Workshop to build the capacities of African actors in the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty, held in Togo in December 2017
- Development of a road map together with Expertise France as part of the European Union project to raise awareness of the Arms Trade Treaty, in Abidjan, March 2018
- Workshop on the potential use of new technologies to secure small arms and light weapons and their ammunition to meet the needs of the region, organized by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa as part of the implementation of the project on physical security and stockpile management in the Sahel region, held in Ouagadougou from 28 to 30 August 2018
- Capacity-building workshop for national commissions to combat the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the West African Economic and Monetary Union area, held in Lomé from 27 to 29 November 2018
- Capacity-building training on the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty, held in Dakar from 10 to 14 December 2018
- Training of Ivorian forces in using the INTERPOL Illicit Arms Records and Tracing Management System (iARMS), provided by UNODC in Grand-Bassam in 2020
- Regional training workshop on weapons destruction by cutting and electronic registration of weapons, bringing together delegations of the Ivorian defence and security forces and the national commissions of all ECOWAS member countries at the Abidjan Police School from 26 to 30 April 2021, organized by the National Commission to Combat the Illicit Proliferation and Illegal Movement of Small Arms and Light Weapons in collaboration with the ECOWAS Small Arms Division
- Capacity-building workshop for law officers and judicial police officers on the provisions of the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials and the Arms Trade Treaty, held in Yamoussoukro on 22 and 23 June 2022
- Awareness-raising workshop for senators on the preliminary draft law on arms and ammunition and the provisions of the Arms Trade Treaty, held in Yamoussoukro on 20 and 21 June 2022
- Training on the procedure for seeking exemptions to the ECOWAS Convention, organized by the National Commission to Combat the Illicit Proliferation and Illegal Movement of Small Arms and Light Weapons, held in Abidjan on 22 and 23 March 2023, in collaboration with the ECOWAS Commission
- Workshop to formulate and develop course modules for military and paramilitary training schools and centres, held in Abidjan on 9 and 10 March 2023
- Regional training on physical security and the management of weapons and ammunition stockpiles, provided in Monrovia from 13 to 17 March 2023
- Instructor training course on countering improvised explosive devices, held in Ouidah, Benin, from 20 March to 7 April 2023

- Regional training of trainers workshop on the Arms Trade Treaty, held in Abidjan from 24 to 28 April 2023
- Trilateral workshop on detection, recognition, response and investigation of incidents related to improvised explosive devices used by terrorist groups, held in Jacqueville, Côte d'Ivoire, from 23 to 26 May 2023
- Training on advanced conventional weapons and private military companies in Africa organized by the HALO Trust, held in Yamoussoukro on 30 and 31 August 2023
- Capacity-building workshop for ECOWAS States and Cameroon on reporting under the Arms Trade Treaty, held in Grand-Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire, from 7 to 9 November 2023
- Workshop on preventing violent extremism, radicalization and terrorism, organized by the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre and held in Accra from 12 to 24 November 2023
- Regional meeting on preventing and combating the acquisition and use of improvised explosive devices by terrorist groups in West Africa, held in Lomé from 20 to 22 June 2023
- Training workshop for Ivorian customs officers on small arms and light weapons organized by the World Customs Organization, held in Abidjan from 27 to 30 June 2023
- Workshop to design a training module on preventing violent extremism, radicalization and the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, held in Accra from 28 to 30 August 2023

III. Sharing experiences (study trips)

In Côte d'Ivoire, multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation is also promoted through the participation or organization of meetings to share experiences on various aspects relating to this field. The following activities can be included in this category:

- Regional conference on small arms and light weapons in Central Africa, held in Bangui from 3 to 6 April 2018
- Mission of the Group for Research and Information on Peace and Security to Côte d'Ivoire in April 2018 to study the country's experience in controlling arms transfers and combating illicit trafficking and diversion of arms
- Sharing of information and experiences relating to strategies and measures to combat small arms and light weapons during a visit by the delegation of the National Commission of the Niger for the Collection and Control of Illicit Arms, from 2 to 5 May 2018
- Conference of the network of African parliamentarians of defence and security committees, held in Abidjan on 27 and 28 June 2019, followed by a visit to an armoury rehabilitated by the National Commission to Combat the Proliferation and Illegal Movement of Small Arms and Light Weapons at the Akouédo camp
- Sharing of arms control experience in the Western Balkans and Germany with the national commissions of the ECOWAS region during a visit organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) from 9 to 13 September 2019

- Regional workshop on the establishment of a national control list for the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty in ECOWAS member States, held in Lomé from 23 January to 3 February 2023
- Sharing of information and experiences relating to combating small arms and light weapons during a visit by the delegation of the Security and Defence Commission of the Parliament of the Niger in September 2022
- Participation in the workshop for sharing experiences in the implementation of the second component of the Organized Crime: West African Response to Trafficking project on small arms and light weapons control, held in Monrovia from 7 to 10 February 2023

IV. Participating in international conferences

The regular participation of Côte d'Ivoire in international conferences on arms control issues helps to promote the search for concerted solutions to disarmament and non-proliferation issues. In this context, Côte d'Ivoire took part in the following meetings:

- Twentieth International Meeting of National Mine Action Programme Directors and United Nations Advisers, held in Switzerland in February 2017
- Third Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, held in Switzerland in August 2017. Preparatory meetings on the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty, held in Switzerland in June 2017
- Meeting on the monitoring of firearms trafficking flows and data analysis, held in Ethiopia in September 2017
- Ninth Marrakech Security Forum, held in Marrakech, Morocco, on 9 and 10 February 2018
- Third United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in 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, held in New York from 18 to 29 June 2018
- Fourth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, held in Tokyo from 20 to 24 August 2018
- Meeting of Arms Trade Treaty experts, held in Paris from 4 to 11 October 2018
- Ninth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, held in Vienna from 13 to 20 October 2018
- Fifth Dakar International Forum on Peace and Security in Africa, held in Dakar from 4 to 7 November 2018
- Tenth Marrakech Security Forum, on the theme “Emerging threats and new risks of conflict in Africa”, held in Marrakech, Morocco, on 9 and 10 February 2019
- Wilton Park conference on the theme “Addressing illicit trafficking and access to firearms in the context of organized crime and terrorism”, organized by Wilton Park, a British government agency, in partnership with UNODC, held in Sussex, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, from 23 to 26 January 2019
- Fifth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, held in Geneva from 24 to 31 August 2019
- Meeting of national commissions for small arms and light weapons in West Africa, held in Cotonou, Benin, on 25 and 26 November 2020, with the aims of

examining and adopting the draft plan of action (2021–2025) for the implementation of the ECOWAS Convention, and reviewing progress reports on national and regional efforts to control small arms and light weapons

- Regional conference to address the humanitarian consequences caused by improvised anti-personnel mines in the Ottawa Convention, held in Accra from 13 to 15 February 2024
- Ninth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, held in Geneva from 21 to 25 August 2023
- Regional seminar on preventing violent extremism, radicalization and the proliferation of light weapons in the Sahel and coastal countries of West Africa, held in Lomé on 21 and 22 February 2024
- First preparatory meeting of the Tenth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, held in Geneva from 20 to 22 February 2024
- Monrovia workshop to support universalizing the effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty in Africa, held in Monrovia from 18 to 21 March 2024
- Regional preparatory meeting of West and Central Africa for the Fourth United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in 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, held in Lomé from 29 February to 1 March 2024

V. Organizing international conferences

The promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation is also illustrated by the organization by Côte d'Ivoire, and the holding on its soil, of international meetings on various arms control issues. The following activities can be mentioned:

- Regional workshop on humanitarian disarmament, held in Abidjan from 22 to 24 June 2015
- Regional training workshop on physical security and stockpile management and police and judicial cooperation for actors from ECOWAS member countries, held from 23 to 26 March 2021 in Abidjan
- Regional training workshop on weapons destruction by cutting and electronic registration of weapons for Ivorian forces and the national commissions of ECOWAS member countries, organized in collaboration with the ECOWAS Small Arms Division and held in Abidjan from 26 to 30 April 2021
- Meeting of government experts to adopt the legal framework for harmonizing the implementation of the ECOWAS Convention and the Arms Trade Treaty, held in Abidjan from 15 to 17 September 2021

VI. Mobilizing resources

As part of the implementation of the national policy to combat the proliferation and illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons, several projects have received support under agreements signed with various partners.

These projects are as follows:

- Small arms and light weapons project of the German Agency for International Cooperation to support efforts to combat proliferation and arms control in Côte d'Ivoire, funded by the Federal Republic of Germany, for the period 2012–2016

- Japan-UNDP project: first and second phases of the programme to support efforts to combat the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and for community security, funded by Japan, for the period 2012–2017
- ECOWAS-European Union small arms and light weapons project to support small arms and light weapons control and community disarmament for the period 2014–2017
- Project of the non-governmental organization COGINTA and the European Union to support efforts to combat the proliferation and illegal movement of small arms and light weapons, funded by the European Union, for the period 2018–2021
- Cross-border projects involving Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Ghana, carried out under the Organized Crime: West African Response to Trafficking project and in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany, relating to awareness-raising and the voluntary laying down of arms by border communities in northern and eastern Côte d'Ivoire, funded by the European Union and Germany, for the period 2020–2022

VII. Achieving synergies in the implementation of international treaties and agreements

Synergies are one the keys to success in implementing international treaties and agreements. Côte d'Ivoire has taken part in a number of meetings in this regard:

- Annual meeting of the International Network for Nuclear Security Training and Support Centres, held in Vienna in February 2017
- Regional workshop on the gathering, analysis and sharing of intelligence in combating transnational organized crime, held in Senegal in October 2017
- Second meeting of the coordination platform for the African Union-Germany project to strengthen small arms control, physical security and stockpile management in the Sahel, held in Ethiopia in October 2017
- Consultations on combating the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, held in Niamey in November 2017
- Meeting of national commissions for small arms and light weapons to assess the status of implementation of the ECOWAS Convention, held in Abuja on 24 and 25 January 2018
- Coordination meeting for personnel responsible for physical security and the management of weapons and ammunition stockpiles in ECOWAS member States, held in Abidjan on 7 and 8 June 2018
- Participation of Côte d'Ivoire in the 2019, 2020 and 2021 phases of Operation KAFO, a cross-border operation to address illicit firearms trafficking on the borders between Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali, organized by the National Commission to Combat the Proliferation and Illegal Movement of Small Arms and Light Weapons with the support of UNODC
- Subregional seminar on the theme “Combating missile proliferation: a facet of the non-proliferation and disarmament regime”, organized by the Fondation pour la recherche stratégique in collaboration with the European External Action Service and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, held in Lomé on 4 February 2019
- Regional conference on inter-institutional collaboration in combating jihadist and extremist threats in West Africa and the Sahel, held in Kumasi, Ghana, from

21 to 23 August 2019, organized by the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre with the support of Norway

- Review meeting on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the ECOWAS Convention, held in Niamey on 26 and 27 September 2019
- Coordination meeting of national commissions for small arms and light weapons of ECOWAS member States, followed by a meeting to analyse and validate the small arms and light weapons mapping study, held in Monrovia from 25 to 29 November 2019
- Organization, in collaboration with COGINTA and the European Union, of a regional workshop on physical security, stockpile management and judicial cooperation, bringing together delegations from ECOWAS member countries, held in Abidjan from 23 to 26 March 2021
- Participation in the subregional inter-agency coordination exercise on the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty, conducted in Dakar on 4 and 5 November 2021
- Annual coordination meeting of national commissions to combat the proliferation and illegal movement of small arms and light weapons of ECOWAS member States, held in Dakar from 13 to 15 December 2021
- National baseline assessment of arms and ammunition management and related personnel from the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, conducted in Abidjan from 14 to 17 March 2023

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[29 April 2024]

Multilateralism is the basic principle for negotiating agreements to address the threats and challenges that affect all members of the international community in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

Cuba emphasizes that multilateral decision-making processes within the United Nations must strictly respect the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. Multilaterally agreed solutions are the only effective way to safeguard international peace and security in international agreements.

Some States are persistent in their efforts to weaken multilateralism, including by failing to meet international legal obligations, imposing unilateral coercive measures and promoting exclusionary events or processes to address issues of global interest, including in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

Cuba notes with concern the continuing and gradual erosion of multilateralism in arms regulation, non-proliferation and disarmament. It recognizes that the abrogation of major instruments of the arms control and non-proliferation architecture is a product of Member States taking unilateral measures to resolve their security concerns, which jeopardizes international peace and security and undermines confidence in the international security system, as well as the foundations of the United Nations itself.

Cuba considers that the contradictions and threats with regard to disarmament and non-proliferation, which stem from the continued existence of nuclear weapons and their development and modernization, security policies and military doctrines based on nuclear deterrence, the emergence of new and modern lethal weapons and plans to militarize outer space and cyberspace, among other current challenges,

require multilateral efforts to achieve negotiated and peaceful solutions, under Article 33 of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Government of Cuba is convinced that the members of the Conference on Disarmament have the capacity to simultaneously negotiate a legally binding instrument banning the arms race in outer space; another that would offer security assurances to States that, like Cuba, are not nuclear-weapon States; and a third that would ban the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other similar devices.

The total elimination of nuclear weapons in a transparent, verifiable and irreversible manner is and must remain the highest priority in the area of disarmament; it is the only guarantee against the use or threat of use of these weapons. To that end, Cuba will continue to promote the universalization of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Cuba is proud to be the fifth State to have ratified this Treaty, to be part of the first nuclear-weapon-free zone in a densely populated part of the planet, and, on its tenth anniversary, to belong to the first region in the world to be proclaimed a zone of peace.

In particular, a renewed commitment is needed to make progress on legally binding, multilaterally agreed initiatives to prohibit the militarization of outer space and cyberspace and the development of lethal autonomous weapons.

There is a need for continued progress, through coordinated action, on arms regulation, non-proliferation and disarmament on the basis of universal, multilateral, non-discriminatory and transparent negotiations at the United Nations, with a view to achieving general and complete disarmament under strict international control.

Cuba endorses the commitment of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to promote, preserve, revitalize and strengthen multilateralism and the multilateral decision-making process through the United Nations, by strictly adhering to its Charter and international law, with the aim of creating a just and equitable world order.

Cuba, as a founding Member of the United Nations, has demonstrated and reaffirms its commitment to the promotion, preservation and strengthening of multilateralism in international relations.

El Salvador

[Original: Spanish]
[30 April 2024]

With regard to the fulfilment of obligations to the United Nations pursuant to General Assembly resolution [77/48](#), entitled “Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation”, the Armed Forces of El Salvador are committed to cooperating on, promoting and achieving disarmament and non-proliferation with the objective of maintaining peace and international security. Furthermore, El Salvador was selected, in 2017, as a participant in the small arms and light weapons threat reduction project sponsored by the United States Department of State, through its Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement; the non-governmental organization HALO Trust was appointed to work with the Armed Forces of El Salvador in that regard.

In 2023, the Directorate of Logistics of the Ministry of Defence, in coordination with the Office of the Attorney General and the National Civil Police, operating at the facilities of the firm Corinca, destroyed 2,447 firearms, in compliance with the Act for the Control and Regulation of Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Related Articles.

Guatemala

[Original: Spanish]
[30 May 2024]

Guatemala maintains a principled position in favour of complete, irreversible and transparent nuclear disarmament within clearly established time frames. Accordingly, any nuclear test or threat of use of force with such weapons that threatens the continuity of life on Earth has been condemned at various multilateral forums. The nuclear-weapon States have also been called upon to comply with their obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons by eliminating nuclear weapons as part of their security and defence policies, and to cease pursuing qualitative improvements to their nuclear arsenal and developing new types of such weapons.

India

[Original: English]
[24 May 2024]

Effective multilateralism is a sine qua non for fostering international peace and security and addressing the contemporary challenges to disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic highlighted that strengthened multilateralism, enhanced international cooperation and a stronger United Nations are the need of the hour.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his address to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session, recalled that if the United Nations is to keep itself relevant, it must improve its effectiveness and increase its reliability. India, as a non-permanent member of the Security Council for the period 2021–2022, had the honor of presiding over the Council presidency twice. During its presidency, India drew the attention of the world to important issues affecting international peace and security, including maritime security, peacekeeping and counterterrorism. In the context of current geopolitical developments, India strongly believes that every effort must be made to advance multilateralism in the area of disarmament to make a meaningful contribution to global peace and security.

India's nuclear policy history provides perspective on its relentless advocacy for multilateral efforts towards global general and complete disarmament. As early as 1953, India's efforts led to the inclusion, in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 715 (VIII), of an affirmation of its "earnest desire to reach agreement as early as possible on a comprehensive and coordinated plan, under international control, for the regulation, limitation and reduction of all armed forces and all armaments, for the elimination and prohibition of atomic, hydrogen, bacterial, chemical and all such other weapons of war and mass destruction, and for the attainment of these ends through effective measures".

India's conviction that a nuclear-weapons-free world is safer for all world nations is as strong today as it was in 1954, when India became the first State in the world to make a call for a "standstill agreement" to ban nuclear testing pending progress towards a comprehensive disarmament agreement. Recognizing early on that a treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons is not an end in itself but only a means to an end, which is the achievement of general and complete disarmament, in 1965, India, along with seven other States of the Non-Aligned Movement in the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament, presented a joint memorandum on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, which called for non-proliferation efforts to be coupled with or followed by tangible steps to halt the

nuclear arms race and to limit, reduce and eliminate the stocks of nuclear weapons and the means of their delivery.

In 1982, India called for a “nuclear freeze” – a prohibition of the production of fissile materials for weapons and of nuclear weapons and related delivery systems. India’s action plan for a nuclear-weapon-free and non-violent world order, presented at the United Nations in 1988, called for the attainment of the goal of nuclear disarmament in a time-bound and phased manner. In 1996, India, along with the Group of 21, presented a programme of action to the Conference on Disarmament for the elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified time frame. India has been consistent in its support for global, verifiable and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament.

India strongly believes that this can be achieved in a time-bound manner through a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed global and non-discriminatory multilateral framework. India’s working paper presented to the Conference on Disarmament in 2007, [CD/1816](#), precisely sums up this approach through a number of proposals that remain relevant to date. In line with our vision, India has supported the negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer and use or threat of use, and to provide for their destruction, as also supported by the Non-Aligned Movement.

As the world’s single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, as mandated by the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, the Conference on Disarmament should demonstrate the requisite political will to agree on a comprehensive and balanced programme of work and to commence negotiations on legally binding instruments on the core items on its agenda. India was pleased to preside over the Conference on Disarmament, as its first Presidency, in 2024.

Without prejudice to the priority we attach to disarmament, India looks forward to negotiations commencing immediately at the Conference on Disarmament on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices based on [CD/1299](#) and the mandate contained therein. Acknowledging the utility of technical work on nuclear disarmament verification, as well as its value as an essential element of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons, India participated in the meetings of the Group of Governmental Experts to consider the role of verification in advancing nuclear disarmament.

India is pleased that the Disarmament Commission, a vital part of the disarmament triad, which also comprises the Conference on Disarmament and the First Committee of the General Assembly, successfully concluded its current cycle, with the adoption of a report by consensus. As the main deliberative body within the United Nations on disarmament issues, the Commission’s role as a platform for dialogue and cooperation, bringing together universal membership of all Member States, is significant.

India’s annual resolutions at the General Assembly, namely on the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons and on reducing nuclear danger, which enjoy the support of the majority of Member States, have consistently highlighted the need for the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations to reach agreement on an international convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and urgent steps to reduce the risks of unintentional and accidental use of nuclear weapons, respectively.

India is cognizant of the need for enhanced international cooperation and for the promotion of peaceful uses of science and technology through technology transfer,

the sharing of information and the exchange of equipment and materials. Its annual resolution on the role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament, adopted by consensus, calls upon Member States to remain vigilant in understanding new and emerging developments in science and technology that could affect international security. Through its annual consensus General Assembly resolution on measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, India has been drawing the attention of the world to these threats and the need to strengthen international cooperation to address them.

As a major spacefaring nation and developing country, India is committed to maintaining outer space as an ever-expanding frontier for cooperative endeavours of all spacefaring nations. India continues to support substantive consideration of the prevention of an arms race in outer space within the multilateral framework of the United Nations. We remain committed to negotiation of a legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, to be negotiated in the Conference on Disarmament.

India is a party to various disarmament conventions and treaties, including the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction; the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction; the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects; and the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

Besides proactively pursuing disarmament efforts at the Conference on Disarmament, the Disarmament Commission and the First Committee, India, as a responsible member of various multilateral export control regimes and with its stringent national export controls, contributes to advancing common objectives of non-proliferation.

India attaches great priority to the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects as an important consensus-based multilateral instrument on small arms and light weapons.

India is committed to an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful information and communications technology (ICT) environment and underlines that the United Nations should continue to play a leading role in promoting dialogue on the use of ICT by States. India appreciates the ongoing work in the open-ended working group on the security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025 and is working closely with other members of the Working Group to deliver practical international cooperation measures. India continues to highlight the role of capacity-building as being of vital importance in ensuring ICT security. Taking forward the progress on ICT discussions, India has proposed the establishment of a global cybersecurity cooperation portal that uses an integrated approach of combining other relevant subportals for a broader understanding of the latest developments in cyberspace.

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

[Original: English]
[20 May 2024]

Nuclear weapons pose the greatest threat to human security, and nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of all nuclear weapons is the highest priority for overcoming this threat and the only guarantee against the use or threat of use of

nuclear weapons. The Islamic Republic of Iran expresses deep concern at the continued lack of progress on nuclear disarmament, especially in the Conference on Disarmament.

Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is an essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. Nuclear disarmament forms one of the fundamental pillars of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. In the course of the negotiations leading to the conclusion of the Treaty, an integrated and balanced package of rights and obligations was introduced, according to which non-nuclear weapon States undertake not to acquire nuclear weapons and to place their facilities under safeguards agreements. In return, the nuclear-weapon States undertake not to transfer and develop nuclear weapons and commit themselves to practical steps towards nuclear disarmament.

The continued deadlock over multilateral negotiation on disarmament coupled with the lack of any bilateral commitment by major nuclear-weapon States on nuclear disarmament is a matter of high concern. We strongly believe that the multilateral decision-making process of the United Nations, in strict observance of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, is the only viable mechanism for preventing the international system from becoming a mechanism for the imposition and legitimization of unilateral measures contrary to the multipolar, just and equitable world order we need.

Practice has shown that the goals of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation cannot be achieved through unilateral measures. Unilateral measures and bilateral or regional agreements on disarmament and non-proliferation are no substitute for the scope and meaning of agreements reached through multilateral negotiations. Multilateralism must be the core principle underpinning all negotiations on disarmament and non-proliferation.

Finally, as a State Member of the United Nations and a State party to numerous treaties on disarmament and non-proliferation, the Islamic Republic of Iran reaffirms its commitment to the promotion, preservation and strengthening of multilateralism, and reiterates the absolute validity of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as its determination to promote multilateralism as a core principle underpinning negotiations on those matters, including the priority theme of nuclear disarmament.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[27 May 2024]

Mexico is submitting this document in compliance with General Assembly resolution 78/26, entitled “Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation”.

Faced with a complex international political context – with explicit and veiled threats of use of nuclear weapons by nuclear-weapon States, the modernization and expansion of stockpiles, a lack of dialogue among the nuclear-weapon States and polarization in disarmament forums – Mexico reaffirms that multilateralism is an essential and effective tool to achieve common solutions to common problems. Only through multilateral approaches is it possible to reach agreements and develop strategies to address the most pressing challenges.

International relations must be based on international law, respect and dialogue, never on intimidation, threats or the use of force. Mexico therefore places a high value on diplomacy and on respect for and the strengthening of the multilateral system. It

also reaffirms its commitment to the United Nations to work together to achieve and maintain international peace and security through the peaceful resolution of disputes.

In the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, it is troubling that the nuclear weapon States are reviewing their security policies and nuclear doctrines and are adopting a regrettable trend towards vertical proliferation and less transparency. Under the false premise of deterrence theory, reviews of nuclear security policies and doctrines re-evaluate the role and possible uses of nuclear weapons, establish increases in military expenditures, raise nuclear warhead ceilings and establish nuclear stockpile modernization programmes in a manner contrary to the spirit of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Against this backdrop, Mexico is firmly promoting full compliance with and the universality of international treaties on nuclear, chemical, biological and conventional disarmament. Each year, Mexico submits to the First Committee of the General Assembly, individually or jointly with like-minded States, draft resolutions aimed at promoting disarmament and non-proliferation.

The first resolution adopted in 1946 by the General Assembly reflected the will of the membership concerning “the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and of other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction”, recognizing the primary role of multilateral diplomacy in the elimination of nuclear weapons. This was confirmed at the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, at which the central role and primary responsibility of the United Nations in the sphere of disarmament was recognized.

Mexico is convinced – as were all the States that adopted the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament – that disarmament and arms limitation, particularly in the nuclear field, are essential in preventing the danger of nuclear war, strengthening international peace and security and promoting the economic and social advancement of all peoples.

Mexico calls on the nuclear-weapon States to endorse their joint statement of January 2022 on preventing nuclear war and avoiding arms races, in which they affirmed that “a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought”, and to comply urgently with international obligations and commitments regarding nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, in accordance with their primary responsibility to contribute to a safer world, in particular article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and to ensure progress during the work of the Treaty’s Preparatory Committee.

For Mexico, the recent entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in 2021 represents a turning point that reaffirms the illegality of nuclear weapon stockpiles, as it establishes a norm of international law that explicitly prohibits the development, manufacture and use of nuclear weapons. It is an unprecedented multilateral achievement.

Mexico also considers it essential to strengthen the regime for the prohibition of biological weapons, in particular to move towards an effective verification regime for the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction. That necessity does not detract from other proposals to strengthen national implementation, make cooperation and assistance effective, establish an international science and technology mechanism and promote measures to ensure biosafety and biosecurity.

In addition, Mexico believes it is important to recognize the differentiated impacts of both weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons on women and girls, as well as their impacts on the environment. In this regard, Mexico

considers that there must be a greater participation of women and youth in debates and agreements on disarmament and non-proliferation issues.

The main multilateral steps taken by Mexico between 2023 and 2024 to promote the implementation and universality of all legally binding instruments in the area of disarmament are as follows:

- Mexico participated in the work of the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the Eleventh Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (31 July to 11 August 2023, Vienna). It promoted progress on disarmament and insisted that the Treaty can only be strengthened and afforded credibility through its full implementation.
- It presided over the second Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (27 November to 1 December 2023, New York) at which the political declaration “Our commitment to upholding the prohibition of nuclear weapons and averting their catastrophic consequences” was adopted, containing strong messages on the prohibition of nuclear weapons.
- It participated in the 100th to 105th sessions of the Executive Council of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and in the twenty-sixth, twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth sessions of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (Chemical Weapons Convention), as well as in the Fifth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, where Mexico chaired the Committee of the Whole.
- It participated in the meetings of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean and was elected a member of the Agency’s Council for the period 2024–2027.
- It participated in meetings of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, including the Group of Governmental Experts on lethal autonomous weapons systems; in the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (the Ottawa Convention); and in meetings of the States parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, the Arms Trade Treaty and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.
- Alongside Brazil and Chile, Mexico took part in the first Latin American and Caribbean tripartite review exercise on biosafety and biosecurity, in line with Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#), under the auspices of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States (Mexico, 28 and 29 September 2023; Chile, 9 and 10 January 2024; and Brazil, 7 and 8 February 2024) to strengthen actions to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the diversion of dual-use goods and technologies and the prevention of terrorism.
- Mexico voluntarily submitted national reports, contributions and comments in compliance with the international treaties and instruments to which it is a party, as a confidence-building measure, while taking the opportunity to learn about the actions undertaken by Member States to further the cause of disarmament.

- In the context of the work of the First Committee at the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly, Mexico was a co-author or main sponsor of the following resolutions on disarmament issues:
 - Resolution 78/34: Humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons;
 - Resolution 78/35: Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons;
 - Resolution 78/41: Ethical imperatives for a nuclear-weapon-free world;
 - Resolution 78/66: Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty;
 - Resolution 78/42: Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments;
 - Resolution 78/241: Lethal autonomous weapons systems.
- Mexico participated in the following multilateral forums, groups and mechanisms in the areas of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control:
 - Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean;
 - New Agenda Coalition;
 - Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative;
 - Creating an Environment for Nuclear Disarmament;
 - Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction;
 - International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification;
 - Nuclear Suppliers Group;
 - Australia Group;
 - Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies.
- In accordance with its feminist foreign policy, Mexico has taken steps to ensure recognition of the differentiated impacts of both weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons on women and girls, as well as their impacts on the environment.
- It advocated for the inclusion of civil society voices, academic organizations and youth voices in multilateral forums.
- On 24 April each year, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs conducts information and dissemination activities among its staff in the country and abroad to commemorate the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace, emphasizing that multilateralism helps to consolidate peaceful relations and is a space for generating synergies to enhance plurality to benefit integral development.

Mexico reaffirms that all the peoples of the world have a vital interest in the success of disarmament negotiations and, consequently, all States have a duty to contribute to efforts in this field and, in particular, to participate in multilateral disarmament negotiations. Considering that the vital security interests of States are at stake, all should actively engage in and contribute to disarmament measures and multilateral negotiations in order to contribute to the maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security.

Morocco

[Original: French]

[26 April 2024]

The Kingdom of Morocco has chosen multilateralism and the United Nations as the ideal framework for developing international non-proliferation and disarmament instruments and strategies.

The Kingdom of Morocco is convinced that multilateral international cooperation in the area of disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is an efficient means of preventing and eliminating the threats to global peace and security posed by the spread of such weapons. This is why Morocco is fully committed to disarmament and combating proliferation, a commitment which is reflected in its accession to all the multilateral treaties that form the architecture of the multilateral non-proliferation and disarmament regime.

Morocco, which signed and ratified the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1968 and 1970 respectively, considers this instrument to be the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime, supports all efforts to preserve its credibility and promote its universality, and has continuously emphasized the crucial importance of compliance by all States parties with its provisions and obligations.

Morocco considers the Conference on Disarmament to be the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, and stresses that the conditions must be in place to enable it to fulfil its mandate.

Morocco considers that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) plays a central role in implementing the provisions of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Pursuant to the provisions of article III of the Treaty, Morocco concluded a comprehensive safeguards agreement with IAEA in 1973, which was supplemented in 2004 by the signature of an additional protocol that entered into force for Morocco in 2011. In 1984, Morocco concluded subsidiary arrangements specifying the manner in which the modalities set out in the agreement are to be applied.

As part of efforts to strengthen the legislative and regulatory framework of Morocco in accordance with its international legal commitments and for the purposes of compliance with international standards and recommendations, particularly those of IAEA, in 2014 Morocco enacted Act No. 142-12 on nuclear and radiological safety and security, establishing the Moroccan Agency for Nuclear and Radiological Safety and Security as a regulatory authority.

In 2023, Morocco finalized, in cooperation with IAEA, the revision and updating of its integrated national nuclear security support plan, which covers several areas relating to the legislative and regulatory framework; the prevention, detection and response to criminal acts, such as the theft or illegal transfer of radioactive sources; the sustainability of human and material resources; and the establishment of plan for the next three years.

Morocco, which remains committed to multilateralism for irreversible, transparent and verifiable nuclear disarmament, took part in the United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination, and, as Vice-President of the conference, voted in favour of the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, in accordance with its statements during the work of the First Committee of the General Assembly and in compliance with its commitments as a State party to all multilateral instruments relating to weapons of mass destruction.

As a stakeholder committed to achieving peace at the regional and international levels, Morocco has been working constantly to promote the entry into force and universality of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and is actively contributing to the work of its Preparatory Committee and to strengthening cooperation with its Provisional Technical Secretariat.

Morocco, which ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in 2002, jointly presided over the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in 2009, alongside France.

Portugal

[Original: English]

[28 May 2024]

Portugal believes that multilateralism is the most efficient way to attain the objective of peace and security maintenance at the international level, through disarmament and non-proliferation. Portugal is a party to the most relevant treaties and other international and regional mechanisms regarding the prevention and elimination of threats represented by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. Portugal also cooperates with international organizations that work in those areas.

Among the treaties and mechanisms mentioned above, Portugal is a party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction; the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare; the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, and its protocols (including amendments); the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction; the Convention on Cluster Munitions; the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction; the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty; the Convention on Nuclear Safety; and the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its Amendment.

Portugal also participates in the following export control regimes: the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Australia Group, the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Zangger Committee and the Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies.

Portugal has participated in outreach activities that are aimed at promoting the universalization of the main treaties and other legal instruments regarding disarmament and non-proliferation, especially with the Portuguese-speaking countries, through formal and informal contacts and initiatives such as seminars, workshops and meetings.

Following the efforts in the area of disarmament, at the multilateral level, Portugal was one of the first 50 States to ratify the Arms Trade Treaty, which is the first legal instrument on disarmament to be adopted by the United Nations in the past decade.

With reference to nuclear disarmament, the risk represented by those countries that possess and seek to develop nuclear weapons is recognized, especially in regions that are politically and socially instable, which represent a higher threat potential. Portugal defends the full implementation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, always

considering the importance of the existence of confidence-building measures among nuclear and non-nuclear States.

Portugal also hopes that the Conference on Disarmament will adopt, as soon as possible, a programme of work that includes supporting the negotiation of the treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. To that end, Portugal highlights the importance of the implementation of the 2010 action plan of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and believes that the effective implementation of that action plan includes ending the stalemate in the Conference on Disarmament. Portugal has also signed and ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and has proceeded with outreach activities regarding the universalization of the Treaty.

In the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, the Russian aggression against Ukraine marked the beginning of a new era for Europe and the world, compelling us to address the broader implications of the crisis and war itself. It affected in a decisive manner our security and defence architecture, which only responsible multilateralism can preserve and strengthen.

Qatar

[Original: Arabic]
[9 April 2024]

The State of Qatar is committed to strengthening multilateralism in the fields of disarmament and non-proliferation. It considers those issues to be inseparable and of cross-cutting importance for the negotiation of all relevant treaties and conventions.

The State of Qatar has acceded to various relevant treaties and conventions, namely, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

The State of Qatar affirms its commitment to strengthening multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation mechanisms and expresses its concern at the continuous decline in these mechanisms in recent years.

The State of Qatar calls for a review of the mechanisms of the review conferences of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, with a view to preserving the effectiveness and credibility of the Treaty.

The State of Qatar stresses the need to operationalize the Conference on Disarmament as the main multilateral negotiating forum for disarmament issues. Qatar participates in its meetings as an observer and looks forward to permanent membership therein.

The State of Qatar believes that nuclear non-proliferation agreements must be strengthened and that all parties must participate in that system. Past successes in the use of appropriate technology should be built on to verify compliance with nuclear non-proliferation agreements. The education system should be used to raise public awareness of the concepts of safeguards and non-proliferation.

With a view to contributing to international peace and security, Qatar organized the first Arab forum on arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation in 2022, and the second in 2023, in cooperation with the Department of Arms Control and Disarmament of the League of Arab States. The forum hosted a number of speakers, ambassadors and experts in the fields of disarmament and nuclear oversight.

The second forum addressed topics such as the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction and ways to achieve that goal; global trends in disarmament and nuclear security and safety; International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards; effects on the disarmament system and regional repercussions of the Russian-Ukrainian war; ways to enhance international cooperation under the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects; and contemporary challenges to agreements and treaties on weapons of mass destruction.

Serbia

[Original: English]
[30 May 2024]

Proceeding from its foreign policy goals and priorities, Serbia, a manufacturer and an exporter of military equipment and conventional arms of considerable repute, has adjusted its national system of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods control to the rules and standards of the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), as well as to its obligations under relevant Security Council resolutions and other international texts.

The overall issue of the manner and conditions under which it is possible to export, import, transport, transit, mediate and render services in respect of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods is regulated by the Law on the export and import of arms and military equipment (*Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia*, No. 107/2014), the Law on the export and import of dual-use goods (*Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia*, Nos. 95/2013 and 77/2019) and the relevant rules and regulations.

Under the relevant conventions and Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#), Serbia has consistently implemented international obligations in the field of non-proliferation, both of conventional arms and weapons of mass destruction.

A comprehensive, legally binding instrument has been established with the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty, ratified by Serbia in October 2014, which set common international standards regarding the transfer of arms and military equipment.

By adopting a relevant conclusion in April 2008, the Government decided that Serbia would accede to international export control regimes. So far, Serbia has become a fully-fledged member of the control regime of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, and negotiations are under way for it to accede to the Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies, which will contribute to a more extensive exchange of information on the risk of proliferation and improve the system of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
