

Conference on Disarmament

31 January 2024
English
Original: Spanish

Note verbale dated 20 September 2023 transmitted by the Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, which has the honour to attach a declaration entitled “Declaration of the States Members of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean on the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, 26 September 2023”

The Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and, in its capacity as coordinator of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean at the United Nations Office at Geneva, kindly requests that the Declaration of the States Members of the Agency be made an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distributed to its members.

To this end, the Permanent Mission submits the aforementioned declaration in Spanish and English.

The Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament its assurances of its highest consideration.



Annex

Declaration of the States Members of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean on the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (26 September 2023)

1. The States members of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, on the occasion of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, 26 September 2023, established by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/32 of 2013:¹
2. Reiterate their concern over the existence of more than 12,000 nuclear weapons² that pose an unacceptable threat to the future of humanity, a danger that is becoming more serious by the day.
3. Recall that this concern is reflected in numerous General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 1 (I) of 24 January 1946,³ the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament of 1978,⁴ the preamble to the Treaty of Tlatelolco of 1967, the preamble to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of 1968 and the preamble to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons of 2017.
4. Demand that nuclear weapons not be used again, under any circumstances or by any actor, a demand that can be met only by the prohibition and the subsequent transparent, verifiable and irreversible elimination of all nuclear weapons.
5. Express alarm and dismay in view of the threats of use of nuclear weapons, the higher alert on which nuclear forces have been placed and the increasingly strident nuclear rhetoric. Emphasize that any use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is a violation of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations. Deplore unequivocally any and all nuclear threats, whether explicit or implicit and regardless of the circumstances.
6. Reiterate the call for all States, the nuclear-weapon States in particular, to eliminate the role played by nuclear weapons in their security and defence doctrines and policies and to comply fully with their legal obligations and unequivocal commitments to the total elimination of nuclear weapons without further delay.
7. Call upon non-nuclear-weapon States that are covered by extended nuclear deterrence policies by means of military alliances to eliminate the role played by nuclear weapons in their security and defence policies.
8. Express grave concern over the erosion of the treaty-based disarmament architecture, strongly support all bilateral, regional or multilateral instruments that contribute to the achievement of nuclear disarmament and call upon all States to comply with their legal obligations and commitments in the field of nuclear disarmament and to promote and strengthen international peace and security.
9. Demand that nuclear-weapon States stop making qualitative improvements to their nuclear arsenals, developing new types of nuclear weapon and considering new scenarios and procedures for the development and use of new types of weapons, initiatives that are incompatible with the obligation to take effective steps towards nuclear disarmament.
10. Call upon the nuclear-weapon States not to use nuclear weapons or threaten other States with the use of nuclear weapons and in particular to provide full and unequivocal binding assurances to that effect to States that are part of zones free of nuclear weapons, in

¹ A/RES/68/3.

² Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Yearbook 2023.

³ A/RES/1(I).

⁴ A/S-10/4.

accordance with the international treaties establishing such zones and the protocols additional to those treaties.

11. Urge nuclear-weapon States that made interpretative declarations concerning Additional Protocols I and II to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which are in breach of the letter and spirit of the Treaty, to consider the proposals made by the Agency with a view to resolving this problem and ensuring that the States comprising the zone free of nuclear weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean are given full and unequivocal security assurances and that the militarily denuclearized character of the Treaty's zone of application is respected.

12. Reaffirm the legally binding obligations agreed to more than fifty years ago upon the entry into force of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation system, and reiterate that the commitments made at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference⁵ and the 2000⁶ and 2010 Review Conferences⁷ remain valid.

13. Underline the responsibility of all States parties for the full implementation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and urge the nuclear-weapon States to take immediate measures, in compliance with their legal obligations, for the full and effective implementation of article VI of the Treaty.

14. Urge all States not parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to accede to it, without further delay and without conditions, as non-nuclear-weapon States.⁸

15. Call upon all States to refrain from conducting nuclear weapon test explosions, or any other non-explosive experiments, including subcritical experiments, for the purpose of improving nuclear weapons. Consider these actions to be in violation of the spirit and purposes of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, undermining its intended impact as a nuclear disarmament measure.

16. Urge the States listed in annex 2 of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty⁹ that have not yet ratified the Treaty to take the necessary steps to do so without further delay.

17. Recall their participation in the adoption and entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which currently has 93 signatory States and 69 States parties and pursuant to which the possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer and use or threat of use of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices are prohibited.

18. Invite all States not yet parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to consider ratifying or acceding to it.

19. Recognize the determination of the States parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to work towards and contribute to the success of the second Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty, which is to be held from November 27 to 1 December 2023 in New York and chaired by a representative of Mexico.

20. Note that the Treaty of Tlatelolco, the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, once in force, establish norms of international law by which the States that have signed and ratified those instruments are bound. Emphasize that these instruments are not mere statements of intent but a suitable legal basis for the total elimination of nuclear weapons in a transparent, verifiable and irreversible manner that will prevent their return.

21. Reiterate their conviction that the establishment of zones free of nuclear weapons is a major step towards nuclear disarmament and is closely linked to the maintenance of international peace and security; and that the prohibition of nuclear weapons in different

⁵ NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I).

⁶ NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I and II).

⁷ NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)*.

⁸ Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Israel, Pakistan and South Sudan.

⁹ China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Pakistan and United States of America.

regions, adopted by the sovereign decision of the States in those regions, has a beneficial influence in other regions and at the global level.

22. Regret that, after more than two decades, the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, called for in a resolution¹⁰ that is an integral part of the commitments of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and the final documents of the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences, has not been achieved.

23. Reaffirm their support for the objective of establishing a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions.

24. Reiterate their commitment to continue promoting dialogue and cooperation among the zones free of nuclear weapons, including Mongolia, and regret the failure to hold the fourth Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia, as called for in resolution 73/71, adopted by the General Assembly on 13 December 2018.¹¹

25. Reiterate the need to promote a new comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects to update the study of that question done by the General Assembly nearly five decades ago.

26. Emphasize the importance of the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education¹² adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session (2002) in its resolution 57/60¹³ and undertake to continue working to implement educational programmes on disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

27. Recognize the valuable contribution of women in the promotion and maintenance of peace and security and reiterate their commitment to continue to promote their representation and full and effective participation in disarmament and non-proliferation policymaking, planning and implementation processes.

28. Welcome the firm conviction and permanent commitment of Latin America and the Caribbean to continue promoting complete and verifiable nuclear disarmament as a priority objective and the urgent need to achieve the elimination of nuclear weapons, as evidenced by the large number of States in the region that are parties to international legal instruments and undertakings on disarmament and non-proliferation, including the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace and the special declarations on nuclear disarmament and on a world free of nuclear weapons made at the summits of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States.¹⁴

¹⁰ NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I), annex.

¹¹ A/RES/73/71.

¹² A/57/124.

¹³ A/RES/57/60.

¹⁴ Special declaration on nuclear disarmament, Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, 2023.