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General and complete disarmament

Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report outlines the views of Member States with regard to achieving the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, in particular on effective nuclear disarmament measures, including elements of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons.

* A/76/50.



Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	3
II. Replies received from Governments	3
Botswana	3
Cuba	5
India	7
Mexico	8
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	10

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution [75/45](#) on the follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, the General Assembly:

(a) Underlined the strong support expressed at its high-level meeting on nuclear disarmament, held on 26 September 2013, for taking urgent and effective measures to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons (para. 1);

(b) Called for urgent compliance with the legal obligations and the fulfilment of the commitments undertaken on nuclear disarmament and endorsed the wide support expressed at the high-level meeting for a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons (paras. 2 and 3);

(c) Also called for the urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on effective nuclear disarmament measures to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons, including, in particular, on a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons (para. 4);

(d) Requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States with regard to achieving the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, in particular on effective nuclear disarmament measures, including elements of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons, and to submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its seventy-sixth session, and also to transmit the report to the Conference on Disarmament (para. 13).

2. Pursuant to that request, a note verbale was sent to Member States on 18 February 2021 inviting them to provide information on the subject. The replies received are contained in section II below. Any views received after 31 May 2021 will be posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs in the original language of submission. No addenda will be issued.

II. Replies received from Governments

Botswana

[Original: English]
[31 May 2021]

Botswana remains unwavering in calling for banning nuclear weapons and ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which was adopted in July 2017. The Treaty is a critical milestone in achieving a nuclear-free world.

Botswana has affirmed its commitment to the peaceful use of nuclear technology for economic development by being a party to the Pelindaba Treaty which declares Africa as a nuclear-weapon-free zone. Nuclear-weapon-free zones are an important step towards the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime, the promotion of cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, complete disarmament and the enhancement of regional peace and security.

While the application of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty is without prejudice to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of State parties, through the Treaty, Africa seeks to ensure that nuclear weapons are not developed, produced, tested or otherwise acquired or stationed in any of the countries on the continent.

Disarmament aims at the elimination of entire weapon system categories. The spread of weapons of mass destruction poses a serious threat to international security. It is in this regard that Botswana supports promotion and support of the

implementation of international processes related to disarmament and combat against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), places obligations on Member States to refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors that attempt to acquire weapons of mass destruction. The resolution also places obligations on Member States to develop the criminal legislation and to increase international cooperation to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Botswana has enacted several legislative instruments to support the aforementioned obligations and to address provisions in the Treaties mentioned below.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is the only binding multilateral treaty whereby nuclear-weapon states commit towards the goal of disarmament. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons establishes a nuclear safeguards system under the responsibility of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons obliges the five acknowledged nuclear States not to transfer nuclear weapons, other nuclear explosive devices, or their technology, to any non-nuclear-weapon State. Non-nuclear-weapon States parties undertake not to acquire or produce nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices.

Non-nuclear-weapon States are required also to accept safeguards to detect diversions of nuclear materials intended for peaceful activities, such as power generation, to the production of nuclear weapons or other explosive devices. This must be done in accordance with an individual safeguards agreement, concluded between each non-nuclear-weapon State party and IAEA. Under these Agreements, all nuclear materials in peaceful civilian facilities under the jurisdiction of the state must be declared to IAEA, which has routine access to the facilities for periodic monitoring and inspections.

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Botswana ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 15 July 2020 which demonstrated its strong commitment to the global disarmament agenda. Botswana like many other States Members of the United Nations is of the view that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the right step in promoting global peace and security, strengthening the non-proliferation regime and embracing nuclear technology for peaceful development.

The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty seeks to prevent and ban all nuclear tests worldwide. The Treaty will enter into force when all States parties have ratified it. In order to achieve this, Member States must relentlessly work at having the political will to build trust at the regional and international levels.

In addition to humanitarian considerations, nuclear disarmament by the nuclear-weapon States is a necessary condition for international peace and security, as well as its stability, based on the premise that the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons regime must be preserved as one of the core foundations of international relations. Nuclear weapons must not proliferate any further than the level reached at the time of signing the Treaty. This is based on the assumption that further proliferation would destabilize international relations and adversely affect international relations and international peace and security.

Botswana supports the peaceful research and development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in accordance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear

Weapons to which Botswana has been a State party since 1969. We believe that this pursuit of developing nuclear energy should be within the framework and protocols of IAEA. It is therefore important that all the States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, must fully comply with the non-proliferation obligations and safeguards and additional protocols to the Treaty as a matter of priority.

As provided in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, all countries should promote and cooperate in the peaceful exploitation of nuclear energy, while at the same time working towards complete nuclear disarmament.

By adopting General Assembly resolution [68/32](#), as States Members of the United Nations, we reaffirmed our commitment to the ultimate goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Botswana has over the years demonstrated its commitment to nuclear disarmament by being party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the additional protocol to the comprehensive safeguards agreement, Treaty of Pelindaba and the recently ratified Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, just to mention a few. In furtherance to the aforementioned, we recently enacted the Nuclear Weapons (Prohibition) Act (2018), to provide for the national implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Botswana has consistently supported all General Assembly resolutions on nuclear disarmament and other efforts to promote international peace and security.

Botswana supports the peaceful research and development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in accordance with provisions of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. As provided in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, all countries should promote and cooperate in the peaceful exploitation of nuclear energy, while at same time working towards complete nuclear disarmament. We believe that this pursuit of developing nuclear energy should be within the framework and protocols of IAEA.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[20 May 2021]

Cuba considers that nuclear disarmament remains the highest priority in the field of disarmament. The verifiable, transparent and irreversible total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only way to ensure that humanity will never again suffer their terrible impact and is therefore a legitimate aspiration for the international community.

As a sign of the importance we attach to the goal of nuclear disarmament, our country is proud to belong to the first densely populated area of the world to be declared a nuclear-weapon-free zone, under the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), and the first region to proclaim itself a zone of peace, and to be an active member of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, which promoted the commemoration of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September.

Cuba is honoured to have signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on the day it was opened for signature and to have been the fifth State to ratify it.

We welcome the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Contrary to the claims of some nuclear-weapon States, the Treaty makes an

effective contribution to general and complete disarmament and to the maintenance of international peace and security by establishing a new norm of international law that categorically prohibits nuclear weapons in all circumstances and provides a strong and legally binding framework for their destruction and total elimination. Nuclear weapons are not only inhumane, immoral and ethically indefensible; they are also illegal.

In line with our firm opposition to nuclear testing of all kinds, we have deposited our instrument of ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which has not yet entered into force.

We welcome the events that have been held at all levels and the efforts of the international community to promote a world free of nuclear weapons.

As part of the shared endeavour to eliminate nuclear weapons, the full implementation of General Assembly resolutions [68/32](#), [69/58](#), [70/34](#), [71/71](#), [72/251](#), [73/40](#), [74/54](#) and [75/45](#) on the follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting is also of great importance.

Cuba promotes general and complete disarmament and rejects the existence, proliferation and use of nuclear weapons, as foreign policy principles established in its Constitution, and will continue to promote nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons in meetings and negotiations on disarmament. It will continue to support and participate in the activities organized for the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, which is observed on 26 September each year. All of these positions were confirmed by President Miguel Díaz Canel Bermúdez in a statement he made at the high-level meeting on 26 September 2018.

In 2020, owing to the measures taken in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the high-level meeting took place in a hybrid format and was better attended than in previous years. This illustrates the interest in achieving nuclear disarmament, in an international context threatened by the development of new nuclear weapons systems, the modernization of existing forces and arsenals, the increasing role of these weapons in the military defence and security doctrines of nuclear-weapon States, and the disregard for international commitments in the area of disarmament and arms control.

We call on the United Nations system, Governments, parliaments and civil society to take additional steps each year to commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and to mobilize international action to achieve nuclear disarmament.

The Government of Cuba promotes educational, dissemination and awareness-raising activities, forums for debate and special conferences involving students and academia. It supports the preparation and development of United Nations table-top exercises in Cuban universities, including on nuclear disarmament.

Civil society organizations in Cuba also contribute to marking and promoting the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons by carrying out visual exhibitions and discussion panels on the threat that nuclear weapons pose to humanity, as well as through other activities, such as the study and popularization of the ideas of the Commander-in-Chief of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro Ruz, a tireless fighter for nuclear disarmament. Young people are encouraged to take part in all the events. The activities of the Cuban United Nations Association, the Committee of Cuban Doctors Against Nuclear Weapons and the National Union of Jurists of Cuba stand out in this regard.

Disarmament and international security issues must be addressed through multilateralism and concerted solutions, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

India

[Original: English]
[18 May 2021]

India supported General Assembly resolution [75/45](#) submitted by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, in which the Assembly calls for the urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on effective nuclear disarmament measures to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons, including, in particular, a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons.

India is a responsible nuclear-weapon State. India is committed to its credible minimum deterrence policy, a posture of non-first use of nuclear weapons and non-use against non-nuclear weapons States. India believes that the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world can be achieved through a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework that is global, verifiable and non-discriminatory.

The international community has long recognized that nuclear weapons pose the gravest danger to humankind. A world free of nuclear weapons enhances the security of all nations and, thus, it is of highest importance that meaningful efforts are intensified to build consensus to achieve the goal of nuclear disarmament. With a long-standing commitment to contribute to meaningful multilateral efforts towards global zero, India, in its working paper [CD/1816](#), entitled “Nuclear Disarmament”, enunciated the following concrete elements of such a step-by-step process:

- Reaffirmation of the unequivocal commitment of all nuclear-weapon States to the goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons
- Reduction of the salience of nuclear weapons in the security doctrines
- Adoption of measures by nuclear-weapon States to reduce nuclear danger, including the risks of accidental nuclear war, de-alerting of nuclear-weapons to prevent unintentional and accidental use of nuclear weapons
- Negotiation of a global agreement among nuclear weapon States on “no-first-use” of nuclear-weapons
- Negotiation of a universal and legally-binding agreement on non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon States
- Negotiation of a convention on the complete prohibition of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons
- Negotiation of a nuclear weapons convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and on their destruction, leading to the global, non-discriminatory and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified time frame.

India accords high importance to the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, as laid out in the final document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and reaffirmed in General Assembly resolution [75/83](#). India supports the immediate commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a fissile material cut-off treaty on the basis of document [CD/1299](#) and the mandate contained therein, which remains the most suitable basis for negotiations. Space security is of utmost importance and

India supports the early commencement of negotiations on a legally binding instrument for the prevention of an arms race in outer space in the Conference on Disarmament. India participates actively in the disarmament triad (the Conference on Disarmament, the First Committee of the General Assembly and the Disarmament Commission) to highlight contemporary challenges to global peace and security and to foster multilateral dialogue towards tangible outcomes.

In the annual resolutions tabled by India at the General Assembly, namely the resolutions entitled “Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons” and “Reducing nuclear danger” the world’s attention has been consistently drawn to the crucial and pertinent issues in disarmament and international security and the resolutions have enjoyed wide support of the membership. India is fully aware of the rapid pace of advancements in science and technology, which bring in tremendous benefits to society as well as substantial challenges to international peace and security. In the annual resolution tabled by India, entitled “Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament” global attention is focused on those important issues and the resolution is traditionally adopted without a vote. In the annual resolution tabled by India, entitled “Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction”, also adopted without a vote, the dangers of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons and their means of delivery to terrorists are highlighted and the need to strengthen international cooperation to combat it.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[31 May 2021]

Mexico recalls that, in 2021, the United Nations is commemorating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly of its first resolution (1 (I)) on 24 January 1946, on the establishment of a commission to deal with the problems raised by the discovery of atomic energy. This demonstrates that the imperative of nuclear disarmament continues to be a pending matter for the Organization.

Indeed, the first resolution adopted by the General Assembly (1 (I)) reflects the will of the membership concerning “the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and of all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction”. However, 75 years after the adoption of that resolution, which was a recognition that disarmament is a priority for ensuring international peace and security, given that such weapons threaten the very existence of humankind, fulfilling that commitment is one of the main pending tasks facing the Organization in terms of achieving its goals and purposes.

Innovative and decisive measures are needed in order to achieve the total elimination of these weapons. Measures to advance nuclear disarmament must be person-centred, and bear in mind the interrelationship between nuclear disarmament and the pillars of the United Nations. Progress towards nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of nuclear weapons would not only contribute to international peace and security, it would also strengthen the rule of international law, environmental protection, the full enjoyment of human rights and development cooperation.

While there are many views and approaches concerning the way in which nuclear weapons should be eliminated, certain elements or measures can contribute to and strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime, regardless of the approach preferred at the national level. First, the central importance of multilateralism in advancing nuclear disarmament must be underscored, and it must be recognized that nuclear disarmament is in the interest of and the responsibility of

each member of the international community, without detracting from initiatives of a unilateral, bilateral and regional nature. Second, it is 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. There will never be better conditions than the present, as long as the political will exists.

Mexico considers it important to continue to commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons with a high-level plenary meeting in the framework of the General Assembly, given that this keeps the issue of nuclear disarmament on the political agenda of those participating in the high-level week, and because the meeting affords the General Assembly the opportunity to address the total elimination of nuclear weapons in a plenary format, in addition to the deliberations of the First Committee.

Mexico has participated at the highest possible level in all high-level meetings to promote and commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Marcelo Ebrard, participated in the 2020 high-level plenary meeting. He emphasized 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 also said that the continued existence of this weaponry is a serious global concern, since no Government can guarantee the security of its population as long as nuclear weapons continue to exist. Mexico has therefore advocated the total eradication of nuclear weapons as the only way to prevent a deliberate or accidental detonation. To that end, the international community must protect, strengthen and complement the existing nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime.

The serious crisis in the institutional framework for disarmament established by the final document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament is regrettable, in particular the paralysis of the Conference on Disarmament for more than two decades. Mexico considers that it is essential to convene a high-level United Nations conference on progress in nuclear disarmament, as provided for in General Assembly resolution 75/45, in order to re-establish the central importance of the common interest in making progress towards nuclear disarmament and possibly to convene a fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament which, among other issues, would review the institutional framework established in 1978.

Mexico considers the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 22 January 2021 to be a fundamental step towards strengthening the disarmament regime. Mexico welcomes this and the increase in the number of States that have signed or ratified it. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is consistent with the obligation set out in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, complements that Treaty and contributes to its full implementation. The entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is one element of the process towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons and will complement other processes that are of high priority for the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime. It 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.

Mexico underlines the relevant role of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and considers that its entry into force would contribute to furthering the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons. It is a matter of concern that, 25 years after the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty was opened for signature, it has not yet entered into force

because of the lack of will shown by a few countries. Mexico calls upon States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Treaty, especially those listed in annex II, to do so without further delay.

Mexico supports initiatives to gradually incorporate the technical challenges faced during nuclear disarmament verification into discussions at the International Atomic Energy Agency and is convinced that the Agency is the primary multilateral platform for dealing with nuclear verification, including disarmament, because it has the technical experience and the relevant mandate, and enjoys the broad recognition of the international community.

Mexico recognizes that there are various views and approaches on how nuclear disarmament can be achieved. A comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons is one such approach and is one of the options for achieving and maintaining a world free of weapons of mass destruction. Generally speaking, a comprehensive convention would complement the existing normative framework on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and should include, at minimum, the following elements:

- Prohibitions on nuclear weapons to guarantee the irreversibility of nuclear disarmament
- Prohibitions on the existence and production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices
- The establishment of a mechanism for the elimination of existing nuclear weapons, with defined time frames
- Dismantling or conversion of plants that produce fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices
- International verification mechanism to ensure compliance with obligations under the convention
- Institutional arrangements that support the objectives and principles of the comprehensive convention.

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.

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

[Original: Spanish]
[13 May 2021]

In response to paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution [75/45](#), entitled “Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament”, in which the Assembly requests the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States with regard to achieving the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, in particular on effective nuclear disarmament measures, including elements of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons, the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela wishes to state the following:

- On 19 February 2021, it deposited its declaration on the ownership, possession or control of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices and nuclear weapons programmes in the territory of the Republic, within the framework of the obligations under article 2 of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela deposited its instrument of ratification of the Treaty on 27 March 2018.

- The entry into force on 22 January 2021 of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons marks an important step towards the goal of eliminating nuclear weapons. The Treaty reaffirms the unwavering will of humankind to advance towards the elimination of nuclear weapons, and represents the greatest international legal development in this field in recent decades, which has direct implications for the maintenance of international peace and security.
- Achieving that goal, however, depends on the unanimous political will of all States members of the international community, but primarily of the nuclear-weapon States, in terms of their commitment to ensuring that effective measures are taken towards general, complete and non-discriminatory disarmament, without double standards. Regrettably, however, the world is witnessing a race in the modernization, qualitative improvement, development, production and stockpiling of nuclear warheads and their delivery systems by those States, in contravention of their commitments under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.
- The current nuclear arms race, including the possible use of outer space to deploy such weapons, as well as rising budgets for spending on nuclear weapons, is worrying and alarming. It demonstrates that there has been an unacceptable setback in achieving the goal of eliminating nuclear weapons. Venezuela rejects the militaristic approach to outer space and considers it essential to move towards the formulation of a legally binding international instrument to prevent outer space from becoming a new theatre of war.
- The interests of this very small group of States are prevailing over the global interests of humankind, since their strategic doctrines and security policies are based on using nuclear weapons as a tool for deterrence. When such weapons are deployed on the territory of other States through regional defence agreements and treaties, these non-nuclear-weapon States are sheltering behind the doctrines promoted by those States. Even more deplorable and condemnable is the threat that such weapons will be used against States that do not have them.
- Venezuela reiterates its trust that the next Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, initially convened for 2020, will make significant progress in the three pillars of the Treaty, in particular with regard to fulfilling the commitments set out in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and in its preamble, in that nuclear-weapon States should begin negotiations in good faith on reducing and liquidating their nuclear arsenals. In this context, Venezuela reaffirms its support for the commitment to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control, as stipulated and agreed in article VI of the Treaty.
- Venezuela urges all countries to adopt and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, as well as all other international legal instruments in this area, including the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, so that they can enter into force as soon as possible. It also calls upon the nuclear-weapon States not to carry out nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions, to maintain their moratoriums in this regard and to refrain from any act contrary to the object and purpose of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. By universalizing all nuclear disarmament treaties and adhering strictly to their provisions, it will be possible to achieve the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons once and for all.
- Venezuela adds its voice to the call to convene, as a priority, a United Nations high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament to review the progress made in this area.