

Disarmament

Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation issues remained in 2008 at the forefront of the international agenda, with the objective of moving towards a nuclear-weapons-free world. Advances towards that goal, however, were modest, as both the Conference on Disarmament and the United Nations Disarmament Commission remained in deadlock. The Conference was unable to reach a consensus on a substantive programme of work, while the Commission concluded its three-year cycle without any consensus on recommendations concerning nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons. Meanwhile, the chronic pattern of deeply divided voting on nuclear resolutions in the General Assembly continued.

In other developments, the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) concluded in May, although it was unable to agree to attach the Chairman's factual summary to its report. The United Nations Panel of Governmental Experts on the Issue of Missiles in All Its Aspects could not reach a consensus on measures to deal with that issue. Several States ratified and signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and a Joint Ministerial Statement was adopted at the Ministerial Meeting held in September, urging the Treaty's early entry into force.

Throughout the year, regional organizations continued to address disarmament and non-proliferation issues. With respect to nuclear-weapon-free zones, a significant advance came with the ratification of the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone Treaty, paving the way for its entry into force in 2009. The verification programme of the International Atomic Energy Agency remained at the core of multilateral efforts to curb the proliferation of nuclear weapons and move towards nuclear disarmament. Comprehensive safeguards agreements, concluded pursuant to NPT, and the Model Additional Protocols to those agreements, which granted the Agency complementary inspection authority, remained the principal legal instruments upholding the Agency's safeguards regime. In 2008, safeguards were applied for 163 States with safeguards agreements in force. However, there was little progress on safeguard issues in Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic, or on proliferation issues in the Demo-

cratic People's Republic of Korea, as the Agency and concerned States worked to resolve remaining issues.

Other gains included the issuance by the Russian Federation and the United States of a Strategic Framework Declaration covering several areas of cooperation, including the intention to pursue legally binding arrangements to replace the expiring Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START I). Australia and Japan established the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, and nuclear disarmament proposals were put forward by the European Union and the United Kingdom. In October, the UN Secretary-General launched his five-point proposal for a world free of nuclear weapons.

A major highlight in the field of conventional arms was the adoption of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, a milestone in global efforts to ban such weapons, although member States of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons were unable to reach a consensus in addressing issues relating to the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions. Parties to that Convention held their ninth annual meeting in November. Also in November, the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine-Ban Treaty took place in Geneva, which resulted in the approval of requests by 15 States to extend the 10-year deadline for clearance and destruction of such mines.

Progress towards establishing an arms trade treaty gained momentum, with the convening of a Group of Governmental Experts to examine the feasibility and scope of a comprehensive, legally binding instrument establishing international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms. The Group recommended further consideration of efforts within the United Nations to address the issue on a step-by-step basis. The General Assembly established an open-ended working group to implement that recommendation in 2009.

With respect to transparency measures, the number of States using the Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures remained stable. While the number of States reporting data to the UN Register of Conventional Arms had dropped sharply in recent years, there was an increase in the number of States reporting on transfer of small arms and light weapons.

In April, the Security Council held a debate on small arms and light weapons, and in July, the General Assembly convened its third biennial meeting of States on the implementation of the programme of action to combat their illicit trade. For the first time, such a biennial meeting was able to adopt a substantive outcome document, one that identified a way forward for international cooperation; assistance and capacity-building to combat illicit brokering; management and surplus disposal; and marking and tracing. The Assembly agreed to convene another conference to review the implementation of the programme of action in 2012.

The Security Council in November held a high-level debate on the relationship between disarmament and development—another issue of long-standing interest at the United Nations.

UN role in disarmament

UN machinery

Disarmament issues before the United Nations were considered mainly through the Security Council, the General Assembly and its First (Disarmament and International Security) Committee, the Disarmament Commission (a deliberative body) and the Conference on Disarmament (a multilateral negotiating forum, which met in Geneva). The Organization also maintained efforts to engage civil society organizations concerned with disarmament issues.

The Office of Disarmament Affairs continued to advance the disarmament agenda (see below).

The Assembly, by **decision 63/503** of 19 September, included in its agenda, under items 81 to 96, issues related to disarmament, allocating them to the First Committee. Agenda item 80, on the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency, would be considered directly in plenary. By **decision 63/552**, of 24 December, the Assembly decided that the agenda item on general and complete disarmament would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-third (2009) session.

Advancing the disarmament agenda

UN Office for Disarmament Affairs

The UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), established in 2007 [YUN 2007, p. 524], on the proposal of the Secretary-General and confirmed by the General Assembly in resolution 61/257 [ibid., p. 525], assumed the functions of the Department for Disarmament Affairs in supporting the work of Member States and treaty bodies, servicing the Advisory Board

on Disarmament Matters and administering the UN disarmament fellowship programme.

It reinforced the advocacy potential of the Organization in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. Under the leadership of the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, the Office enhanced its engagement and cooperation with Member States, intergovernmental organizations and civil society.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to the Assembly's request in resolution 61/257, the Secretary-General submitted in July a report [A/63/125] summarizing the activities of UNODA and the High Representative since their establishment. The report outlined the Secretary-General's vision for 2008 and beyond as it related to disarmament and non-proliferation. The Secretary-General highlighted the need to reinvigorate the collective response to disarmament and non-proliferation by addressing long-standing deadlocks in nuclear disarmament, and stepping up efforts to combat the scourge of proliferation of small arms and light weapons that undermined the security of individuals, countries and regions that could least afford it, as well as addressing the threats that were growing fastest—those facilitated by the revolution in life sciences. The Secretary-General stressed the need to promote biotechnology benefits to developing countries while mitigating the risks of misuse.

As noted in the report, the High Representative participated in and/or represented the Secretary-General at increased number of conferences, meetings and seminars. During the 12 months since his appointment in July 2007, he delivered 33 addresses and five statements and/or messages on behalf of the Secretary-General, focusing on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation issues in response to the interest manifested by the organizers of pertinent events. The High Representative called for full compliance with existing treaty obligations, greater reductions in the stockpiles of nuclear weapons, greater transparency, diminished reliance on nuclear weapons in security policies and universalization of existing norms. He pressed the need for early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the negotiation and early conclusion of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and nuclear explosive devices. He supported the existing nuclear-weapon-free zones and encouraged the establishment of new ones. Furthermore, he highlighted the efforts to promote multilateral norms in such fields as illicit trade in small arms and light weapons; the transparency of conventional arms transfers, holdings and production; transfers of conventional arms; and the regulation of missiles. Those efforts complemented initiatives at governmental and non-governmental levels which showed a resurgence of

interest in and commitment to achieving a world free of nuclear weapons.

An important area of UNODA activities involved information dissemination, including raising public awareness of disarmament and non-proliferation issues, and maintaining close liaison with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, other research and educational institutions outside the United Nations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The Office continued to implement the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship, Training and Advisory Services Programme. To heighten public awareness on disarmament issues, the Office disseminated to Member States and the international community comprehensive, objective and factual information on disarmament through its website, publications and other activities.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/95 [YUN 2006, p. 679], UNODA released electronic Disarmament Updates to all Permanent Missions in New York and Geneva and to civil society at large. The Office published three *Occasional Papers*, as well as *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook* in hard copy and on UNODA's website. The Disarmament Studies Series No. 32, *Verification in all its Aspects, including the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Verification*, was released. Between April 2007 and April 2008, the Office briefed more than a thousand students from all over the world on disarmament issues.

As stipulated in General Assembly resolutions 59/93 [YUN 2004, p. 582] and 61/73 [YUN 2006, p. 678], UNODA, in cooperation with the UN Department of Public Information, launched educational disarmament and non-proliferation pages on the UN *Cyber-SchoolBus* website focusing on nuclear disarmament and small arms. Video messages by the High Representative addressing specific issues—such as the Third Biennial Meeting of States to Consider 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; the fortieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the landmark Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; the Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence; and the World Federation of United Nations Associations initiative devoted to a nuclear-weapon-free world—were posted on the UNODA website.

UNODA carried out a number of activities in support of multilateral efforts on disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, as well as in support of conventional disarmament, especially with regard to major weapons systems, small arms and light weapons, landmines and cluster munitions. Through its regional centres for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean, the Office con-

tributed to generating a more active involvement in disarmament and non-proliferation issues of regional and subregional stakeholders.

The Secretary-General concluded that the reorganization of the former Department for Disarmament Affairs into UNODA and the appointment of the High Representative did not have financial, administrative or budgetary implications and did not affect the Office's objectives for the biennium.

The Secretary-General pointed out that the activities described in his report demonstrated the growing tasks asked of the newly established Office. The implementation of resolution 61/257 did not result in any net increase in UNODA's regular budget, and additional responsibilities resulting from new mandates and activities requested by Member States required additional human and financial resources. In light of the limited resources available through the regular budget, the Office intensified its resource mobilization efforts.

The financial stability and sustainability of UNODA, which relied on extrabudgetary funds, particularly with regard to its three regional centres, remained a challenge to the operational capacity of the Office. Strengthening the Office to better support a proactive United Nations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation would require additional resources. Such resources would enable comprehensive monitoring and in-depth analysis of salient and emerging issues and trends, effective policy formulation, timely expert advice and assistance to the Secretary-General, and support to Member States to facilitate negotiations and deliberations in multilateral bodies, including the Conference on Disarmament. It would also strengthen the ability of the United Nations to implement relevant elements of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Securing regular budget funding for the biennium 2010–2011 was therefore essential.

The Secretary-General considered the establishment of UNODA and the appointment of the High Representative vital steps in his efforts to revitalize the disarmament agenda and to meet the increasingly complex responsibilities assigned to the Organization by Member States in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, both regarding weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons.

The General Assembly on 17 November [A/63/PV.51] had before it the Secretary-General's report, but did not take any action.

Fourth special session devoted to disarmament

During the year, no progress was made towards the convening of a fourth special session devoted to disarmament. Previously, the General Assembly had held three Special Sessions devoted to Disarmament—

in 1978, 1982 and 1988. Only the first special session succeeded in producing a final document. Since 1996 [YUN 1996, p. 447], the Assembly had called for a fourth special session. It then established in 2002 a Working Group [YUN 2002, p. 487] to discuss the agenda and the possibility of establishing a preparatory committee for a fourth session. In 2006 [YUN 2006, p. 611], the Assembly established an Open-Ended Working Group to consider objectives and agenda, including the possible establishment of a preparatory committee.

By resolution 62/29 [YUN 2007, p. 526], the General Assembly mandated the reconvening of the Open-ended Working Group and requested the Working Group to submit a report, including possible substantive recommendations, to the Assembly's sixty-second session. However, as the Group did not convene its organizational or substantive sessions during the year, the Assembly decided on 11 September (**decision 62/552**) to continue work on convening those sessions. As no related resolution was adopted during its sixty-third session, the Assembly took **decision 63/519**, by which it included the item in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth (2009) session.

Disarmament Commission

The Disarmament Commission, comprising all UN Member States, held seven plenary meetings of the final session (New York, 7–24 April) of its three-year cycle of deliberations. Prior to its substantive session, an organizational session was convened on 18 March, at which the Commission took note of the provisional agenda and approved the general programme of work. The two main agenda items under consideration were recommendations for achieving disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (see p. 572), and practical confidence-building measures (CBMs) in the field of conventional weapons (see p. 611). As in previous years, two Working Groups were set up to deal with the substantive agenda items.

In his address to the opening session, the Secretary-General renewed his call for States to move forward in a spirit of compromise and accommodation. He underscored the Commission's importance and stressed that incremental progress could have positive spillover effects not only across the UN disarmament machinery, but also to other multilateral forums, including those dealing with treaty regimes. He urged Member States to make an extra effort to reach consensus, thereby bringing the Commission's work during the past three years to a successful conclusion.

However, Member States were unable to bridge the gap in their positions and failed to reach consensus on the Working Groups' recommendations. Notwithstanding the lack of concrete results, the Commission,

at its final meeting on 24 April, adopted its 2008 report [A/63/42] to the General Assembly.

In introducing his report to the Committee of the Whole, the Chair of Working Group I commended the Group's efforts in seeking to reconcile the concerns of nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States. While no State questioned that the three pillars of nuclear consensus—disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy—were inextricably linked, States prioritized them differently. Despite a lack of consensus, the Chair stressed that the well-founded discussions of the Group allowed the Commission to maintain its unique framework for deliberations within the UN disarmament machinery.

The Chair of Working Group II stated that despite extensive discussions and constructive engagement, the Group was unable to overcome outstanding issues in the Chair's revised paper.

In his concluding statement, the Chairman of the Commission stressed that although final consensus eluded the Commission's work, the meetings allowed for valuable exchanges of views and deliberations on the most crucial topics, which in itself served as a CBM.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/391], adopted **resolution 63/83** without vote [agenda item 91 (a)].

Report of the Disarmament Commission

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Disarmament Commission,

Recalling its resolutions 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, 47/54 G of 8 April 1993, 48/77 A of 16 December 1993, 49/77 A of 15 December 1994, 50/72 D of 12 December 1995, 51/47 B of 10 December 1996, 52/40 B of 9 December 1997, 53/79 A of 4 December 1998, 54/56 A of 1 December 1999, 55/35 C of 20 November 2000, 56/26 A of 29 November 2001, 57/95 of 22 November 2002, 58/67 of 8 December 2003, 59/105 of 3 December 2004, 60/91 of 8 December 2005, 61/98 of 6 December 2006 and 62/54 of 5 December 2007,

Considering the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in the promotion of the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Disarmament Commission;
2. *Reaffirms* the validity of its decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998, concerning the efficient functioning of the Disarmament Commission;

3. *Recalls* its resolution 61/98, by which it adopted additional measures for improving the effectiveness of the Commission's methods of work;

4. *Reaffirms* the mandate of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues;

5. *Also reaffirms* the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament;

6. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982, and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items on its agenda, taking into account the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission";

7. *Recommends* that the Disarmament Commission include in the agenda of its 2009 substantive session an item entitled "Elements of a draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade", in accordance with resolution 61/67;

8. *Also recommends* that the Disarmament Commission intensify consultations with a view to reaching agreement on the remaining agenda items, in accordance with decision 52/492, before the start of its substantive session of 2009;

9. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2009, namely from 13 April to 1 May, and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament, together with all the official records of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the necessary resources and services, including verbatim records, to that end;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

Conference on Disarmament

The Conference on Disarmament, a multilateral negotiating body, held a three-part session in Geneva in 2008 (23 January–28 March, 12 May–27 June and 28 July–12 September) [A/63/27]. The Conference held 35 formal and 33 informal plenary meetings, at which it continued to consider the cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament; prevention

of nuclear war; prevention of an arms race in outer space; effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons; new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; a comprehensive programme of disarmament; and transparency in armaments.

To facilitate the work of the Conference, the six 2008 Presidents appointed seven Coordinators to oversee two rounds of deliberations on each of the items on the Conference agenda, under the authority of the Presidents. At the inaugural meeting on 23 January, the UN Secretary-General urged the Conference to rekindle the ambition and sense of common purpose that had produced its past accomplishments, move forward in a spirit of compromise and return to productive work.

The Presidents of the Conference tabled a draft decision, which was initially challenged by China, to bridge the long-standing differences that had prevented members from reaching a substantive agreement. Inter alia, it was decided to appoint a coordinator to preside over negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons. While there had been no opposition to securing a fissile materials treaty per se, a number of countries insisted that its mandate specifically encompassed existing stocks and a verification mechanism. Despite a wide range of delegations supporting the Presidential proposal, the Conference was not able to secure a consensus.

One noteworthy development was the tabling on 12 February of a draft Treaty on Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space and of the Threat or Use of Force Against Outer Space Objects by China and the Russian Federation.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/391], adopted **resolution 63/82** without vote [agenda item 91 (b)].

Report of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Conference on Disarmament,

Convinced that the Conference on Disarmament, as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, has the primary role in substantive negotiations on priority questions of disarmament,

Recognizing the need to conduct multilateral negotiations with the aim of reaching agreement on concrete issues,

Recalling, in this respect, that the Conference has a number of urgent and important issues for negotiation,

Taking note of active discussions held on the programme of work during the 2008 session of the Conference, as duly reflected in the report and the records of the plenary meetings,

Taking note also of the increased deliberations of the Conference due to the constructive contribution of its member States, the work done under the authority of the 2008 Presidents of the Conference, including focused structured debates on all substantive agenda items and with the participation of experts from capitals, and the cooperation among the Presidents of the Conference,

Taking note further of significant contributions made during the 2008 session to promote substantive discussions on issues on the agenda, as well as of discussions held on other issues that could also be relevant to the current international security environment,

Stressing the urgent need for the Conference to commence its substantive work at the beginning of its 2009 session,

Recognizing the address by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as well as the addresses by Ministers for Foreign Affairs and other high-level officials, as expressions of support for the endeavours of the Conference and its role as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum,

Bearing in mind the importance of efforts towards revitalization of the disarmament machinery, including the Conference,

Recognizing the importance of continuing consultations on the question of the expansion of the Conference membership,

1. *Reaffirms* the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community;

2. *Calls upon* the Conference to further intensify consultations and explore possibilities with a view to reaching an agreement on a programme of work;

3. *Takes note* of the strong collective interest of the Conference to build on the increased level and focus of its activities through 2008 and to commence substantive work as soon as possible during its 2009 session;

4. *Welcomes* the decision of the Conference to request its current President and the incoming President to conduct consultations during the intersessional period and, if possible, to make recommendations, taking into account all relevant proposals, past, present and future, including those submitted as documents of the Conference, views presented and discussions held, and to endeavour to keep the membership of the Conference informed, as appropriate, of their consultations, as contained in paragraph 53 of its report;

5. *Requests* all States members of the Conference to cooperate with the current President and successive Presidents in their efforts to guide the Conference to the early commencement of substantive work in its 2009 session;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure the provision to the Conference of adequate administrative, substantive and conference support services;

7. *Requests* the Conference to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament".

Multilateral disarmament agreements

As at 31 December 2008, the following number of States had become parties to the multilateral arms regulation and disarmament agreements listed below (in chronological order, with the years in which they were initially signed or opened for signature):

(Geneva) Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare (1925): 135 parties

The Antarctic Treaty (1959): 47 parties

Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water (1963): 125 parties

Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (1967) [YUN 1966, p. 41, GA res. 2222(XXI), annex]: 105 parties

Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) (1967): 39 parties

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (1968) [YUN 1968, p. 17, GA res. 2373(XXII), annex]: 190 parties

Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof (1971) [YUN 1970, p. 18, GA res. 2660(XXV), annex]: 97 parties

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (1972)

[YUN 1971, p. 19, GA res. 2826(XXV), annex]: 163 parties

Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques (1977) [YUN 1976, p. 45, GA res. 31/72, annex]: 73 parties

Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (1979) [YUN 1979, p. 111, GA res. 34/68, annex]: 13 parties

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 (1981): 108 parties

South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Rarotonga) (1985): 17 parties

Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty) (1990): 30 parties

Treaty on Open Skies (1992): 33 parties

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (1993): 185 parties

Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty) (1995): 10 parties

African Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone Treaty (Pelindaba Treaty) (1996): 26 parties

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (1996): 148 parties

Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (1997): 29 parties

Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Mine-Ban Convention, formerly known as Ottawa Convention) (1997): 156 parties

Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions (1999): 12 parties

Agreement on Adaptation of the CFE Treaty (1999): 4 parties

Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia (2006): 2 parties

Convention on Cluster Munitions (2008): 4 parties

[*United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 33 (Part II): 2008, Sales No. E.09.IX.1]

Nuclear disarmament

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolutions 62/32 [YUN 2007, p. 535], 62/39 [ibid., p. 545] and 62/42 [ibid., p. 538], the Secretary-General submitted a July report on nuclear disarmament [A/63/135], describing international efforts to address the threats posed by nuclear weapons through disarmament initiatives aimed at eliminating those weapons, as well as arms control and non-proliferation and risk reduction measures. Each of the three resolutions, the Secretary-General noted, dealt with specific aspects of nuclear disarmament. In resolution 62/32, the Assembly had called for a review of nuclear doctrines and requested the five nuclear-weapon States to take measures towards implementing immediate steps to reduce the risks of unintentional and accidental use of nuclear weapons. In resolution 62/39, the Assembly had underlined the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) [YUN 1996, p. 461] that there existed an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under international control. In resolution 62/42, the Assembly had reaffirmed that nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation were substantively interrelated and mutually reinforcing, and outlined specific steps to achieve nuclear disarmament.

Some nuclear-weapon States had announced reductions in the number of nuclear weapons in their stockpiles, the Secretary-General reported, while other unilateral declarations by some nuclear-weapon States included efforts to accelerate the dismantlement of nuclear warheads, the closing of nuclear test sites, and reductions in deployed weapons and the number of their delivery systems.

On 6 April, agreement was reached between the United States and the Russian Federation to develop a legally binding arrangement as a follow-up to the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START I). The Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty had also been opened to multilateralization, and several new initiatives by Governments and civil society promoted propos-

als aimed at achieving the vision of a world free of nuclear weapons, including a call from four statesmen from the United States and an international conference (Oslo, Norway, 26–27 February).

Yet many concerns and challenges remained, according to the Secretary-General. Reductions in the number of nuclear weapons fell short of expectations and had not been internationally verified. Irreversibility was not guaranteed and precise numbers regarding the size and composition of the world's nuclear weapons arsenals remained undisclosed. While the total number of nuclear weapons had fallen significantly from the heights of the cold war, reportedly 26,000 nuclear weapons were left in stockpiles. Concerns remained over nuclear doctrines, particularly the reaffirmation by some nuclear-weapon States of the vital role of a nuclear deterrent in their security policies, and about extending the life of and modernizing warheads and weapon systems.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) had yet to enter into force (see p. 579), and efforts to achieve universalization over the previous year had resulted in the addition of one signatory State, bringing the total to 178 States. Six States had also ratified the Treaty, bringing the total number of ratifications to 144; that included a ratification by an “annex 2” State, so that 35 of the 44 nuclear-capable States whose ratification was needed for CTBT's entry into force had ratified it.

The Secretary-General also noted that the Disarmament Commission in April held constructive deliberations on recommendations for achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons at the last session of its three-year cycle, but substantive differences remained and the Commission ended without reaching an agreement.

Proliferation threats. In the previous decade, three States had announced their acquisition of nuclear weapons. The 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) [YUN 1968, p. 17, GA res. 2373(XXII), annex] still fell short of universal membership, and while 88 States had adopted the Additional Protocol, 30 States parties had not yet concluded their comprehensive safeguard agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), as required under the Treaty. Diplomatic efforts continued with a view to achieving the full compliance of Iran with Security Council resolutions 1737(2006) [YUN 2006, p. 436], 1747(2007) [YUN 2007, p. 374] and **1803(2008)** (see p. 409). Efforts in the six-party talks regarding implementation by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) of the 2005 joint statement [YUN 2005, p. 450] and the agreement of 13 February 2007 [YUN 2007, p. 380] continued. Work on disabling nuclear facilities was progressing and in June the DPRK submitted a declaration on its nuclear programme activities.

States parties to NPT concluded the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference (Geneva, 28 April–9 May). The Committee held substantive discussions on principles, objectives and ways to promote the implementation of the Treaty and its universality. Non-nuclear-weapon States recognized the recent announcements by nuclear-weapon States regarding reductions to their stockpiles, but expressed concern over the slow pace of implementation of their disarmament obligations. The need to address proliferation issues effectively was discussed, as was the need for States parties to fulfil their compliance and safeguard commitments, including maximum efforts to bring about diplomatic solutions to compliance concerns and to strengthen confidence among all States parties. The importance of achieving universality of the Treaty was underlined and the contribution of nuclear-weapon-free zones to global and regional security was emphasized. States parties reaffirmed the importance of the resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference [YUN 1995, p. 189] and stressed its validity until its goals and objectives were achieved. States parties also reaffirmed that nothing in the Treaty should be interpreted as affecting their inalienable right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and that the exercise of that right must be consistent with the Treaty's non-proliferation obligations.

Several new proposals for the development of a multilateral approach to the nuclear fuel cycle had been put forward as a means of coping with an expected expansion in nuclear energy and dealing with the possible associated risks. Various initiatives were acknowledged as contributing to cooperation in reducing threats from weapons of mass destruction (wmds), including the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, and the Global Threat Reduction Initiative. The entry into force of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism in July 2007 [YUN 2007, p. 550] had strengthened efforts to combat nuclear terrorism and the Security Council, by resolution 1810(2008) (see p. 585), responded to the threat posed by the proliferation of wmds and related materials to non-State actors. By that resolution, the Council extended by three years the mandate of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 544] and decided that the Committee should promote the resolution's implementation.

The Secretary-General concluded that despite progress in some areas, greater collaborative efforts were required to reduce nuclear danger and address disarmament and non-proliferation challenges. The revitalization of the disarmament and non-proliferation agenda remained a priority for the United Nations.

The Secretary-General and his High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, through advocacy and direct interaction with States, international and regional organizations and civil society, continued to highlight the need for further advancement in reducing the threat of nuclear weapons and the importance of achieving progress in the pursuit of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Included in the report were replies from four Member States—Canada, Cuba, Japan and Qatar—to the Secretary-General's invitation of February 2008 to inform him of measures they had taken with regard to the implementation of resolution 62/39 [YUN 2007, p. 545] concerning the follow-up to the ICJ advisory opinion on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons* (see p. 583).

Five-point proposal. In an address to the East-West Institute (New York, 24 October), the Secretary-General put forward a five-point proposal on nuclear disarmament. He urged all NPT parties, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, to fulfil their Treaty obligations and undertake negotiations on effective measures leading to nuclear disarmament. Permanent members of the Security Council should commence discussions on security issues in the nuclear disarmament process. New efforts were needed: to bring CTBT and the Central Asian and African nuclear-weapon-free-zone treaties into force; for the Conference on Disarmament to begin immediately and without preconditions negotiations on a fissile material treaty; to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East (see p. 601); and for all NPT parties to conclude safeguards agreements with the IAEA and voluntarily adopt the safeguards under the Additional Protocol. Nuclear-weapon States were invited to send descriptions of their work regarding accountability and transparency in nuclear disarmament to the United Nations for wider dissemination. Finally, a number of complementary measures were needed, including the elimination of other types of wmds; new efforts against wmd terrorism; limits on production and trade in conventional arms; and new weapons bans, including of missiles and space weapons.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/389], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 63/47** by recorded vote (118-50-14) [agenda item 89 (g)].

Reducing nuclear danger

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that the use of nuclear weapons poses the most serious threat to mankind and to the survival of civilization,

Reaffirming that any use or threat of use of nuclear weapons would constitute a violation of the Charter of the United Nations,

Convinced that the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects would seriously enhance the danger of nuclear war,

Convinced also that nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons are essential to remove the danger of nuclear war,

Considering that, until nuclear weapons cease to exist, it is imperative on the part of the nuclear-weapon States to adopt measures that assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Considering also that the hair-trigger alert of nuclear weapons carries unacceptable risks of unintentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons, which would have catastrophic consequences for all mankind,

Emphasizing the need to adopt measures to avoid accidental, unauthorized or unexplained incidents arising from computer anomaly or other technical malfunctions,

Conscious that limited steps relating to de-alerting and de-targeting have been taken by the nuclear-weapon States and that further practical, realistic and mutually reinforcing steps are necessary to contribute to the improvement in the international climate for negotiations leading to the elimination of nuclear weapons,

Mindful that a diminishing role for nuclear weapons in the security policies of nuclear-weapon States would positively impact on international peace and security and improve the conditions for the further reduction and the elimination of nuclear weapons,

Reiterating the highest priority accorded to nuclear disarmament in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly and by the international community,

Recalling the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons* that there exists an obligation for all States to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control,

Recalling also the call in the United Nations Millennium Declaration to seek to eliminate the dangers posed by weapons of mass destruction and the resolve to strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, including the possibility of convening an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers,

1. *Calls for* a review of nuclear doctrines and, in this context, immediate and urgent steps to reduce the risks of unintentional and accidental use of nuclear weapons, including through the de-alerting and de-targeting of nuclear weapons;

2. *Requests* the five nuclear-weapon States to take measures towards the implementation of paragraph 1 above;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to take the necessary measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects and to promote nuclear disarmament, with the objective of eliminating nuclear weapons;

4. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 62/32 of 5 December 2007;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to intensify efforts and support initiatives that would contribute towards the full implementation of the seven recommendations identified in the report of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters that would significantly reduce the risk of nuclear war, and also to continue to encourage Member States to consider the convening of an international conference, as proposed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Reducing nuclear danger".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 63/47:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, China, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Marshall Islands, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Serbia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan.

Also on 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/389], adopted **decision 63/520** by recorded vote (130-3-46) [agenda item 89 (bb)].

United Nations conference to identify appropriate ways of eliminating nuclear dangers in the context of nuclear disarmament

At its 61st plenary meeting, on 2 December 2008, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First

Committee, decided, by a recorded vote of 130 to 3, with 46 abstentions, to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled “United Nations conference to identify appropriate ways of eliminating nuclear dangers in the context of nuclear disarmament”.

RECORDED VOTE ON DECISION 63/520:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: France, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Marshall Islands, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey.

Conference on Disarmament

In 2008, the Conference on Disarmament was unable to arrive at a consensus on the establishment of a subsidiary body to address nuclear disarmament or on a substantive programme of work. As a result, the item was considered only during general debates and informal meetings. The Conference had before it a proposal for the programme of work [CD/1840] and letters submitted by Pakistan on the proposal [CD/1843 & 1851]. It held two informal meetings on 5 and 19 February, followed by a session on nuclear disarmament on 31 July. During those discussions, Canada underlined NPT’s pivotal role in nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful use of nuclear energy, and reiterated that a fissile material agreement would be a step forward in meeting the Article VI obligations of the nuclear-weapon States. To enhance transparency,

it made proposals for: regular updates by nuclear-weapon States on policies and doctrines; numbers and status of nuclear weapons and delivery systems; reduction of operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems; nuclear reduction to be transparent; and a multilateral agreement to reduce nuclear weapons. China noted that peace and international security and a healthy international environment were the basis of nuclear disarmament, and added that the United States and the Russian Federation had a special responsibility in that regard. It reiterated its pledge not to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States and urged other nuclear powers to follow its example. The United States, on 7 February, organized a presentation by the Administrator of its National Nuclear Security Administration, at which time some concern about certain elements were introduced. Concerns were also expressed on 5 February, when a statement was made by the Defence Minister of the United Kingdom to shift and shape the interpretation of NPT commitments, particularly those under Article VI. Some States said that greater emphasis was placed on nuclear non-proliferation at the expense of nuclear disarmament. The Group of 21’s (G-21) position on the subject was reiterated by the Syrian Arab Republic, the Regional Group Coordinator, and supported by Algeria, Egypt, Iran and Pakistan.

Other developments included the establishment of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, which sought to shape a global consensus for the 2010 NPT Review Conference and beyond. The 15-member panel was led by former Australian and Japanese Foreign Ministers and was comprised of former heads of State, ministers, military strategists and disarmament experts.

On 25 March, France transmitted President Nicolas Sarkozy’s 21 March statement setting out his country’s non-proliferation and disarmament policies, announcing new reductions in nuclear weapons and delivery systems, and outlining a disarmament “action plan”, primarily aimed at the eight States that had declared they had conducted nuclear tests [CD/1842].

Presidential reports [CD/1841, 1845 & 1848] were submitted for Parts I–III of the Conference.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/389], adopted **resolution 63/73** by recorded vote (173-4-6) [agenda item 89].

Renewed determination towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons

The General Assembly,

Recalling the need for all States to take further practical steps and effective measures towards the total elimination

of nuclear weapons, with a view to achieving a peaceful and safe world free of nuclear weapons, and renewing the determination to do so,

Noting that the ultimate objective of the efforts of States in the disarmament process is general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Recalling its resolution 62/37 of 5 December 2007,

Convinced that every effort should be made to avoid nuclear war and nuclear terrorism,

Reaffirming the crucial importance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as the cornerstone of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, and expressing regret over the lack of agreement on substantive issues at the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as well as over the elimination of references to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in the World Summit Outcome in 2005, the year of the sixtieth anniversary of the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan,

Recalling the decisions and the resolution of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty,

Recognizing that the enhancement of international peace and security and the promotion of nuclear disarmament are mutually reinforcing,

Reaffirming that further advancement in nuclear disarmament will contribute to consolidating the international regime for nuclear non-proliferation, which is, inter alia, essential to international peace and security,

Taking note of concrete proposals and initiatives on nuclear disarmament, including those put forward or undertaken by nuclear-weapon States, including recently by France and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,

Expressing deep concern regarding the growing dangers posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, inter alia, nuclear weapons, including that caused by proliferation networks,

Recognizing the importance of implementing Security Council resolution 1718(2006) of 14 October 2006 with regard to the nuclear test proclaimed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 9 October 2006, while taking note of the progress achieved by the Six-Party Talks,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons complying with their obligations under all the articles of the Treaty;

2. *Stresses* the importance of an effective Treaty review process, welcoming the substantive discussions held at the second session of the Preparatory Committee in 2008, and calls upon all States parties to the Treaty to work together to ensure that the third session of the Preparatory Committee, in 2009, is held constructively, in order to facilitate the successful outcome of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

3. *Reaffirms* the importance of the universality of the Treaty, and calls upon States not parties to the Treaty to accede to it as non-nuclear-weapon States without delay and

without conditions, and pending their accession to refrain from acts that would defeat the objective and purpose of the Treaty as well as to take practical steps in support of the Treaty;

4. *Encourages* further steps leading to nuclear disarmament, to which all States parties to the Treaty are committed under article VI of the Treaty, including deeper reductions in all types of nuclear weapons, and emphasizes the importance of applying irreversibility and verifiability, as well as increased transparency in a way that promotes international stability and undiminished security for all, in the process of working towards the elimination of nuclear weapons;

5. *Calls upon* all nuclear-weapon States to undertake reductions of nuclear weapons in a transparent manner, and invites all nuclear-weapon States to agree on transparency and confidence-building measures, while noting in this regard the increased transparency recently demonstrated by nuclear-weapon States on their nuclear arsenals, including the current number of their nuclear warheads;

6. *Encourages* the Russian Federation and the United States of America to implement fully the Treaty on Strategic Offensive Reductions, which should serve as a step for further nuclear disarmament, and to undertake nuclear arms reductions beyond those provided for by the Treaty, including through the conclusion of a legally binding successor to the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START I), which is due to expire in 2009, while welcoming the progress made by nuclear-weapon States, including the Russian Federation and the United States of America, on nuclear arms reductions;

7. *Encourages* States to continue to pursue efforts, within the framework of international cooperation, contributing to the reduction of nuclear-weapons-related materials;

8. *Calls for* the nuclear-weapon States to further reduce the operational status of nuclear weapons systems in ways that promote international stability and security;

9. *Stresses* the necessity of a diminishing role for nuclear weapons in security policies to minimize the risk that these weapons will ever be used and to facilitate the process of their total elimination, in a way that promotes international stability and based on the principle of undiminished security for all;

10. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty at the earliest opportunity with a view to its early entry into force, stresses the importance of maintaining existing moratoriums on nuclear-weapon test explosions pending the entry into force of the Treaty, and reaffirms the importance of the continued development of the Treaty verification regime, including the international monitoring system, which will be required to provide assurance of compliance with the Treaty;

11. *Calls upon* the Conference on Disarmament to immediately resume its substantive work to its fullest, considering the developments of this year in the Conference;

12. *Emphasizes* the importance of the immediate commencement of negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty in the Conference on Disarmament and its early conclusion, and calls upon all nuclear-weapon States and States not parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to declare moratoriums on the production of fissile

material for any nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices pending the entry into force of the Treaty;

13. *Calls upon* all States to redouble their efforts to prevent and curb the proliferation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery;

14. *Stresses* the importance of further efforts for non-proliferation, including the universalization of the International Atomic Energy Agency comprehensive safeguards agreements, while also strongly encouraging further works for achieving the universalization of the Model Protocol Additional to the Agreement(s) between State(s) and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards approved by the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency on 15 May 1997, and the full implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 1540(2004) of 28 April 2004;

15. *Encourages* all States to undertake concrete activities to implement, as appropriate, the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education, submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session, and to voluntarily share information on efforts they have been undertaking to that end;

16. *Encourages* the constructive role played by civil society in promoting nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session an item entitled "Renewed determination towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 63/73:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United King-

dom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Israel, United States.

Abstaining: Bhutan, China, Cuba, Iran, Myanmar, Pakistan.

Fissile material

Throughout the 2008 session of the Conference on Disarmament, most of its members, particularly from the Western Group, supported negotiations on a treaty to ban the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices. However, as a programme of work was not accepted, the Conference was unable to begin negotiating such a treaty. Notwithstanding, the Conference on 6 and 20 February held two rounds of informal deliberations on the prohibition of production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and explosive devices, under the chairmanship of the Coordinators for that issue. Another round of informal deliberations was held on 31 July.

During plenary meetings and informal deliberations, many delegations reiterated the need to commence negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT). They urged Conference members to agree to the 2008 President's proposal on a programme of work (see p. 567) and immediately begin those negotiations without precondition. The Secretary-General, at the Conference's inaugural meeting, remarked that the negotiations would advance nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The United Kingdom called on the three countries that had not taken part in the previous year's negotiations to do so in 2008. The United States stood by the draft it had tabled in 2006 [YUN 2006, p. 617]. France outlined an "action plan" that included immediate negotiations on a treaty and a moratorium on the production of fissile material. China, stressing that a balanced and acceptable work programme must first be agreed upon, considered the Conference the only venue for negotiating an FMCT, whereas for the Russian Federation, a treaty on the prevention of an arms race in outer space was a priority, although it noted that it would not object to negotiations within the agreed work programme.

During the high-level segment of the 2008 session from 3 to 5 March, Foreign Ministers from Argentina, Iran, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Norway, Romania and Slovakia underlined the importance of negotiating an FMCT. Similarly, Japan, Sweden, Turkey and Ukraine highlighted the need for the Conference to start negotiations.

Broad support for starting negotiations came also from regional groups, including the European Union (EU), members of the Western Group and the Eastern European Group. On behalf of the G-21, Sri Lanka stated that while the Group reiterated its position that total nuclear disarmament remained a priority, it was

mindful of the need to address issues pertaining to fissile material, the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and negative security assurances. A number of G-21 countries, such as Brazil, Colombia and South Africa, were in favour of commencing, without precondition, FMCT negotiations. India also expressed support for establishing an FMCT ad hoc committee as part of the Conference's programme of work. On behalf of the Latin American countries, Chile supported the proposal on a programme of work.

Despite the overwhelming support for the proposed programme of work, which would allow the Conference to begin negotiations, no consensus was reached during the year. However, substantive discussions continued through all three rounds of informal deliberations. In his assessment of the February deliberations, the Coordinator noted that no delegation had expressed opposition to FMCT negotiations, with many stressing the need to commence such a treaty without delay.

The Coordinator also reported that no new positions were put forward on sub-issues, including: definition; scope; production of fissile material for non-explosive purposes; transparency; stocks; and compliance and verification. The 2008 deliberations contained no new elements, but helped reaffirm the need for FMCT negotiations and revalidated the outcome of previous agenda item discussions, which was the goal of the 2008 Presidents.

During the final part of the session, the Conference President (United States) held the third round of informal meetings under the Coordinators on all seven agenda items (see p. 562). At the end of its Presidency, the United States noted with regret that the meetings had failed to reach consensus on a programme of work, which was perplexing as the discussions had underscored the common understanding of the Conference's purpose and the importance of substantive work on its core issues—including the prompt commencement of negotiations on an FMCT.

While the Conference was unable to agree on a mandate to negotiate an FMCT, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States recommitted themselves to the current moratoria for the production of weapon-usable fissile material. A number of countries called on all nuclear weapon States to declare such a moratorium.

The General Assembly, in resolution 63/73 of 2 December, called for the immediate commencement of negotiations on an FMCT (see p. 567).

Security assurances

The Conference on Disarmament, based on its organizational framework and under the guidance of Senegal, held two informal meetings on 12 and 21 February, followed by an additional session on

7 August, to discuss international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. The Coordinator, in an effort to build on areas of consensus, drew on the previous year's work [YUN 2007, p. 532]; however, the deliberations revealed that most positions remained unchanged. Some delegations believed that the existing frameworks, such as Security Council resolutions and nuclear-weapon-free zones, sufficiently addressed the objective, while others, arguing that the existing guarantees were inadequate, supported the development of a new legally binding instrument.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/387], adopted **resolution 63/39** by recorded vote (122-1-58) [agenda item 87].

Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the need to allay the legitimate concern of the States of the world with regard to ensuring lasting security for their peoples,

Convinced that nuclear weapons pose the greatest threat to mankind and to the survival of civilization,

Welcoming the progress achieved in recent years in both nuclear and conventional disarmament,

Noting that, despite recent progress in the field of nuclear disarmament, further efforts are necessary towards the achievement of general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Convinced that nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons are essential to remove the danger of nuclear war,

Determined to abide strictly by the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations on the non-use of force or threat of force,

Recognizing that the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of non-nuclear-weapon States need to be safeguarded against the use or threat of use of force, including the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Considering that, until nuclear disarmament is achieved on a universal basis, it is imperative for the international community to develop effective measures and arrangements to ensure the security of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons from any quarter,

Recognizing that effective measures and arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons can contribute positively to the prevention of the spread of nuclear weapons,

Bearing in mind paragraph 59 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, in which it urged the nuclear-weapon States to pursue efforts to conclude, as

appropriate, effective arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and desirous of promoting the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Final Document,

Recalling the relevant parts of the special report of the Committee on Disarmament submitted to the General Assembly at its twelfth special session, the second special session devoted to disarmament, and of the special report of the Conference on Disarmament submitted to the Assembly at its fifteenth special session, the third special session devoted to disarmament, as well as the report of the Conference on its 1992 session,

Recalling also paragraph 12 of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 35/46 of 3 December 1980, which states, inter alia, that all efforts should be exerted by the Committee on Disarmament urgently to negotiate with a view to reaching agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Noting the in-depth negotiations undertaken in the Conference on Disarmament and its Ad Hoc Committee on Effective International Arrangements to Assure Non-Nuclear-Weapon States against the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons, with a view to reaching agreement on this question,

Taking note of the proposals submitted under the item in the Conference on Disarmament, including the drafts of an international convention,

Taking note also of the relevant decision of the Thirteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Kuala Lumpur on 24 and 25 February 2003, which was reiterated at the Fourteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Havana on 15 and 16 September 2006, as well as the relevant recommendations of the Organization of the Islamic Conference,

Taking note further of the unilateral declarations made by all the nuclear-weapon States on their policies of non-use or non-threat of use of nuclear weapons against the non-nuclear-weapon States,

Noting the support expressed in the Conference on Disarmament and in the General Assembly for the elaboration of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, as well as the difficulties pointed out in evolving a common approach acceptable to all,

Taking note of Security Council resolution 984(1995) of 11 April 1995 and the views expressed on it,

Recalling its relevant resolutions adopted in previous years, in particular resolutions 45/54 of 4 December 1990, 46/32 of 6 December 1991, 47/50 of 9 December 1992, 48/73 of 16 December 1993, 49/73 of 15 December 1994, 50/68 of 12 December 1995, 51/43 of 10 December 1996, 52/36 of 9 December 1997, 53/75 of 4 December 1998, 54/52 of 1 December 1999, 55/31 of 20 November 2000, 56/22 of 22 November 2002, 58/35 of 8 December 2003, 59/64 of 3 December 2004, 60/53 of 8 December 2005, 61/57 of 6 December 2006 and 62/19 of 5 December 2007,

1. *Reaffirms* the urgent need to reach an early agreement on effective international arrangements to assure

non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

2. *Notes with satisfaction* that in the Conference on Disarmament there is no objection, in principle, to the idea of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, although the difficulties with regard to evolving a common approach acceptable to all have also been pointed out;

3. *Appeals* to all States, especially the nuclear-weapon States, to work actively towards an early agreement on a common approach and, in particular, on a common formula that could be included in an international instrument of a legally binding character;

4. *Recommends* that further intensive efforts be devoted to the search for such a common approach or common formula and that the various alternative approaches, including, in particular, those considered in the Conference on Disarmament, be explored further in order to overcome the difficulties;

5. *Also recommends* that the Conference on Disarmament actively continue intensive negotiations with a view to reaching early agreement and concluding effective international agreements to assure the non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, taking into account the widespread support for the conclusion of an international convention and giving consideration to any other proposals designed to secure the same objective;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 63/39:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary,

Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

Disarmament Commission

Working Group I of the Disarmament Commission [A/63/42] continued to consider recommendations for achieving the objective of disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, on which it held pre-session informal consultations on 18 March, as well as a number of informal and formal meetings during the session. Despite extensive deliberations, Member States could not reach consensus on the Working Group's recommendations.

During the discussions, most States acknowledged NPT as the cornerstone of the international non-proliferation and disarmament regime and urged its full implementation. In that respect, numerous States endorsed the outcomes of the 1995 [YUN 1995, p. 189] and 2000 NPT Review Conferences [YUN 2000, p. 487]. Many States expressed support for the entry into force of CTBT, the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones and negotiations on a fissile material treaty.

Slovenia, on behalf of the EU, emphasized that all disarmament and non-proliferation agreements should be effectively resourced, fully implemented and complied with. In addition, the EU stressed that a multilateral approach to non-proliferation provided the best way of countering the threat of WMD proliferation and their means of delivery.

Repeated calls were made for the complete, verifiable and irreversible elimination of nuclear weapons. Indonesia, on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (NAM), underscored the need for nuclear-weapon States to implement the unequivocal undertaking of totally eliminating nuclear weapons. In that regard, NAM called for an international conference to establish a phased programme for their complete elimination, as well as their development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use and threat of use, and to provide for their destruction. Mexico, for the Rio Group, expressed concern about the lack of substantive agreement on nuclear disarmament. Many States stressed that reducing the role of nuclear weapons in strategic and security doctrines was essential to realize the goal of nuclear disarmament. Kazakhstan, for its part, lamented the absence of political will to promote the disarmament agenda, and reiterated its proposal to draft an international legally binding instrument banning the use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon States.

Some States expressed concern over the prospect of an arms race in outer space. The Russian Federation reiterated its view that devising measures to keep outer space free from any weapons and prevent it from turning into a new arena of confrontation was of vital importance for ensuring the development of science and maintaining international peace and security.

Bilateral agreements and unilateral measures

Russian Federation–United States framework for strategic cooperation

The United States–Russia Strategic Framework Declaration was signed by both States on 6 April to set forth a foundation for strategic cooperation between the two countries. Areas identified in the Declaration included steps to: promote security in the face of new and emerging threats; prevent the spread of WMDs; combat global terrorism; and advance economic cooperation. The two countries agreed to develop a legally binding arrangement following the expiration of the 1991 landmark Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START I) [YUN 1991, p. 34] that was due to expire in December 2009. Both States aimed to engage in a high-level dialogue to analyse and address intermediate and shorter-range missile threats and inventory options. Furthermore, they agreed to intensify dialogue on issues concerning bilateral and multilateral missile defence cooperation, and to continue cooperation on preventing the spread of WMDs and on combating global terrorism.

United States–India Agreement for Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation

On 1 October, the United States Congress approved the Agreement for Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation with India, which was subsequently signed by both States on 10 October. That was made possible through the IAEA Board of Governors' approval of the India-specific Safeguards Agreement given on 1 August and the exception the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) granted to its full-scope safeguard requirements on 6 September.

The IAEA Board of Governors approved by consensus the "Agreement between the Government of India and the IAEA for the Application of Safeguards to Civilian Nuclear Facilities", which required IAEA to verify that certain nuclear material and facilities declared by India were used only for peaceful purposes. Under the agreement, India could add facilities over time to come under IAEA safeguards.

After addressing a series of questions concerning the United States' draft proposal, NSG also reached

a consensus agreement to adopt the “Statement on Civil Nuclear Cooperation with India”, thus enabling the necessary exception to its full-scope safeguards requirements that would allow civil nuclear trade with India.

In the NSG statement, the Participating Governments declared their desire to contribute to the effectiveness, integrity and widest possible implementation of the provisions of NPT. They further noted that India had: decided to separate its civilian nuclear facilities; concluded negotiations with IAEA for the application of safeguards to civilian nuclear facilities; committed to the Additional Protocol to the safeguards agreement, which would harmonize its export control guidelines with those of NSG; and continued its unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing. On that basis, NSG agreed to adopt and implement a policy on civil nuclear cooperation by the Participating Governments with the IAEA-safeguarded Indian nuclear programme. That would allow the Participating Governments to transfer trigger-list items and/or related technology, nuclear-related dual-use equipment, materials, software and related technology to India for peaceful purposes and for use in IAEA-safeguarded facilities, provided that the transfer satisfied all other provisions of the NSG revised guidelines.

Democratic People’s Republic of Korea

Work continued in 2008 under the Six-Party Talks (China, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, United States) to achieve the verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. As part of the denuclearization process, the DPRK submitted to the United States for review documentation on its nuclear programmes and, in July, demolished the cooling tower of its experimental nuclear power plant. However, on 18 August, IAEA was informed that the DPRK had decided to suspend disabling activities at its reactor site and, by month’s end, commented that it would consider restoring its plutonium-producing facility over the perceived failure of the United States to fulfil its side of the October 2007 agreement on “Second-Phase Actions for the Implementation of the Joint Statement”. On 23 September, the DPRK informed IAEA that its inspectors would have no further access to its reprocessing plant, from which agency seals had already been removed, and stated its intent to introduce nuclear material back into the plant (see p. 595).

In early October, intense negotiations between the United States and the DPRK led to an agreement on verification measures, which would serve as a baseline for a Verification Protocol to be finalized and adopted by the Six Parties. That led to the removal of the DPRK from the United States list of State Sponsors of Ter-

rorism, while the DPRK restored the access of IAEA inspectors to its nuclear facilities and confirmed that it would resume its disablement. However, new complications arose towards the end of year, as the DPRK claimed that it had not agreed to sampling as one of the verification measures, since that would be a breach of its sovereignty. Consequently, the last round of the Six-Party Talks ended in early December in Beijing without agreement.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/389], adopted **resolution 63/41** by recorded vote (141-3-34) [agenda item 89].

Decreasing the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 62/36 of 5 December 2007,

Recognizing also that the maintenance of nuclear weapons on high alert was a feature of cold war nuclear postures, and welcoming the increased confidence and transparency since the cessation of the cold war,

Concerned that, notwithstanding the end of the cold war, several thousand nuclear weapons remain on high alert, ready to be launched within minutes,

Noting the increased engagement in multilateral disarmament forums in support of further reductions to the operational status of nuclear weapons systems,

Recognizing that the maintenance of nuclear weapons systems at a high level of readiness increases the risk of the use of such weapons, including the unintentional or accidental use, which would have catastrophic consequences,

Recognizing also that reductions in deployments and the lowering of operational status contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as to the process of nuclear disarmament, through the enhancement of confidence-building and transparency measures and a diminishing role for nuclear weapons in security policies,

Welcoming bilateral initiatives, such as the proposed United States/Russian Federation Joint Centre for the Exchange of Data from Early Warning Systems and Notification of Missile Launches, which can play a central role in operational status reduction processes,

Welcoming also the steps taken by some States to reduce the operational status of their nuclear weapons systems, including de-targeting initiatives and increasing the amount of preparation time required for deployment,

1. *Calls for* further practical steps to be taken to decrease the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems, with a view to ensuring that all nuclear weapons are removed from high alert status;
2. *Urges* States to update the General Assembly on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;
3. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 63/41:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: France, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Palau, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine.

Also on 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/389], adopted **resolution 63/46** by recorded vote (117-45-19) [agenda item 89 (v)].

Nuclear disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/75 E of 15 December 1994 on a step-by-step reduction of the nuclear threat, and its resolutions 50/70 P of 12 December 1995, 51/45 O of 10 December 1996, 52/38 L of 9 December 1997, 53/77 X of 4 December 1998, 54/54 P of 1 December 1999, 55/33 T of 20 November 2000, 56/24 R of 29 November 2001, 57/79 of 22 November 2002, 58/56 of 8 December 2003, 59/77 of 3 December 2004, 60/70 of 8 December 2005, 61/78 of 6 December 2006 and 62/42 of 5 December 2007 on nuclear disarmament,

Reaffirming the commitment of the international community to the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free world,

Bearing in mind that the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction of 1972 and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use

of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction of 1993 have already established legal regimes on the complete prohibition of biological and chemical weapons, respectively, and determined to achieve a nuclear weapons convention on the prohibition of the development, testing, production, stockpiling, loan, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons and on their destruction, and to conclude such an international convention at an early date,

Recognizing that there now exist conditions for the establishment of a world free of nuclear weapons, and stressing the need to take concrete practical steps towards achieving this goal,

Bearing in mind paragraph 50 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, calling for the urgent negotiation of agreements for the cessation of the qualitative improvement and development of nuclear-weapon systems, and for a comprehensive and phased programme with agreed time frames, wherever feasible, for the progressive and balanced reduction of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery, leading to their ultimate and complete elimination at the earliest possible time,

Reaffirming the conviction of the States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons that the Treaty is a cornerstone of nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament and the importance of the decision on strengthening the review process for the Treaty, the decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, the decision on the extension of the Treaty and the resolution on the Middle East, adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Stressing the importance of the thirteen steps for the systematic and progressive efforts to achieve the objective of nuclear disarmament leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons, as agreed to by the States parties in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Reiterating the highest priority accorded to nuclear disarmament in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly and by the international community,

Reiterating its call for an early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty,

Noting with appreciation the entry into force of the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START 1), to which Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States of America are States parties,

Recalling the entry into force of the Treaty on Strategic Offensive Reductions ("the Moscow Treaty") between the United States of America and the Russian Federation as a significant step towards reducing their deployed strategic nuclear weapons, while calling for further irreversible deep cuts in their nuclear arsenals,

Noting with appreciation the unilateral measures taken by the nuclear-weapon States for nuclear arms limitation, and encouraging them to take further such measures, while reiterating deep concern over the slow pace of progress towards nuclear disarmament and the lack of progress by the nuclear-weapon States towards accomplishing the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals,

Recognizing the complementarity of bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament, and that bilateral negotiations can never replace multilateral negotiations in this respect,

Noting the support expressed in the Conference on Disarmament and in the General Assembly for the elaboration of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and the multilateral efforts in the Conference on Disarmament to reach agreement on such an international convention at an early date,

Recalling the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*, issued on 8 July 1996, and welcoming the unanimous reaffirmation by all Judges of the Court that there exists an obligation for all States to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control,

Mindful of paragraph 98 of the Final Document of the Fifteenth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Tehran on 29 and 30 July 2008,

Recalling paragraph 70 and other relevant recommendations in the Final Document of the Fourteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Havana on 15 and 16 September 2006, calling upon the Conference on Disarmament to establish, as soon as possible and as the highest priority, an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament and to commence negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified time framework,

Reaffirming the specific mandate conferred upon the Disarmament Commission by the General Assembly, in its decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998, to discuss the subject of nuclear disarmament as one of its main substantive agenda items,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which Heads of State and Government resolved to strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, and to keep all options open for achieving this aim, including the possibility of convening an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers,

Reaffirming that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, States should refrain from the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons in settling their disputes in international relations,

Seized of the danger of the use of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, in terrorist acts and the urgent need for concerted international efforts to control and overcome it,

1. *Recognizes* that the time is now opportune for all the nuclear-weapon States to take effective disarmament measures to achieve the total elimination of these weapons at the earliest possible time;

2. *Reaffirms* that nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are substantively interrelated and mutually reinforcing, that the two processes must go hand in hand and that there is a genuine need for a systematic and progressive process of nuclear disarmament;

3. *Welcomes and encourages* the efforts to establish new nuclear-weapon-free zones in different parts of the world on the basis of agreements or arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the regions concerned, which is an effective measure for limiting the further spread of nuclear weapons geographically and contributes to the cause of nuclear disarmament;

4. *Recognizes* that there is a genuine need to diminish the role of nuclear weapons in strategic doctrines and security policies to minimize the risk that these weapons will ever be used and to facilitate the process of their total elimination;

5. *Urges* the nuclear-weapon States to stop immediately the qualitative improvement, development, production and stockpiling of nuclear warheads and their delivery systems;

6. *Also urges* the nuclear-weapon States, as an interim measure, to de-alert and deactivate immediately their nuclear weapons and to take other concrete measures to reduce further the operational status of their nuclear-weapon systems, while stressing that reductions in deployments and in operational status cannot substitute for irreversible cuts in, and the total elimination of, nuclear weapons;

7. *Reiterates its call upon* the nuclear-weapon States to undertake the step-by-step reduction of the nuclear threat and to carry out effective nuclear disarmament measures with a view to achieving the total elimination of these weapons with a specified framework of time;

8. *Calls upon* the nuclear-weapon States, pending the achievement of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, to agree on an internationally and legally binding instrument on a joint undertaking not to be the first to use nuclear weapons, and calls upon all States to conclude an internationally and legally binding instrument on security assurances of non-use and non-threat of use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States;

9. *Urges* the nuclear-weapon States to commence plurilateral negotiations among themselves at an appropriate stage on further deep reductions of nuclear weapons as an effective measure of nuclear disarmament;

10. *Underlines* the importance of applying the principles of transparency, irreversibility and verifiability to the process of nuclear disarmament, and nuclear and other related arms control and reduction measures;

11. *Underscores* the importance of the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States, in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, to which all States parties are committed under article VI of the Treaty, and the reaffirmation by the States parties that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

12. *Calls for* the full and effective implementation of the thirteen practical steps for nuclear disarmament contained in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference;

13. *Urges* the nuclear-weapon States to carry out further reductions of non-strategic nuclear weapons, based on unilateral initiatives and as an integral part of the nuclear arms reduction and disarmament process;

14. *Calls for* the immediate commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator and the mandate contained therein;

15. *Urges* the Conference on Disarmament to agree on a programme of work that includes the immediate commencement of negotiations on such a treaty with a view to their conclusion within five years;

16. *Calls for* the conclusion of an international legal instrument or instruments on adequate security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States;

17. *Also calls for* the early entry into force and strict observance of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty;

18. *Expresses its regret* that the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was unable to achieve any substantive result and that the 2005 World Summit Outcome adopted by the General Assembly failed to make any reference to nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation;

19. *Also expresses its regret* that the Conference on Disarmament was unable to establish an ad hoc committee to deal with nuclear disarmament early in 2008, as called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/42;

20. *Reiterates its call upon* the Conference on Disarmament to establish, as soon as possible and as the highest priority, an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament early in 2009 and to commence negotiations on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time;

21. *Calls for* the convening of an international conference on nuclear disarmament in all its aspects at an early date to identify and deal with concrete measures of nuclear disarmament;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Nuclear disarmament".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 63/46:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay,

Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, India, Ireland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Serbia, Sweden, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan.

Missiles

Panel of Governmental Experts

Report of Secretary-General. In July [A/63/176], the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly a report of the Panel of Governmental Experts on the issue of missiles in all its aspects, established in 2007 [YUN 2007, p. 541] pursuant to Assembly resolution 59/67 [YUN 2004, p. 537]. The Panel held its second and third sessions from 25 to 29 February and 2 to 6 June, respectively. During those sessions, it conducted in-depth discussions on all aspects of the subject, including the peaceful uses of missile technology, export control, missile defence, global and regional security implications of missiles, missile-relevant confidence-building measures, and a possible UN role for addressing the issue. At the end of its third and final session in June, the Panel adopted a consensus report concluding, among other things, that in the interest of international peace and security, continued international efforts were important to deal with the increasingly complex subject of missiles. The Panel noted that it would be useful to try to develop understandings on how to categorize and describe missiles, how their different aspects interrelated, and how they impacted on global and regional security scenarios. It emphasized the value of further deliberations, focusing on areas of existing and emerging consensus as well as the important role of the United Nations in building such a consensus.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/389], adopted **resolution 63/55** by recorded vote (120-10-50) [agenda item 89 (b)].

Missiles

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 54/54 F of 1 December 1999, 55/33 A of 20 November 2000, 56/24 B of 29 November 2001, 57/71 of 22 November 2002, 58/37 of 8 December 2003, 59/67 of 3 December 2004 and 61/59 of 6 December 2006, and its decisions 60/515 of 8 December 2005 and 62/514 of 5 December 2007,

Reaffirming the role of the United Nations in the field of arms regulation and disarmament and the commitment of Member States to take concrete steps to strengthen that role,

Realizing the need to promote regional and international peace and security in a world free from the scourge of war and the burden of armaments,

Convinced of the need for a comprehensive approach towards missiles, in a balanced and non-discriminatory manner, as a contribution to international peace and security,

Bearing in mind that the security concerns of Member States at the international and regional levels should be taken into consideration in addressing the issue of missiles,

Underlining the complexities involved in considering the issue of missiles in the conventional context,

Expressing its support for the international efforts against the development and proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction,

Considering that the Secretary-General, in response to resolution 59/67, established a Panel of Governmental Experts to assist him in preparing a report for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-third session on the issue of missiles in all its aspects,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the issue of missiles in all its aspects, submitted pursuant to resolution 59/67;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the report on the issue of missiles in all its aspects, and to submit them to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled "Missiles".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 63/55:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmeni-

stan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Denmark, France, Israel, Lithuania, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Netherlands, Palau, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Turkey, Ukraine.

Hague Code of Conduct

At the Seventh Regular Meeting of the Hague Code of Conduct (Vienna, 29–30 May), the subscribing States to the 2002 Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation [YUN 2002, p. 504] discussed, inter alia, the strengthening of confidence-building measures such as pre-launch notifications and annual declarations of ballistic missiles, space-launch vehicles, and the importance of outreach activities to increase the number of subscribing States and foster universalization of the Code. As at year's end, subscribing States numbered 130.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/389], adopted **resolution 63/64** by recorded vote (159-1-18) [agenda item 89].

The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation

The General Assembly,

Concerned about the increasing regional and global security challenges caused, inter alia, by the ongoing proliferation of ballistic missiles capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction,

Bearing in mind the purposes and principles of the United Nations and its role and responsibility in the field of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Emphasizing the significance of regional and international efforts to prevent and curb comprehensively the proliferation of ballistic missile systems capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction, as a contribution to international peace and security,

Welcoming the adoption of the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation on 25 November 2002 at The Hague, and convinced that the Code of Conduct will contribute to enhancing transparency and confidence among States,

Recalling its resolution 60/62 of 8 December 2005 entitled “The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation”,

Confirming its commitment to the Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries, as contained in the annex to its resolution 51/122 of 13 December 1996,

Recognizing that States should not be excluded from utilizing the benefits of space for peaceful purposes, but that in reaping such benefits and in conducting related cooperation they must not contribute to the proliferation of ballistic missiles capable of carrying weapons of mass destruction,

Mindful of the need to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery,

1. *Notes with satisfaction* that one hundred and thirty States have already subscribed to the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation as a practical step against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery;

2. *Invites* all States that have not yet subscribed to the Code of Conduct to do so;

3. *Encourages* the exploration of further ways and means to deal effectively with the problem of the proliferation of ballistic missiles capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled “The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation”.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 63/64:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United Republic

of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Zambia.

Against: Iran.

Abstaining: Algeria, Bahrain, Chad, Cuba, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, Yemen.

Missile Technology Control Regime

The Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)—an informal and voluntary association of countries sharing the goal of non-proliferation of unmanned systems capable of delivering WMDs—at its twenty-third plenary meeting (Canberra, Australia, 5–7 November) recognized that more must be done to discourage WMD means-of-delivery programmes and proliferation activities, and acknowledged that particular challenges were posed by missile proliferation in Northeast Asia, South Asia and the Middle East. At the meeting, the partners discussed export control challenges and confirmed their determination to strengthen MTCR controls to meet proliferation threats, including those posed by rapid technological change. The partners discussed a number of proposals to maintain the accuracy and comprehensiveness of MTCR controls, and agreed on changes to the list of controlled goods, as well as on nationally implemented measures to improve the effectiveness of controls. The partners expressed their determination to implement the Security Council resolutions relevant to MTCR export controls and to prevent the transfer of any items, materials, goods and technology that could contribute to WMD missile proliferation. More broadly, the partners reiterated their support for implementation of Council resolution 1540(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 544], which called on all States to establish effective national export controls to prevent WMD proliferation.

Missile defence system in Europe

Plans for stationing a missile defence system in Europe were further consolidated when the United States and the Czech Republic issued a Joint Statement on 3 April announcing the completion of negotiations on a missile defence agreement that called for the stationing of a ballistic missile-tracking radar in the Czech Republic, and on 20 August when the United States and Poland signed the legally binding “Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Poland Concerning the Deployment of Ground-Based Ballistic Missile Defense Interceptors in the Territory of the Republic of Poland”. Those plans were criticized by the Russian Federation, which declared its intention to deploy countermeasures should the missile defence system become reality.

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Status

As at 31 December, 179 States had signed the 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) adopted by General Assembly resolution 50/245 [YUN 1996, p. 454], and 148 had ratified it. In accordance with article XIV, CTBT would enter into force 180 days after the 44 States possessing nuclear reactors, listed in annex 2 of the Treaty, had deposited their instruments of ratification. At year's end, 35 of those States had ratified the Treaty. During the year, instruments of ratification were deposited by Barbados, Burundi, Colombia, Lebanon, Malawi, Malaysia and Mozambique.

Report of Secretary General. In July [A/63/124], pursuant to General Assembly resolution 62/59 [YUN 2007, p. 543], the Secretary-General reported, in consultation with the Preparatory Commission for CTBT, on efforts of States that had ratified the Treaty towards its universalization and possibilities for providing assistance on ratification procedures to States that so requested it.

Ministerial Meeting in support of CTBT entry into force

The Fourth Ministerial Meeting in support of CTBT's entry into force (New York, 24 September) was convened by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Australia, Austria, Canada, Costa Rica, Finland, Japan and the Netherlands. In his opening address, the Secretary-General reiterated his appeal to those States whose ratification was needed for the entry into force—China, the DPRK, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Pakistan and the United States—to sign and ratify the Treaty, underlining that it would be a major step in the efforts to build a safer, more peaceful world. Approximately 40 Foreign Ministers participated in the Meeting and issued a Joint Ministerial Statement that was subsequently endorsed by 96 countries. In the Statement, which was annexed to a letter of 19 December [A/63/634] to the Secretary-General, the Ministers called on all States that had not yet done so to sign and ratify the Treaty without delay, in particular those whose ratification was needed for its entry into force, and committed themselves individually and together to make the Treaty a focus of attention at the highest political levels.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/395], adopted **resolution 63/87** by recorded vote (175-1-3) [agenda item 95].

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

The General Assembly,

Reiterating that the cessation of nuclear-weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions constitutes an effective nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation measure, and convinced that this is a meaningful step in the realization of a systematic process to achieve nuclear disarmament,

Recalling that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, adopted by its resolution 50/245 of 10 September 1996, was opened for signature on 24 September 1996,

Stressing that a universal and effectively verifiable Treaty constitutes a fundamental instrument in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and that after more than ten years, its entry into force is more urgent than ever before,

Encouraged by the signing of the Treaty by one hundred and eighty States, including forty-one of the forty-four needed for its entry into force, and welcoming the ratification of one hundred and forty-five States, including thirty-five of the forty-four needed for its entry into force, among which there are three nuclear-weapon States,

Recalling its resolution 62/59 of 5 December 2007,

Welcoming the Joint Ministerial Statement on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, adopted at the Ministerial Meeting held in New York on 24 September 2008,

1. *Stresses* the vital importance and urgency of signature and ratification, without delay and without conditions, to achieve the earliest entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty;

2. *Welcomes* the contributions by the States signatories to the work of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, in particular its efforts to ensure that the Treaty's verification regime will be capable of meeting the verification requirements of the Treaty upon its entry into force, in accordance with article IV of the Treaty;

3. *Underlines* the need to maintain momentum towards completion of all elements of the verification regime;

4. *Urges* all 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 acts that would defeat the object and purpose of the Treaty, while stressing that these measures do not have the same permanent and legally binding effect as the entry into force of the Treaty;

5. *Calls for* the verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner through the successful implementation of the Joint Statement of 19 September 2005, and the initial and second-phase actions to implement it, agreed upon in the framework of the Six-Party Talks;

6. *Urges* all States that have not yet signed the Treaty to sign and ratify it as soon as possible;

7. *Urges* all States that have signed but not yet ratified the Treaty, in particular those whose ratification is needed for its entry into force, to accelerate their ratification processes with a view to ensuring their earliest successful conclusion;

8. *Welcomes* the ratification of the Treaty in 2008 by Colombia, Barbados, Malaysia and Burundi, as well as the signature in 2008 by Iraq and Timor-Leste, as significant steps towards the early entry into force of the Treaty;

9. *Urges* all States to remain seized of the issue at the highest political level and, where in a position to do so, to promote adherence to the Treaty through bilateral and joint outreach, seminars and other means;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, to prepare a report on the efforts of States that have ratified the Treaty towards its universalization and possibilities for providing assistance on ratification procedures to States that so request it, and to submit such a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 63/87:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States.

Abstaining: India, Mauritius, Syrian Arab Republic.

Also on 2 December [meeting 61], the Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee's [A/63/389], adopted **resolution 63/58** by recorded vote (166-5-7) [agenda item 89 (f)].

Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 62/25 of 5 December 2007,

Continuing to express its grave concern at the danger to humanity posed by the possibility that nuclear weapons could be used,

Reaffirming that nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing processes requiring urgent irreversible progress on both fronts,

Recognizing the continued vital importance of the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty to the advancement of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation objectives, and welcoming the recent ratifications of the Treaty by Barbados, Burundi, Colombia and Malaysia,

Recalling the decisions entitled "Strengthening the review process for the Treaty", "Principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament" and "Extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons" and the resolution on the Middle East, adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Recalling also the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, leading to nuclear disarmament, in accordance with commitments made under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Mindful of the approaching 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and in this regard urging States parties to intensify their constructive engagement in the work of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference at its third session, in 2009,

1. *Continues to emphasize* the central role of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its universality in achieving nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, and calls upon all States parties to respect their obligations;

2. *Calls upon* all States to comply fully with all commitments made regarding nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation and not to act in any way that may compromise either cause or that may lead to a new nuclear arms race;

3. *Reaffirms* that the outcome of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons sets out the agreed process for systematic and progressive efforts towards nuclear disarmament, and in this regard renews its call upon the nuclear-weapon States to accelerate the implementation of the practical steps towards nuclear disarmament that were agreed upon at the 2000 Review Conference, thereby contributing to a safer world for all;

4. *Reiterates its call upon* all States parties to spare no effort to achieve the universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and in this regard urges India, Israel and Pakistan to accede to the Treaty as non-nuclear-weapon States promptly and without conditions;

5. Urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to rescind its announced withdrawal from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, while recognizing the efforts undertaken during 2008 within the framework of the Six-Party Talks to achieve the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner;

6. Stresses the need for a constructive and successful preparatory process leading to the 2010 Review Conference, which should contribute to strengthening the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in all its aspects and achieving its full implementation and universality;

7. Welcomes the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference, held in Geneva from 28 April to 9 May 2008, and calls upon the Preparatory Committee at its third session, in 2009, to identify and address specific aspects where urgent progress is required in order to advance the objective of a nuclear-weapon-free world, building on the outcomes of the 1995 and 2000 Conferences;

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments" and to review the implementation of the present resolution at that session.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 63/58:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Democratic People's Republic of Korea, France, India, Israel, United States.

Abstaining: Bhutan, Latvia, Micronesia, Pakistan, Palau, Russian Federation, United Kingdom.

Preparatory Commission for the CTBT Organization

The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), established in 1996 [YUN 1996, p. 452], continued to develop the Treaty's verification regime. Further progress was made in setting up the International Monitoring System (IMS) [YUN 1999, p. 472], the global network of 337 facilities to be built in 90 countries and designed to detect nuclear explosions prohibited by CTBT. By the end of 2008, approximately 250 IMS stations, representing 70 per cent of the entire network, had been verified and were transmitting information to the International Data Centre in Vienna. The migration of the Global Communications Infrastructure had been completed, with the data volume transmitted through the system. The number of IMS data users increased further, crossing the threshold of 1,000 authorized individual users in 100 countries. In September, a major on-site inspection in Kazakhstan was carried out successfully—the first comprehensive inspection ever conducted, involving all major elements of the on-site inspection regime. Additionally, equipment weighing 50 tons was deployed in Semipalatinsk, a former Soviet nuclear test site in Kazakhstan. Speaking before the First Committee on 15 October, the CTBTO Executive Secretary informed members that the International Scientific Studies project was launched in March, whereby participating scientific institutions independently assessed the verification regime and explored future opportunities for cooperation between CTBTO and the scientific community. The project was to culminate in a conference in Vienna in June 2009.

The Preparatory Commission held its thirtieth (23–24 June) [CTBT/PC-30/1] and thirty-first (17–18 November) [CTBT/PC-31/1] sessions, both in Vienna, to consider the reports of its working groups and to discuss organizational, budgetary and other matters. The Commission adopted its 2009 programme budget in the amounts of \$52,614,400 and €18,543,600.

Note and report of Secretary-General. By a July note [A/63/156], the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly the report of the Commission's Executive Committee for 2007. In an August report [A/63/228-S/2008/531], the Secretary-General noted that the report of the Executive Secretary for 2006 [YUN 2007, p. 542] had been submitted to the Assembly pursuant to article IV, paragraph 1, of the Agreement to Regulate the Relationship between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission, annexed to Assembly resolution 54/280 [YUN 2000, p. 501].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 3 November [meeting 37], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 63/13** [draft: A/63/L.11] by recorded vote (64-1-0) [agenda item 114 (*t*)].

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,

Taking note also of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization,

Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the sub-item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization”.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 63/13:

In favour: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cambodia, China, Congo, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Myanmar, New Zealand, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Zambia.

Against: United States.

Abstaining: None.

Prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons

In 2008, the Conference on Disarmament did not hold negotiations on a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons, as called for in General Assembly resolution 62/51 [YUN 2007, p. 545]. The Assembly, in resolution 63/75 (see below), reiterated its request to the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/390], adopted **resolution 63/75** by recorded vote (121-50-10) [agenda item 90 (*e*)].

Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons

The General Assembly,

Convinced that the use of nuclear weapons poses the most serious threat to the survival of mankind,

Bearing in mind the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996 on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*,

Convinced that a multilateral, universal and binding agreement prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons would contribute to the elimination of the nuclear threat and to the climate for negotiations leading to the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons, thereby strengthening international peace and security,

Conscious that some steps taken by the Russian Federation and the United States of America towards a reduction of their nuclear weapons and the improvement in the international climate can contribute towards the goal of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons,

Recalling that paragraph 58 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly states that all States should actively participate in efforts to bring about conditions in international relations among States in which a code of peaceful conduct of nations in international affairs could be agreed upon and that would preclude the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Reaffirming that any use of nuclear weapons would be a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and a crime against humanity, as declared in its resolutions 1653(XVI) of 24 November 1961, 33/71 B of 14 December 1978, 34/83 G of 11 December 1979, 35/152 D of 12 December 1980 and 36/92 I of 9 December 1981,

Determined to achieve an international convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons, leading to their ultimate destruction,

Stressing that an international convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons would be an important step in a phased programme towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, with a specified framework of time,

Noting with regret that the Conference on Disarmament, during its 2008 session, was unable to undertake negotiations on this subject as called for in General Assembly resolution 62/51 of 5 December 2007,

1. Reiterates its request to the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations in order to reach agreement on an international convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances;

2. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to report to the General Assembly on the results of those negotiations.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 63/75:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger,

Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Marshall Islands, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Serbia, Uzbekistan.

Advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice

Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 62/32 [YUN 2007, p. 535], 62/39 [ibid., p. 545] and 62/42 [ibid., p. 538], on the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice that the threat or use of nuclear weapons was contrary to the UN Charter [YUN 1999, p. 461], the Secretary-General in July presented information from four States (Canada, Cuba, Japan, Qatar) on measures they had taken to implement resolution 62/39 and towards nuclear disarmament [A/63/135].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/389], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 63/49** by recorded vote (127-30-23) [agenda item 89 (u)].

Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/75 K of 15 December 1994, 51/45 M of 10 December 1996, 52/38 O of 9 December 1997, 53/77 W of 4 December 1998, 54/54 Q of 1 December 1999, 55/33 X of 20 November 2000, 56/24 S of 29 November 2001, 57/85 of 22 November 2002, 58/46 of 8 December 2003, 59/83 of 3 December 2004, 60/76 of 8 December 2005, 61/83 of 6 December 2006 and 62/39 of 5 December 2007,

Convinced that the continuing existence of nuclear weapons poses a threat to all humanity and that their use would have catastrophic consequences for all life on Earth, and recognizing that the only defence against a nuclear

catastrophe is the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the certainty that they will never be produced again,

Reaffirming the commitment of the international community to the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free world,

Mindful of the solemn obligations of States parties, undertaken in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, particularly to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament,

Recalling the principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Emphasizing the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, adopted at the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Recalling the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in its resolution 50/245 of 10 September 1996, and expressing its satisfaction at the increasing number of States that have signed and ratified the Treaty,

Recognizing with satisfaction that the Antarctic Treaty and the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok, Pelindaba and Semipalatinsk, as well as Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status, are gradually freeing the entire southern hemisphere and adjacent areas covered by those treaties from nuclear weapons,

Stressing the importance of strengthening all existing nuclear-related disarmament and arms control and reduction measures,

Recognizing the need for a multilaterally negotiated and legally binding instrument to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the threat or use of nuclear weapons,

Reaffirming the central role of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, and regretting the lack of progress in disarmament negotiations, particularly nuclear disarmament, in the Conference during its 2008 session,

Emphasizing the need for the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time,

Expressing its regret over the failure of the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to reach agreement on any substantive issues,

Expressing its deep concern at the lack of progress in the implementation of the thirteen steps to implement article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons agreed to at the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty,

Desiring to achieve the objective of a legally binding prohibition of the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, threat or use of nuclear weapons and their destruction under effective international control,

Recalling the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*, issued on 8 July 1996,

Taking note of the relevant portions of the report of the Secretary-General relating to the implementation of resolution 62/39,

1. *Underlines once again* the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control;

2. *Calls once again upon* all States immediately to fulfil that obligation by commencing multilateral negotiations leading to an early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention prohibiting the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, transfer, threat or use of nuclear weapons and providing for their elimination;

3. *Requests* all States to inform the Secretary-General of the efforts and measures they have taken on the implementation of the present resolution and nuclear disarmament, and requests the Secretary-General to apprise the General Assembly of that information at its sixty-fourth session;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 63/49:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Moldova, Montenegro, Republic of Korea, Romania, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

Non-proliferation issues

Non-proliferation treaty

Status

In 2008, the number of States party to the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 2373(XXII) [YUN 1968, p. 17], remained at 190. NPT entered into force on 5 March 1970. It was extended indefinitely by Assembly resolution 50/70 in 1995 [YUN 1995, p. 189].

2010 review conference

Following the entry into force of NPT, quinquennial review conferences, as called for under article VIII, paragraph 3, of the Treaty, were held, the first one in 1975 [YUN 1975, p. 27], and the most recent in 2005 [YUN 2005, p. 597].

As decided by the NPT parties in 2007 [YUN 2007, p. 547], the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference held its second session in 2008 (Geneva, 28 April–9 May) [NPT/CONF.2010/PC.II/13]. Participants included 106 States parties, one specialized agency, the IAEA, five intergovernmental organizations and 63 NGOs.

The Committee held 14 meetings, nine of which were devoted to a substantive discussion on three main clusters and three specific blocks of issues. The clusters dealt with implementation of the Treaty provisions related to: non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, disarmament and international peace and security; non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, safeguards and nuclear-weapon-free zones; and the inalienable right of all NPT parties to develop research, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, without discrimination and in conformity with articles I and II. The specific blocks of issues addressed: nuclear disarmament and security assurances; regional issues, including with respect to the Middle East and the implementation of the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review Conference [YUN 1995, p. 189]; and other Treaty provisions, including article X. The Committee also held an interactive debate on each topic.

The Committee invited the UN Secretary-General, in consultation with the members of the Preparatory Committee, to nominate a provisional Secretary-General for the Review Conference, who would later be confirmed by the Conference itself. To promote greater financial transparency and accountability, it requested the Secretary-General to provide a financial report to the Conference as well as to each session of the Preparatory Committee.

The Committee decided to meet for its third session in New York from 4 to 15 May 2009, and that the Review Conference would be held from 26 April to 21 May 2010, also in New York.

The General Assembly, in resolution 63/58 (see p. 580), welcomed the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference and called on the Committee, at its third session in 2009, to identify and address specific aspects where progress was required, in order to advance the objective of a nuclear-weapon-free world, building on the outcomes of the 1995 [ibid.] and 2005 [YUN 2005, p. 597] Conferences.

Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

Security Council Committee on WMDs

In April, the Security Council, by resolution 1810(2008) (see below), extended until 2011 the mandate of the 1540 Committee, established in 2004 for a period of no longer than two years, with a mandate to report to the Council on the implementation of resolution 1540(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 544] concerning the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). The Committee's mandate had been extended until 2008 by resolution 1673(2006) [YUN 2006, p. 635].

In July, the Committee presented its second report (see p. 587), identifying implementation measures that States had put in place, especially since the adoption of resolution 1673(2006). New reports and information submitted by States and governmental sources since 2006 demonstrated a qualitative improvement in progress towards full implementation of resolution 1540(2004). As at November, 159 States had submitted their first national reports, and 102 States had also provided additional or updated information.

The key activities undertaken by the Committee in 2008 included examining measures taken to implement resolution 1540(2004); conducting outreach activities; developing deeper and mutually beneficial cooperation with other Security Council counterterrorism bodies, as well as with global, regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations; and creating new tools to facilitate assistance.

The Committee Chair, members and experts participated in numerous international, regional and national workshops, conferences and seminars to advance the full implementation of Security Council resolutions 1540(2004), 1673(2006) and 1810(2008). The events addressed topics ranging from the broad challenge of preventing WMD proliferation to specific aspects of resolution 1540(2004) and included issues concerning chemical and biological weapons-related materials; the prevention of nuclear terrorism; trafficking in nuclear materials; border and export con-

trols; brokering and financial control; and criminal law aspects of countering nuclear, chemical and biological terrorism, in light of relevant universal instruments. Some workshops addressed capacity-building and assistance as priority areas.

On 6 May [meeting 5886] and 12 November [meeting 6015], the Committee, jointly with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee, briefed the Council on progress achieved in fulfilling their respective mandates.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 25 April [meeting 5877] the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 1810(2008)**. The draft [S/2008/273] was prepared in consultations among Council members.

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its resolutions 1540(2004) of 28 April 2004 and 1673(2006) of 27 April 2006,

Reaffirming also that the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery, constitutes a threat to international peace and security,

Reaffirming further the statement made by the President of the Security Council at the meeting of the Council held at the level of Heads of State and Government on 31 January 1992, including the need for all Member States to fulfil their obligations in relation to arms control and disarmament and to prevent the proliferation in all its aspects of all weapons of mass destruction,

Reaffirming that prevention of the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons should not hamper international cooperation in materials, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes, while goals of peaceful utilization should not be used as a cover for proliferation,

Affirming its resolve to take appropriate and effective actions against any threat to international peace and security caused by the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery, in conformity with its primary responsibilities, as provided for in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming its decision that none of the obligations in resolution 1540(2004) shall be interpreted so as to conflict with or alter the rights and obligations of State parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction or alter the responsibilities of the International Atomic Energy Agency or the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons,

Noting that international cooperation between States, in accordance with international law, is required to counter the illicit trafficking by non-State actors in nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, their means of delivery, and related materials,

Endorsing the work already carried out by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540(2004) (hereinafter “the 1540 Committee”), in accordance with its fifth programme of work,

Bearing in mind the importance of the report requested in paragraph 6 of resolution 1673(2006),

Noting that not all States have presented to the 1540 Committee their national reports on implementation of resolution 1540(2004), and that the full implementation of resolution 1540(2004) by all States, including the adoption of national laws and measures to ensure implementation of these laws, is a long-term task that will require continuous efforts at the national, regional and international levels,

Recognizing, in that regard, the importance of dialogue between the 1540 Committee and Member States, and stressing that direct contact is an effective means of such dialogue,

Recognizing also the need to enhance the coordination of efforts at the national, subregional, regional and international levels, as appropriate, in order to strengthen a global response to this serious challenge and threat to international security,

Emphasizing, in that regard, the importance of providing States, in response to their requests, with effective assistance that meets their needs, and stressing the importance of ensuring that the clearing-house function for assistance is efficient and accessible,

Taking note of international efforts towards full implementation of resolution 1540(2004), including on preventing the financing of proliferation-related activities, taking into consideration the guidance of the framework of the Financial Action Task Force,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter,

1. *Reiterates* its decisions taken in, and the requirements of, resolution 1540(2004), and emphasizes the importance for all States to implement fully that resolution;

2. *Again calls upon* all States that have not yet presented a first report on steps they have taken or intend to take to implement resolution 1540(2004) to submit such a report to the 1540 Committee without delay;

3. *Encourages* all States that have submitted such reports to provide, at any time or upon the request of the 1540 Committee, additional information on their implementation of resolution 1540(2004);

4. *Encourages* all States to prepare on a voluntary basis summary action plans, with the assistance of the 1540 Committee as appropriate, mapping out their priorities and plans for implementing the key provisions of resolution 1540(2004), and to submit those plans to the 1540 Committee;

5. *Encourages* States that have requests for assistance to convey them to the 1540 Committee, and encourages them to make use of the 1540 Committee’s assistance template to that effect; urges States and international, regional and subregional organizations to inform the 1540 Committee, as appropriate, by 25 June 2008 of areas in which they are able to provide assistance; and calls upon States and such organizations, if they have not done so previously, to provide the 1540 Committee with a point of contact for assistance by 25 June 2008;

6. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the 1540 Committee for a period of three years, with the continued assistance of experts, until 25 April 2011;

7. *Requests* the 1540 Committee to complete its report, as set out in paragraph 6 of resolution 1673(2006), and to submit it to the Security Council as soon as possible but no later than 31 July 2008;

8. *Also requests* the 1540 Committee to consider a comprehensive review of the status of implementation of resolution 1540(2004) and to report to the Council on its consideration of the matter no later than 31 January 2009;

9. *Decides* that the 1540 Committee shall submit an annual programme of work to the Council before the end of January of each year;

10. *Also decides* that the 1540 Committee shall continue to intensify its efforts to promote the full implementation by all States of resolution 1540(2004), through its programme of work, which includes the compilation of information on the status of implementation by States of all aspects of resolution 1540(2004), outreach, dialogue, assistance and cooperation, and which addresses, in particular, all aspects of paragraphs 1 and 2 of that resolution, as well as of paragraph 3, which encompasses (a) accountability, (b) physical protection, (c) border controls and law enforcement efforts, and (d) national export and trans-shipment controls, including controls on providing funds and services, such as financing, to such export and trans-shipment;

11. *Further decides*, in that regard:

(a) To encourage the pursuit of the ongoing dialogue between the 1540 Committee and States on their further actions to implement fully resolution 1540(2004) and on technical assistance needed and offered;

(b) To request the 1540 Committee to continue to organize and participate in outreach events at the regional, subregional and, as appropriate, national levels promoting the implementation by States of resolution 1540(2004);

(c) To urge the 1540 Committee to continue strengthening its role in facilitating technical assistance for the implementation of resolution 1540(2004), including by engaging actively in matching offers and requests for assistance through such means as assistance templates, action plans or other information submitted to the 1540 Committee;

(d) To encourage the 1540 Committee to engage actively with States and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to promote the sharing of experience and lessons learned in the areas covered by resolution 1540(2004), and to liaise on the availability of programmes which might facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540(2004);

(e) To request the 1540 Committee to provide opportunities for interaction with interested States and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to promote the implementation of resolution 1540(2004);

12. *Reiterates* the need to enhance ongoing cooperation between the 1540 Committee, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267(1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities, and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373(2001) concerning counter-terrorism, including through, as appropriate, en-

hanced information-sharing, coordination on visits to countries, within their respective mandates, technical assistance and other issues of relevance to all three Committees, and expresses its intention to provide guidance to the Committees on areas of common interest in order better to coordinate their efforts;

13. *Urges* the 1540 Committee to encourage and take full advantage of voluntary financial contributions to assist States in identifying and addressing their needs for the implementation of resolution 1540(2004), and requests the 1540 Committee to consider options for developing and making more effective existing funding mechanisms and to report to the Council on its consideration of the matter no later than 31 December 2008;

14. *Decides* that the 1540 Committee shall submit to the Council no later than 24 April 2011 a report on compliance with resolution 1540(2004) through the achievement of the implementation of its requirements;

15. *Also decides* to remain seized of the matter.

Implementation report. In July [S/2008/493], the Committee on WMDs reported on its work to promote full implementation of Council resolution 1540(2004) by Member States.

Since the extension of its mandate in 2006, the Committee had held formal and informal meetings, as well as informal consultations. Its three sub-committees, established in 2004 [YUN 2004, p. 545], held meetings to consider national reports and additional information submitted by States. The Committee continued to be assisted by experts who received substantive and logistical support from UNODA.

In September 2007, the Committee had adopted its sixth programme of work, for the period from 1 October 2007 to 27 April 2008, which represented a continuation of the fifth programme with the addition of the preparation of the Committee's report on the second biennium of its work. In October and November 2007, the Committee had sent letters to all 192 Member States, each of them accompanied by a matrix prepared by the Committee's experts, reminding them to submit reports or provide up-to-date information on further steps they had taken or planned to take to achieve full implementation of resolution 1540(2004). As at 1 July 2008, 103 States had responded and the total number of States having submitted at least one report since 2004 stood at 155, with one organization also having reported. Of those States that had submitted first reports, 102 provided additional information.

The Committee believed that it had made considerable progress with regard to implementation of resolution 1540(2004), assisting the Council in implementation monitoring through: the examination of relevant measures taken by Member States; the organization of intensive outreach activities; the development of deeper and mutually beneficial cooperation with other Council counter-terrorism bod-

ies, as well as with global, regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations; the creation of new tools to facilitate assistance and transparency; and the enhancement of dialogue with individual States. The Committee further believed that those activities had substantially raised the awareness of the international community about the dangers associated with the potential nexus between the proliferation of WMDs, their means of delivery and related materials, and non-State actors. Since the adoption of Council resolution 1673(2006), the Committee had sought to facilitate Member States' efforts to prepare to address that nexus.

The Committee identified specific measures that States had in place to implement resolution 1540(2004), including steps they had taken since April 2006. Those measures ranged from developing new institutional means to incorporate the obligations from the resolution into national practices to adopting new legislation and enforcement measures, executing new policies and creating new assistance programmes geared towards resolution implementation.

Notwithstanding the progress made, the Committee concluded that Member States needed to do far more. Consequently, achieving the resolution goals required further attention by the Council and more intensive action, particularly on capacity-building and sharing lessons learned. Among other recommendations, the Committee believed that, consistent with resolution 1810(2008), it should strengthen its clearing-house role for channelling assistance to States in need; increase tailored dialogue with and among States to identify assistance needs and projects to meet them; and promote awareness of, make better use of and consider options for developing funding mechanisms in order to build capacity for implementation. To those ends, it should work more closely with global and regional intergovernmental organizations and arrangements, within and outside the UN system, to foster experience-sharing, create discussion forums and develop innovative mechanisms to achieve implementation.

The Committee Chair presented the Committee's report to the Security Council on 18 August [meeting 5955].

Communications. By a letter of 26 December [S/2008/821], the Chair of the Committee on WMDs informed the Security Council President that the Committee had initiated a discussion on options for developing and making more effective the existing funding mechanisms for the implementation of resolution 1540(2004).

By a communication of the same date [S/2008/820], the Secretary-General informed the Council President that on 19 December, the Committee had approved the recruitment of three new experts to the

group of experts assisting the Committee, effective 1 April 2009.

By a letter of 24 October to the First Committee Chairperson [A/C.1/63/9], Ecuador expressed concern at a publication sponsored by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, entitled *Implementing Resolution 1540: the Role of Regional Organizations*, which had been presented to Member States during an event on 22 October. The chapter referring to the resolution's implementation in Latin America and the role of the Organization of American States allegedly contained errors, outdated information and a baseless statement about the status of implementation by certain regional States. Such occurrences in no way contributed to the efforts being made by all countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to ensure the full implementation. Similar sentiments were voiced by Cuba [A/C.1/63/7].

New types of WMDs

The issue of radiological weapons had been on the Conference on Disarmament agenda since 1979. In accordance with the joint initiative by the 2008 Presidents, and under the guidance of the Coordinator (Bulgaria), the Conference [A/63/27] held three informal meetings on 13 and 29 February and on 7 August on "New types of WMDs and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons".

During the discussions, delegations validated the outcome of the 2007 Conference meetings on the subject [YUN 2007, p. 550]. While a number of delegations underscored the continued relevance of that agenda item, particularly considering the threat of dirty bombs by non-State actors, most agreed that it was not a key issue and that priority should be given to the core issues on the agenda. Consequently, no specific issues or new proposals were raised during the proceedings in 2008.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/382], adopted **resolution 63/36** by recorded vote (175-1-1) [agenda item 82].

Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons,

Recalling also its resolutions 51/37 of 10 December 1996, 54/44 of 1 December 1999, 57/50 of 22 November 2002 and 60/46 of 8 December 2005 relating to the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types

of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons,

Recalling further paragraph 77 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,

Determined to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction that have characteristics comparable in destructive effect to those of weapons of mass destruction identified in the definition of weapons of mass destruction adopted by the United Nations in 1948,

Noting the desirability of keeping the matter under review, as appropriate,

1. *Reaffirms* that effective measures should be taken to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction;

2. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament, without prejudice to further overview of its agenda, to keep the matter under review, as appropriate, with a view to making, when necessary, recommendations on undertaking specific negotiations on identified types of such weapons;

3. *Calls upon* all States, immediately following any recommendations of the Conference on Disarmament, to give favourable consideration to those recommendations;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference on Disarmament all documents relating to the consideration of this item by the General Assembly at its sixty-third session;

5. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to report the results of any consideration of the matter in its annual reports to the General Assembly;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session the item entitled "Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 63/36:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and

Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States.

Abstaining: Israel.

Terrorism and WMDs

During the year, the United Nations continued to promote international action against terrorism through collaborative efforts with Member States and regional and international organizations, and through the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (see p. 70) and the Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee (see p. 376). In combating terrorism, the Committee on WMDs worked with those bodies, and on 6 May [meeting 5886] and 12 November [meeting 6015], the three Committees jointly briefed the Security Council on progress achieved in fulfilling their mandates. The Council, in **resolution 1805(2008)** of 20 March (see p. 71), reiterated the need to enhance ongoing cooperation among the three bodies regarding non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery, as well as their respective groups of experts, through information-sharing, coordinated visits to countries, technical assistance and other relevant issues.

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 62/33 [YUN 2007, p. 551], the Secretary-General, in a July report [A/63/153], presented the views of 10 Member States and 11 international organizations, including UN agencies, on measures they reported on preventing terrorists from acquiring WMDs, their means of delivery, and related materials and technologies.

IAEA action. During the year, IAEA continued to emphasize the need to advance Member States' capacity to tackle potential threats associated with nuclear terrorism. On 4 October [GC/52/RES/10], the IAEA General Conference, in a resolution on measures to protect against nuclear terrorism, invited all States to consider the potential danger of illicit trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive material across their borders and within their countries, and welcomed the Agency's activities in support of States' efforts to enhance nuclear security worldwide.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/389], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 63/60** without vote [agenda item 89 (r)].

Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 62/33 of 5 December 2007,

Recognizing the determination of the international community to combat terrorism, as evidenced in relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions,

Deeply concerned by the growing risk of linkages between terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, and in particular by the fact that terrorists may seek to acquire weapons of mass destruction,

Cognizant of the steps taken by States to implement Security Council resolution 1540(2004) on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, adopted on 28 April 2004,

Welcoming the entry into force on 7 July 2007 of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism,

Welcoming also the adoption, by consensus, of amendments to strengthen the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material by the International Atomic Energy Agency on 8 July 2005,

Noting the support expressed in the Final Document of the Fourteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, which was held in Havana on 15 and 16 September 2006 for measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction,

Noting also that the Group of Eight, the European Union, the Regional Forum of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and others have taken into account in their deliberations the dangers posed by the likely acquisition by terrorists of weapons of mass destruction, and the need for international cooperation in combating it,

Noting further the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, launched jointly by the Russian Federation and the United States of America,

Acknowledging the consideration of issues relating to terrorism and weapons of mass destruction by the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters,

Taking note of the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its fifty-second regular session,

Taking note also of the 2005 World Summit Outcome adopted on 16 September 2005 at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly and the adoption on 8 September 2006 of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy,

Taking note further of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to paragraphs 3 and 5 of resolution 62/33,

Mindful of the urgent need for addressing, within the United Nations framework and through international cooperation, this threat to humanity,

Emphasizing that progress is urgently needed in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation in order to maintain international peace and security and to contribute to global efforts against terrorism,

1. *Calls upon* all Member States to support international efforts to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery;

2. *Appeals* to all Member States to consider early accession to and ratification of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism;

3. *Urges* all Member States to take and strengthen national measures, as appropriate, to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and materials and technologies related to their manufacture;

4. *Encourages* cooperation among and between Member States and relevant regional and international organizations for strengthening national capacities in this regard;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to compile a report on measures already taken by international organizations on issues relating to the linkage between the fight against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and to seek the views of Member States on additional relevant measures, including national measures, for tackling the global threat posed by the acquisition by terrorists of weapons of mass destruction and to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction".

Multilateralism in disarmament and non-proliferation

Given the multifaceted challenges confronting international disarmament and non-proliferation, the United Nations continued in 2008 to reinforce and strengthen multilateralism as the core principle in addressing those issues.

The Secretary-General, with the support of the High Representative on Disarmament and UNODA, remained committed to revitalizing the international disarmament agenda, as well as the effectiveness of the United Nations in that area. He continued to play a large role in promoting and supporting multilateral efforts to strengthen the implementation of existing multilateral disarmament, non-proliferation and arms limitation agreements, and encouraged new inclusive, complementary and mutually reinforcing initiatives. Under the leadership of the High Representative for Disarmament, UNODA enhanced its engagement and cooperation with Member States, intergovernmental organizations and civil society.

At its Fifteenth Ministerial Conference (Tehran, Iran, 27–30 July), the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) underlined multilateralism and multilaterally agreed solutions, in accordance with the UN Charter, as the only sustainable method of addressing disarmament and international security issues.

Reports of Secretary-General. In his annual report to the General Assembly on the work of the Organization [A/63/1], the Secretary-General noted that the risks inherent in the existence of WMDS, especially nuclear weapons, were universally recog-

nized. Though welcoming recent initiatives aimed at achieving a world free of nuclear weapons, as well as reductions of nuclear arsenals and reduced reliance on nuclear weapons, he stressed that further reductions in strategic and non-strategic stockpiles, greater transparency, de-alerting and a diminished role for nuclear weapons in security policies were needed.

Noting that the year 2008 marked the fortieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the NPT, the Secretary-General said that the Treaty must be strengthened and trust in it be rebuilt, as part of a broader process of reaffirming the rule of law as well as the importance of multilateralism.

The Secretary-General was encouraged by the continued determination and efforts by States to bring the CTBT into force as soon as possible and was pleased to report progress in the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (see p. 604). The Secretary-General noted that efforts continued in the Conference on Disarmament to overcome the long-standing deadlock over its priorities. In January, he had urged Members to forestall arms races, reduce tensions and free resources for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Successful negotiations on a fissile material ban and substantive discussions on preventing the placement of weapons in outer space, nuclear disarmament and security assurances depended on high-level leadership and political support. Controlling conventional weapons remained central to UN disarmament efforts, the Secretary-General asserted, and strong calls to address the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions had been answered with the adoption in May of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (see p. 623).

According to the Secretary-General, the revitalization of multilateral disarmament efforts was within reach. Full implementation of multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation arrangements and the achievement of their universality remained a major challenge. Strengthening regional mechanisms and developing effective partnerships, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, would help bolster progress and unlock the disarmament stalemate.

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 62/27 [YUN 2007, p. 553], the Secretary-General, in a July report [A/63/126], presented replies received from five Member States (Cuba, the Netherlands, Panama, Qatar, Spain) on the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

The Security Council, in presidential statement S/PRST/2008/43, of 19 November (see p. 592), stressed the importance of a multilateral system to better address, in accordance with international law, the multifaceted and interconnected challenges and

threats confronting the world. It expressed its support for multilateralism as one of the most important means for resolving security concerns in accordance with international law.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/389], adopted **resolution 63/50** by recorded vote (126-5-50) [agenda item 89 (m)].

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

The General Assembly,

Determined to foster strict respect for the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolution 56/24 T of 29 November 2001 on multilateral cooperation in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation and global efforts against terrorism and other relevant resolutions, as well as its resolutions 57/63 of 22 November 2002, 58/44 of 8 December 2003, 59/69 of 3 December 2004, 60/59 of 8 December 2005, 61/62 of 6 December 2006 and 62/27 of 5 December 2007 on the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation,

Recalling also the purpose of the United Nations to maintain international peace and security and, to that end, to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace, as enshrined in the Charter,

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which states, inter alia, that the responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social development, as well as threats to international peace and security, must be shared among the nations of the world and should be exercised multilaterally and that, as the most universal and most representative organization in the world, the United Nations must play the central role,

Convinced that, in the globalization era and with the information revolution, arms regulation, non-proliferation and disarmament problems are more than ever the concern of all countries in the world, which are affected in one way or another by these problems and, therefore, should have the possibility to participate in the negotiations that arise to tackle them,

Bearing in mind the existence of a broad structure of disarmament and arms regulation agreements resulting from non-discriminatory and transparent multilateral negotiations with the participation of a large number of countries, regardless of their size and power,

Aware of the need to advance further in the field of arms regulation, non-proliferation and disarmament on the basis of universal, multilateral, non-discriminatory and transpar-

ent negotiations with the goal of reaching general and complete disarmament under strict international control,

Recognizing the complementarity of bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral negotiations on disarmament,

Recognizing also that the proliferation and development of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, are among the most immediate threats to international peace and security which need to be dealt with, with the highest priority,

Considering that the multilateral disarmament agreements provide the mechanism for States parties to consult one another and to cooperate in solving any problems which may arise in relation to the objective of, or in the application of, the provisions of the agreements and that such consultations and cooperation may also be undertaken through appropriate international procedures within the framework of the United Nations and in accordance with the Charter,

Stressing that international cooperation, the peaceful settlement of disputes, dialogue and confidence-building measures would contribute essentially to the creation of multilateral and bilateral friendly relations among peoples and nations,

Being concerned at the continuous erosion of multilateralism in the field of arms regulation, non-proliferation and disarmament, and recognizing that a resort to unilateral actions by Member States in resolving their security concerns would jeopardize international peace and security and undermine confidence in the international security system as well as the foundations of the United Nations itself,

Noting that the Fourteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Havana on 15 and 16 September 2006, and the Fifteenth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Tehran on 29 and 30 July 2008, welcomed, respectively, the adoption of General Assembly resolutions 60/59 and 62/27 on the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, and underlined the fact that multilateralism and multilaterally agreed solutions, in accordance with the Charter, provide the only sustainable method of addressing disarmament and international security issues,

Reaffirming the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, and determined to promote multilateralism as an essential way to develop arms regulation and disarmament negotiations,

1. *Reaffirms* multilateralism as the core principle in negotiations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation with a view to maintaining and strengthening universal norms and enlarging their scope;

2. *Also reaffirms* multilateralism as the core principle in resolving disarmament and non-proliferation concerns;

3. *Urges* the participation of all interested States in multilateral negotiations on arms regulation, non-proliferation and disarmament in a non-discriminatory and transparent manner;

4. *Underlines* the importance of preserving the existing agreements on arms regulation and disarmament, which constitute an expression of the results of international cooperation and multilateral negotiations in response to the challenges facing mankind;

5. *Calls once again upon* all Member States to renew and fulfil their individual and collective commitments to multilateral cooperation as an important means of pursuing and achieving their common objectives in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation;

6. *Requests* the States parties to the relevant instruments on weapons of mass destruction to consult and cooperate among themselves in resolving their concerns with regard to cases of non-compliance as well as on implementation, in accordance with the procedures defined in those instruments, and to refrain from resorting or threatening to resort to unilateral actions or directing unverified non-compliance accusations against one another to resolve their concerns;

7. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General containing the replies of Member States on the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, submitted pursuant to resolution 62/27;

8. *Requests* 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 General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 63/50:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, Micronesia, Palau, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine.

Collective security through regulation and reduction of armaments

Communication. In a concept paper on strengthening collective security through general regulation and reduction of armaments [S/2008/697], submitted to the Security Council on 10 November, Costa Rica said that in the context of the challenges and opportunities of the twenty-first century, the regulation and limitation of armaments should be understood as one element of the broader and more comprehensive design for the maintenance of peace and security, and should be seen as part of the toolkit the United Nations had at its disposal to enhance the stability of international relations, development and the peaceful settlement of disputes. Another means to help prevent conflict was an enhanced system of regional arrangements, duly coordinated and supported by the United Nations.

Security Council consideration. On 19 November [meeting 6017], the Security Council held an open debate on the item "Maintenance of international peace and security: strengthening collective security through general regulation and reduction of armaments", based on Costa Rica's proposal. The meeting was presided over by the President of Costa Rica, Óscar Arias Sánchez, who noted that it would focus on Article 26 of the UN Charter, which gave the Council the responsibility to promote peace and security with the least diversion of resources for armaments by formulating plans for a system for the regulation of armaments. He underlined that the time had come to recognize the link between the waste of resources devoted to arms and the need for resources for development.

Addressing the Council, the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs read a statement by the Secretary-General stressing that the strengthening of collective security could build trust between States and pave the way for agreements and cooperation in other fields.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 19 November [meeting 6017], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2008/43** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council recalls its primary responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Council remains convinced of the necessity to strengthen international peace and security through, inter alia, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. It considers that the regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces, as appropriate, constitutes one of the most important measures to promote international peace and security with the least diversion of the world's human and economic resources.

The Council notes the importance of collective security and its impact on disarmament and development, and stresses its concern at increasing global military expenditure.

The Council stresses the importance of appropriate levels of military expenditure, in order to achieve undiminished security for all at the lowest appropriate level of armaments. It urges all States to devote as many resources as possible to economic and social development, in particular in the fight against poverty and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

The Council affirms the 2005 World Summit Outcome, in which Heads of State and Government recognized that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.

The Council stresses the vital importance of an effective multilateral system to better address, in accordance with international law, the multifaceted and interconnected challenges and threats confronting our world and to achieve progress in the areas of peace and security, development and human rights, which are the pillars of the United Nations system and the foundations for collective security and well-being. It also expresses its support for multilateralism as one of the most important means for resolving security concerns in accordance with international law.

The Council expresses its support for national, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures adopted by Governments aimed at reducing military expenditure, where appropriate, thereby contributing to strengthening regional and international peace and security.

The Council underlines the importance of promoting norm-setting in accordance with international law, as part of the efforts to strengthen non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control measures, as well as the importance of compliance with and reinforcing of the existing agreements, conventions and treaties which relate to these matters and international peace and security.

The Council reiterates that cooperation with regional and subregional organizations in matters relating to the maintenance of peace and security and consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter can improve collective security and therefore should be continuously strengthened. In this regard, it underlines the importance of strengthening the capacity of such organizations in conflict prevention, crisis management, armaments control and in supporting States recovering from conflict and laying the foundation for sustainable peace and development.

The Council recalls the obligation of all States to accept and carry out its decisions in accordance with Article 25 of the Charter and affirms its commitment to continue monitoring and promoting the effective implementation of its decisions, in order to avoid conflict, promote and maintain international peace and security and further confidence in collective security.

The Council calls upon Member States, regional and subregional organizations, the Secretariat and the competent United Nations funds and programmes, as appropriate, to make further efforts to preserve, facilitate, develop and strengthen international and regional cooperation in the areas of arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament, through, *inter alia*, further implementation, development and strengthening of relevant agreements and instruments.

The Council intends to continue following this issue.

International Atomic Energy Agency

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) continued to serve as the focal point for worldwide cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear technology; for promoting global nuclear safety and security; and, through its verification activities, for assuring compliance with international obligations to use nuclear material and facilities for peaceful purposes. Accordingly, the fifty-second session of the IAEA General Conference (Vienna, 29 September–4 October) adopted resolutions on measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety; nuclear security; strengthening the Agency's technical cooperation activities; strengthening activities related to nuclear science, technology and application; strengthening the effectiveness and improving the efficiency of the safeguards system and application of the Model Additional Protocol; and implementation of the NPT safeguards agreement between the Agency and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East.

The General Assembly, in **resolution 63/6** (see p. 1138), took note of the IAEA's 2007 annual report.

IAEA activities

In its 2008 annual report [GC(53)/7], the Agency detailed its activities during the year. With projections of future growth of nuclear power revised upward, the Agency continued to facilitate coordination and information-sharing in the area of technology innovation and development. Specifically, it compiled the expectations of developing countries in the form of "common user considerations" for appropriate designs to be developed in the near future. Six countries completed assessments of innovative nuclear systems using the evaluation methodology developed by the Agency's International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles, and a group of eight countries completed a similar joint study, the results of which would be used to update the methodology.

There were a number of positive responses to the Director General's proposal to establish a nuclear fuel reserve of last resort, under Agency auspices, in the event of supply disruptions. Also, progress was made on other proposals related to assurances of fuel supply by Member States.

The growing interest among Member States in starting nuclear power programmes was reflected in a larger number of requests for IAEA assistance in analysing energy options and in preparing for the introduction of nuclear power. With more than 50 Member States expressing interest in considering the introduction of nuclear power, the number of approved technical cooperation projects on analysing energy options went

up from 29 in 2006–2007 to 41 in 2008, while the number of projects on considering the introduction of nuclear power increased from 13 to 44 during the same period. The Agency conducted four missions in 2008—to the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, Nigeria, the Philippines and the Sudan—to advise on their consideration of nuclear power. In December, the Agency introduced a new Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review service to assist States in adopting a comprehensive and integrated approach to the introduction of nuclear power. In addition, the Agency published *Evaluation of the Status of National Nuclear Infrastructure Development* and held a workshop to discuss the evaluation guidance.

There was an increased demand for IAEA assistance in assessing national and regional energy systems and energy strategies; its analytical tools were being used by 115 Member States and six international organizations. During the year, the Agency trained 402 energy analysts and planners from 58 countries in the use of the analytical tools. To meet the increased demand for training, the Agency introduced “technology supported learning” and used the cyber platforms of the Asian Network for Education in Nuclear Technology and the Latin American Energy Organization.

The Agency provided training, assistance missions and guidance to support both the planning for and development of human resources needed for the introduction or expansion of nuclear power. It reviewed countries’ human resource needs for that purpose, and completed two reports, entitled *Commissioning of Nuclear Power Plants: Training and Human Resource Consideration* and *Managing Human Resources in the Field of Nuclear Energy*.

The twenty-second edition of the “Red Book”, *Uranium 2007: Resources, Production and Demand*, published in 2008, reported an increase in uranium resources due to recent growth in worldwide exploration. The study predicted that the resources would last another 83 years at the current rate of consumption.

To facilitate greater international cooperation in the utilization of research reactors, the Agency began establishing a number of regional networks. It also increased the number of technical cooperation projects supporting research reactors from four to ten. A training course to help build up the necessary human resources was developed for Member States with little or no nuclear infrastructure.

Responding to the world’s food, environmental and cancer crises, the Agency strengthened its partnerships to enhance State and regional capacities in the use of nuclear technologies for sustainable solutions in such areas as food security, disease prevention and control, water resources and environmental management.

In the area of nuclear safety and security, IAEA continued to play an important role, supporting the development and implementation of international conventions and codes of conduct, helping to establish international standards and guidelines, and assisting Member States through peer review missions in enhancing their national safety and security infrastructures, as well as supporting regional and global knowledge networks. In 2008, the Agency celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its safety standards programme, through which it supported States in meeting their national safety and security objectives; since 1958, over 200 safety standards had been published. In more than 150 safety reviews, security reviews and experts’ missions and over 170 workshops, seminars and training courses during the year, the Agency helped Member States appraise national application of safety standards and security guidelines and provided advice and assistance.

Missions of the Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS), an international mechanism for sharing regulatory knowledge and experience among senior regulators, visited Botswana, Côte d’Ivoire, Germany, Guatemala, Madagascar, Namibia, Sierra Leone, Spain and Ukraine. In order to promote high quality self-assessments—one of the major goals of IRRS—the Agency developed a methodology that could also be used for other self-assessment activities. The Agency assisted Iran, Lebanon, Peru, Ukraine and Viet Nam with their self-assessments in preparation for IRRS missions to those countries. A network for sharing information among countries’ regulatory bodies was being developed.

By the end of the year, 14 Member States had registered their expert capabilities with the Agency’s Response Assistance Network. In July, an emergency exercise tested the international response to a simulated accident at a nuclear power plant. Also during the year, IAEA established the International Seismic Safety Centre as a focal point for seismic safety at nuclear installations worldwide.

Dealing with other nuclear safety matters, the Agency completed an updated safety standard on the classification of radioactive waste. Its International Steering Committee on Denials of Shipment of Radioactive Material, set up in 2006 [YUN 2006, p. 644], organized four workshops on establishing regional networks to deal with the issue, and oversaw the establishment of a database for denials of shipment, receiving more than 100 denial reports by the end of the year.

The deposit by the United States in May of its instrument of ratification of the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage marked an important milestone in the Agency’s efforts to strengthen the global nuclear liability regime.

IAEA provided training to more than 1,700 people from approximately 90 States in all aspects of nuclear

security, and assisted in recovering more than 1,500 disused radioactive sources and moving them to national storage facilities. Nearly 600 pieces of radiation detection equipment were delivered to 24 States, in some cases with Agency training on the use of the equipment.

Assisting States by establishing nuclear security information tools continued to be a high priority. During the year, ten States approved Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans, developed by the Agency as a blueprint for nuclear security work to be implemented over time.

The Agency worked with the Chinese authorities to ensure nuclear security at the Beijing Olympic Games in August—the largest security project it had ever been involved in—and provided security support to Peru for the Latin American and Caribbean-European Union Summit and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation CEO Summit.

Through its technical cooperation projects, the Agency supported the use of appropriate nuclear science and technology to address major sustainable priorities at the national, regional and interregional levels. Support was delivered principally in the areas of human health; agricultural productivity and food security; water resources management; environmental protection; physical and chemical applications; and sustainable energy development, with safety and security a cross-cutting area.

The main focus of technical cooperation activities in the Asia and Pacific region was on strengthening the technical capacity of national and regional institutions and resource centres for applications in health, agriculture, environmental protection and energy. In Africa, IAEA supported 37 Member States in developing technical, managerial and institutional capacities in nuclear science and technology and applications. In Latin America, support was given to 22 Member States in the areas of human health, food and agriculture, and radiation and transport safety, while in Europe, fuel repatriation, core conversion and related research reactor upgrades and activities continued. The Agency also supported countries interested in starting a nuclear power programme.

IAEA safeguards

IAEA's verification programme remained at the core of multilateral efforts to curb the proliferation of nuclear weapons and move towards nuclear disarmament. The purpose of its safeguards system was to provide credible assurance to the international community that nuclear material and other specified items were not diverted from peaceful nuclear uses. Under the system, the Agency established and administered safeguards, and the rights and obligations assumed in safeguards agreements, thus enabling it to independently verify the declarations made by States about their nuclear material and activities. The nature

and scope of such declarations—and of the measures implemented to verify them—stemmed from the type of safeguards agreement that a State had with the Agency.

Comprehensive safeguards agreements, concluded pursuant to NPT, and the Model Additional Protocols to those agreements, which granted the Agency complementary verification authority, had been approved by the IAEA Board of Governors in 1997 [YUN 1997, p. 486]; they remained the principal legal instruments strengthening the Agency's safeguards regime. In 2008, safeguards were applied for 163 States with agreements in force. Additional protocols entered into force for two States during the year, bringing the number of States in force to 88. States for which both the safeguards and Additional Protocols were in force numbered 84.

In a 4 October resolution [GC(52)/RES/13], the IAEA General Conference stressed the need for effective safeguards to prevent the use of nuclear material for prohibited purposes, and requested all concerned States and other parties to safeguards agreements, including nuclear-weapon States, that had not yet done so to promptly sign additional protocols and bring them into force as soon as possible, in conformity with their national legislation. The Conference noted that as at 4 October, IAEA was implementing State-level integrated safeguards approaches for 29 States and acknowledged that Agency safeguards could achieve further effectiveness and efficiency when a State-level perspective was used in safeguards activities planning, implementation and evaluation. The Conference encouraged increased cooperation between the IAEA secretariat and State and regional systems of accounting for and control of nuclear material, and commended Member States, notably Japan, which had implemented elements of a plan of action outlined in a 2000 Conference resolution [YUN 2000, p. 505] and updated in September; it recommended that other States consider doing so to facilitate the entry into force of comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

In the DPRK, the Agency had not implemented safeguards for a number of years and therefore could not draw any safeguard conclusions regarding the country. It continued, however, to monitor and verify the shutdown-status of the Yongbyon nuclear facilities and one facility at Taechon as agreed on in the Six-Party Talks. Those activities were partially discontinued from 22 September to 13 October at the request of the DPRK, resulting in a lack of access for Agency inspectors to the Yongbyon facilities and in the removal of Agency seals and surveillance equipment at the Radiochemical Laboratory. Resuming its activi-

ties on 14 October, the Agency found no indication of operation during that period.

Reporting to the General Conference on 2 September [GOV/2008/40-GC(52)/14], the Director General stated that the Agency was continuing to implement the ad hoc monitoring and verification arrangement with the cooperation of the DPRK. While it had not been able to take part in the disablement activities, IAEA had been able to observe and document those activities, which had started in November 2007.

In a 4 October resolution [GC(52)/RES/14] on the implementation of the NPT safeguards agreement between the Agency and the DPRK, the General Conference supported the continuation of IAEA's monitoring and verification activities at the Yongbyon facilities as agreed in the Six-Party Talks, and acknowledged the Agency's activities in relation to the disablement process. It stressed the essential verification role of the Agency and called on the DPRK to come into full compliance with NPT.

Iran

International concern over Iran's nuclear programme persisted during the year. The IAEA Director General submitted four reports [GOV/2008/4, GOV/2008/15, GOV/2008/38, GOV/2008/59] to the Board of Governors on the implementation of Iran's NPT safeguards agreement and relevant Security Council resolutions. The Agency was able to verify the non-diversion of the declared nuclear material in Iran, but remained unable to draw a conclusion regarding the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities. Contrary to Security Council decisions, Iran did not suspend its uranium enrichment-related activities and continued its heavy water-related projects.

In a 27 February letter [A/62/712-S/2008/138], Iran stated that the IAEA Director General's report of 22 February [GOV/2008/4] had clearly and evidently declared that all six remaining issues regarding its peaceful nuclear programme had been resolved and that all current nuclear activities in Iran were under Agency monitoring, and thus all the justifications and foundations for the Security Council's actions on the issue had vanished.

On 3 March, the Security Council adopted **resolution 1803(2008)** (see p. 409), noting with concern that, as confirmed by the Director General's reports, Iran had not established full and sustained suspension of all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities and heavy water-related projects, nor resumed cooperation with IAEA under the Additional Protocol, nor taken the other steps required by the Board of Governors, nor complied with Council resolutions 1696(2006) [YUN 2006, p. 433], 1737(2006) [ibid., p. 436] and 1747(2007) [YUN 2007, p. 374]. The Council,

welcoming the agreement between Iran and IAEA to resolve all outstanding issues concerning Iran's nuclear programme and progress made in that regard, encouraged IAEA to continue its work to clarify all outstanding issues, stressing that this would help re-establish international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme. The Council supported the Agency in strengthening its safeguards on Iran's nuclear activities and requested within 90 days a further report from the Director General. The Director General transmitted [S/2008/338] on 26 May to the Council a report [GOV/2008/15] stating that contrary to its decisions, Iran had not suspended its enrichment-related activities and had continued with the construction of an IR-40 reactor.

In a September report [GOV/2008/38], the Director General noted that the Agency had not been able to make any substantive progress on the alleged studies and issues relating to the green salt project, high explosives testing and missile re-entry vehicle project and other key remaining issues of concern. Unless Iran provided substantive information and implemented the Additional Protocol, the Agency would not be able to provide credible assurance about the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities in the country. Reaffirming its commitment to an early negotiated solution to the Iranian nuclear issue, the Security Council, in **resolution 1835(2008)** of 27 September (see p. 414), called on Iran to comply fully and without delay with its obligations.

On 19 November, the Director General reported [GOV/2008/59] that due to a lack of cooperation by Iran, the Agency had not been able to make substantive progress on key remaining issues and had not been able to verify the current status of the construction of the IR-40 reactor. It affirmed that Iran had not suspended its enrichment-related activities.

Syrian Arab Republic

The Director-General in November presented a report to the Board of Governors on the implementation of the Syrian Arab Republic's safeguards agreement [GC(53)/7]. In April, the Agency was provided with information alleging that an installation at Dair Alzour, destroyed by Israel in September 2007, had been a nuclear reactor, while Syria stated that it had been a military site not involved in any nuclear activities. From environmental samples, the Agency found that a significant number of natural uranium particles had been produced as a result of chemical processing. The issues related to the Dair Alzour site and some other locations remained unresolved and as a consequence, the Agency was not able to make progress towards resolving those issues. At the end of 2008, the Agency's verification work in the country was con-

tinuing. For 2008, IAEA found no indication of the diversion of declared nuclear material and was able to conclude that all such material in Syria remained in peaceful activities.

Middle East

In a September report on application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East [GOV/2008/29/Rev.1-GC(52)/10/Rev.1], the IAEA Director General noted that all States of the Middle East region, except Israel, were parties to NPT. There continued to be a fundamental difference between Israel and other States of the region with regard to the application of comprehensive Agency safeguards. Israel took the view that safeguards as well as all other regional security issues should be addressed in the framework of a regional security and arms control dialogue in the context of a multilateral peace process, whereas the other States of the region emphasized that they were all parties to NPT and that there was no automatic sequence that linked the application of comprehensive safeguards to all nuclear activities in the Middle East. The Director General stated that he would continue with his consultations regarding the early application of comprehensive safeguards to all nuclear activities in the region.

In a 4 October resolution [GC(52)/RES/15], the IAEA General Conference affirmed the need for States in the region to accept the application of full-scope safeguards to all their nuclear activities as an important confidence-building measure, and requested the Director General to continue consultations with the States of the region to facilitate the early application of full-scope safeguards as relevant to the preparation of model agreements and as necessary steps towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 62/56 [YUN 2007, p. 557], the Secretary-General reported in October [A/63/115 (Part II)] that apart from the IAEA resolution on the application of Agency safeguards in the Middle East, which was annexed to his report, he had not received any additional information since his 2007 report [YUN 2007, p. 557].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/392], adopted **resolution 63/84** by recorded vote (169-5-6) [agenda item 92].

The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind its relevant resolutions,

Taking note of the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy

Agency, the latest of which is resolution GC(52)/RES/15, adopted on 4 October 2008,

Cognizant that the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the region of the Middle East would pose a serious threat to international peace and security,

Mindful of the immediate need for placing all nuclear facilities in the region of the Middle East under full-scope safeguards of the Agency,

Recalling the decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 11 May 1995, in which the Conference urged universal adherence to the Treaty as an urgent priority and called upon all States not yet parties to the Treaty to accede to it at the earliest date, particularly those States that operate unsafeguarded nuclear facilities,

Recognizing with satisfaction that, in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Conference undertook to make determined efforts towards the achievement of the goal of universality of the Treaty, called upon those remaining States not parties to the Treaty to accede to it, thereby accepting an international legally binding commitment not to acquire nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices and to accept Agency safeguards on all their nuclear activities, and underlined the necessity of universal adherence to the Treaty and of strict compliance by all parties with their obligations under the Treaty,

Recalling the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference on 11 May 1995, in which the Conference noted with concern the continued existence in the Middle East of unsafeguarded nuclear facilities, reaffirmed the importance of the early realization of universal adherence to the Treaty and called upon all States in the Middle East that had not yet done so, without exception, to accede to the Treaty as soon as possible and to place all their nuclear facilities under full-scope Agency safeguards,

Noting that Israel remains the only State in the Middle East that has not yet become party to the Treaty,

Concerned about the threats posed by the proliferation of nuclear weapons to the security and stability of the Middle East region,

Stressing the importance of taking confidence-building measures, in particular the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, in order to enhance peace and security in the region and to consolidate the global non-proliferation regime,

Emphasizing the need for all parties directly concerned to seriously consider taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and, as a means of promoting this objective, inviting the countries concerned to adhere to the Treaty and, pending the establishment of the zone, to agree to place all their nuclear activities under Agency safeguards,

Noting that one hundred and eighty States have signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, including a number of States in the region,

1. *Welcomes* the conclusions on the Middle East of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of Israel's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, in realizing the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty in the Middle East;

3. *Calls upon* that State to accede to the Treaty without further delay and not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons, and to renounce possession of nuclear weapons, and to place all its unsafeguarded nuclear facilities under full-scope Agency safeguards as an important confidence-building measure among all States of the region and as a step towards enhancing peace and security;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 63/84:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Australia, Cameroon, Canada, Ethiopia, India, Tonga.

Radioactive waste

IAEA's safety standards provided the global reference for the high safety level required for the use of nuclear power and other applications. In April, the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety held their fourth review meeting. Efforts were made to increase the number of Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management. With the addition of Senegal and Tajikistan, the Joint Convention had 46 Contracting Parties at the end of 2008. During the year, the Agency updated a safety standard on the classification of radioactive waste, covering all radioactive waste types and recognizing the clearance concept for identifying the boundary between waste that needed to be managed as radioactive and that which could be removed from regulatory control for management as conventional waste. The Agency organized a series of regional workshops to explain to decision makers and technical experts the importance of having a national policy and related strategies in place for the management of radioactive waste and spent fuel. It also organized appraisals of policies and strategies in Bolivia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Namibia, Spain, Ukraine and Venezuela.

At an inaugural meeting that took place in Paris in June, IAEA launched the International Project on Demonstrating the Safety of Geological Disposal to provide a forum for the exchange of experience and opinions in demonstrations of the safety of geological disposal and aimed at providing a platform for knowledge transfer.

At the request of the Nuclear Agency of Romania, IAEA reviewed the radiological situation of workers, the population and the environment surrounding the Cernavoda nuclear power plant, and concluded that the plant had a radiation protection programme in place for workers, the public and the environment consistent with the recommendations of international safety standards. The Agency conducted a peer review of the Technical Programme for the Development of the Slovenian National Repository for Low and Intermediate Level Radioactive Waste, at the request of Slovenia's national radioactive waste management agency. Focusing on the Bradwell nuclear power plant in the United Kingdom, it conducted an International Peer Review of the Magnox Decommissioning Programme in that country; the achievements and issues from that review were examined at an international meeting in November.

The Agency project to assist Iraq in the evaluation and decommissioning of the former facilities that used radioactive waste continued, with the support of France, Germany, Italy, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States. Following its launch in 2007, the International Decommissioning Network

expanded its activities in 2008, including by acting as focal point for integrating complementary efforts in decommissioning. The Contact Expert Group, with 13 participating Member States, made substantial progress in solving nuclear legacy issues in the Russian Federation.

In a 3 October resolution [GC(52)/RES/9], the IAEA General Conference urged Member States to continue increasing regulatory effectiveness in the field of nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety, and encouraged them to become party to the Joint Convention. Those already parties to the Joint Convention were encouraged to continue pursuing efforts to enhance transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the review process, in preparation for the third Review Meeting to be held in May 2009.

Nuclear-weapon-free zones

Africa

As at 31 December, 26 States had ratified the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Treaty of Pelindaba) [YUN 1995, p. 203], which was opened for signature in 1996 [YUN 1996, p. 486]. The Treaty had 56 signatories. China, France, and the United Kingdom had ratified Protocols I and II thereto, and France had also ratified Protocol III. The Russian Federation and the United States had signed Protocols I and II. By the terms of the Treaty, ratification by 28 States was required for its entry into force.

In resolution 63/65 (see p. 603) on a nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas, the General Assembly welcomed the efforts towards the completion of the ratification process of the Pelindaba Treaty and called on the States of the region that had not yet done so to sign and ratify the Treaty.

Asia

Central Asia

In 2008, three of the five Central Asian States—Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan—ratified the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, paving the way for its entry into force, after Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan had ratified it in 2007 [YUN 2007, p. 561]. Having been opened for signature in 2006 [YUN 2006, p. 644], the Treaty was signed that same year by all five Central Asian States. The Protocol to the Treaty was open for signature by the five nuclear-weapon States, none of which had signed it by the end of 2008, partly owing to their concern over some of the Treaty terms.

The Treaty was the first nuclear-weapon-free zone located entirely in the northern hemisphere. Under its terms, the Central Asian States were the first countries

in the world legally bound to adhere to enhanced IAEA safeguards on their civilian nuclear assets. The Treaty required them to meet international standards for the physical protection of nuclear material, and not to research, develop, manufacture, test, stockpile, acquire, possess, or have any control over any nuclear weapon.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/389], adopted **resolution 63/63** by recorded vote (141-3-36) [agenda item 89 (i)].

Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/38 S of 9 December 1997, 53/77 A of 4 December 1998, 55/33 W of 20 November 2000, 57/69 of 22 November 2002 and 61/88 of 6 December 2006, and its decisions 54/417 of 1 December 1999, 56/412 of 29 November 2001, 58/518 of 8 December 2003, 59/513 of 3 December 2004 and 60/516 of 8 December 2005,

Convinced that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones contributes to the achievement of general and complete disarmament, and emphasizing the importance of internationally recognized treaties on the establishment of such zones in different regions of the world in the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime,

Considering that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region constitutes an important step towards strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and ensuring regional and international peace and security,

Considering also the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia as an effective contribution to combating international terrorism and preventing nuclear materials and technologies from falling into the hands of non-State actors, primarily terrorists,

Reaffirming the universally recognized role of the United Nations in the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones,

Emphasizing the role of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia in promoting cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and in the environmental rehabilitation of territories affected by radioactive contamination, and the importance of stepping up efforts to ensure the safe and reliable storage of radioactive waste in the Central Asian States,

Recognizing the importance of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, signed in Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan, on 8 September 2006, and emphasizing its significance in the attainment of peace and security,

1. *Welcomes* the ratification of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia by Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan;

2. *Notes* the readiness of the Central Asian countries to continue consultations with the nuclear-weapon States on a number of provisions of the Treaty;

3. Welcomes the convening of an international conference on the problem of uranium tailings, to be held in Bishkek in 2009, and calls upon the specialized agencies of the United Nations and other stakeholders to participate in that conference;

4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 63/63:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: France, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey.

Mongolia

Communication. On 30 April [A/63/73-S/2008/297], Mongolia transmitted a memorandum on activities for promoting its nuclear-weapon-free status since its earlier memorandum on the issue in 1999 [YUN 1999, p. 477].

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 61/87 [YUN 2006, p. 646], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/63/122] reviewing new developments and UN assistance to Mongolia to consolidate and strengthen its nuclear-weapon-free status. The range of activities described in the report related both to Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status and the non-nuclear aspects of its inter-

national security. The Secretary-General noted that during the ten years since the General Assembly had adopted resolution 53/77 D on the topic [YUN 1998, p. 515], the country's nuclear-weapon-free status was being institutionalized and gaining wider recognition. In September 2007, Mongolia had presented a draft trilateral treaty on its nuclear-weapon-free status to China and the Russian Federation. The Secretary-General hoped that UN assistance, geared to helping the country cope with its economic and ecological vulnerabilities, would further contribute to consolidating Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status and to achieving sustainable development and balanced growth, as well as reinforcing its efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/389], adopted **resolution 63/56** without vote [agenda item 89 (*b*)].

Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/77 D of 4 December 1998, 55/33 S of 20 November 2000, 57/67 of 22 November 2002, 59/73 of 3 December 2004 and 61/87 of 6 December 2006,

Recalling also the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind its resolution 49/31 of 9 December 1994 on the protection and security of small States,

Proceeding from the fact that nuclear-weapon-free status is one of the means of ensuring the national security of States,

Convinced that the internationally recognized status of Mongolia contributes to enhancing stability and confidence-building in the region and promotes Mongolia's security by strengthening its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, the inviolability of its borders and the preservation of its ecological balance,

Taking note of the adoption by the Mongolian parliament of legislation defining and regulating Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status as a concrete step towards promoting the aims of nuclear non-proliferation,

Bearing in mind the joint statement of the five nuclear-weapon States on security assurances to Mongolia in connection with its nuclear-weapon-free status as a contribution to implementing resolution 53/77 D as well as their commitment to Mongolia to cooperate in the implementation of the resolution, in accordance with the principles of the Charter,

Noting that the joint statement was transmitted to the Security Council by the five nuclear-weapon States,

Mindful of the support expressed for Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status by the Heads of State and Government of Non-Aligned Countries at the Thirteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Kuala Lumpur on 24 and 25 February 2003, and the Fourteenth Conference, held in Havana on 15 and 16 September 2006, as well as by Ministers at the Fifteenth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Tehran on 29 and 30 July 2008,

Noting that the States parties and signatories to the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba and the State of Mongolia expressed their recognition and full support of Mongolia's international nuclear-weapon-free status at the first Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, held in Tlatelolco, Mexico, from 26 to 28 April 2005,

Noting also other measures taken to implement resolution 61/87 at the national and international levels,

Welcoming Mongolia's active and positive role in developing peaceful, friendly and mutually beneficial relations with the States of the region and other States,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 61/87;
2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the efforts to implement resolution 61/87;
3. *Endorses and supports* Mongolia's good-neighbourly and balanced relationship with its neighbours as an important element of strengthening regional peace, security and stability;
4. *Welcomes* the efforts made by Member States to cooperate with Mongolia in implementing resolution 61/87, as well as the progress made in consolidating Mongolia's international security;
5. *Invites* Member States to continue to cooperate with Mongolia in taking the necessary measures to consolidate and strengthen Mongolia's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, the inviolability of its borders, its independent foreign policy, its economic security and its ecological balance, as well as its nuclear-weapon-free status;
6. *Appeals* to the Member States of the Asia and Pacific region to support Mongolia's efforts to join the relevant regional security and economic arrangements;
7. *Requests* the Secretary-General and relevant United Nations bodies to continue to provide assistance to Mongolia in taking the necessary measures mentioned in paragraph 5 above;
8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution;
9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled "Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status".

South-East Asia

The ten States parties to the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty), which had opened for signature in 1995 [YUN 1995,

p. 207] and entered into force in 1997 [YUN 1997, p. 495], continued to establish an institutional framework to implement the Treaty. At the forty-first Ministerial Meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Singapore, 20–21 July), the Ministers reaffirmed the importance of persevering in strengthening cooperation to implement the Treaty and instructed their officials to continue engaging nuclear-weapon States to secure their accession to the Treaty Protocol as soon as possible.

Latin America and the Caribbean

States parties to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) [YUN 1967, p. 13] continued to consolidate the Treaty regime. In a resolution [AG/RES.2377(XXXVIII-O/08)] adopted at its thirty-eighth session (Medellin, Colombia, 1–3 June), the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), reaffirming that the consolidation of the nuclear-weapon-free zone set forth in the Treaty constituted a demonstration of the commitment to complete and verifiable disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, called on regional States that had not yet done so to sign or ratify the amendments to the Treaty. It reaffirmed the importance of strengthening the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), recognized its work in ensuring compliance with the Treaty obligations, and supported OPANAL's cooperation and coordination mechanisms with the other nuclear-weapon-free-zone Treaties, in order to expedite the achievement of common objectives.

In February, the OAS Permanent Council's Committee on Hemispheric Security convened a special session to consider OAS progress with respect to initiatives on CTBT and related instruments. The session reaffirmed OAS's commitment to the Western Hemisphere as a nuclear-weapon-free zone and stressed its support for CTBT. Also in February, OPANAL organized a seminar on the other nuclear-weapon-free-zone-treaty: the Treaty of Tlatelolco, on the occasion of the forty-first anniversary of its opening for signature.

Middle East

In response to General Assembly resolution 62/18 [YUN 2007, p. 563], the Secretary-General, in July [A/63/115 (Part I) & Add.1] reported on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. He had continued consultations with concerned parties and observed that the issue of establishing a zone remained important. At the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of NPT Parties (see p. 584), States parties reiterated their support for the establishment of such a zone and reaffirmed the importance of implementing the

resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference [YUN 1995, p. 205]. The League of Arab States had reiterated its call on the international community to take effective practical steps to that end.

The Secretary-General called on all concerned parties to resume dialogue with a view to creating stable security conditions and establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone, and reiterated the readiness of the United Nations to provide assistance. His report included the views of 11 Governments—Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Kuwait, the Netherlands, Qatar, Spain and the Syrian Arab Republic.

In October, the IAEA General Conference adopted a resolution [GC(52)/RES/15] calling on all parties directly concerned to take the steps required, including confidence-building and verification measures, for the establishment of a mutually and effectively verifiable nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region. The resolution was transmitted to the General Assembly annexed to a report of the Secretary-General [A/63/115 (Part II)].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/386], adopted **resolution 63/38** without vote [agenda item 86].

Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3263(XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3474(XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/71 of 10 December 1976, 32/82 of 12 December 1977, 33/64 of 14 December 1978, 34/77 of 11 December 1979, 35/147 of 12 December 1980, 36/87 A and B of 9 December 1981, 37/75 of 9 December 1982, 38/64 of 15 December 1983, 39/54 of 12 December 1984, 40/82 of 12 December 1985, 41/48 of 3 December 1986, 42/28 of 30 November 1987, 43/65 of 7 December 1988, 44/108 of 15 December 1989, 45/52 of 4 December 1990, 46/30 of 6 December 1991, 47/48 of 9 December 1992, 48/71 of 16 December 1993, 49/71 of 15 December 1994, 50/66 of 12 December 1995, 51/41 of 10 December 1996, 52/34 of 9 December 1997, 53/74 of 4 December 1998, 54/51 of 1 December 1999, 55/30 of 20 November 2000, 56/21 of 29 November 2001, 57/55 of 22 November 2002, 58/34 of 8 December 2003, 59/63 of 3 December 2004, 60/52 of 8 December 2005, 61/56 of 6 December 2006 and 62/18 of 5 December 2007 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East,

Recalling also the recommendations for the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East consistent with paragraphs 60 to 63, and in particular paragraph 63 (*d*), of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,

Emphasizing the basic provisions of the above-mentioned resolutions, which call upon all parties directly concerned to consider taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East and, pending and during the establishment of such a zone, to declare solemnly that they will refrain, on a reciprocal basis, from producing, acquiring or in any other way possessing nuclear weapons and nuclear explosive devices and from permitting the stationing of nuclear weapons on their territory by any third party, to agree to place their nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards and to declare their support for the establishment of the zone and to deposit such declarations with the Security Council for consideration, as appropriate,

Reaffirming the inalienable right of all States to acquire and develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes,

Emphasizing the need for appropriate measures on the question of the prohibition of military attacks on nuclear facilities,

Bearing in mind the consensus reached by the General Assembly since its thirty-fifth session that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East would greatly enhance international peace and security,

Desirous of building on that consensus so that substantial progress can be made towards establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East,

Welcoming all initiatives leading to general and complete disarmament, including in the region of the Middle East, and in particular on the establishment therein of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons,

Noting the peace negotiations in the Middle East, which should be of a comprehensive nature and represent an appropriate framework for the peaceful settlement of contentious issues in the region,

Recognizing the importance of credible regional security, including the establishment of a mutually verifiable nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Emphasizing the essential role of the United Nations in the establishment of a mutually verifiable nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 62/18,

1. *Urges* all parties directly concerned seriously to consider taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and, as a means of promoting this objective, invites the countries concerned to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

2. *Calls upon* all countries of the region that have not done so, pending the establishment of the zone, to agree to place all their nuclear activities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards;

3. *Takes note* of resolution GC(52)/RES/15, adopted on 4 October 2008 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its fifty-second regular session, concerning the application of Agency safeguards in the Middle East;

4. *Notes* the importance of the ongoing bilateral Middle East peace negotiations and the activities of the multilateral Working Group on Arms Control and Regional Security in promoting mutual confidence and security in the Middle East, including the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone;

5. *Invites* all countries of the region, pending the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, to declare their support for establishing such a zone, consistent with paragraph 63 (d) of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, and to deposit those declarations with the Security Council;

6. *Also invites* those countries, pending the establishment of the zone, not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or permit the stationing on their territories, or territories under their control, of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices;

7. *Invites* the nuclear-weapon States and all other States to render their assistance in the establishment of the zone and at the same time to refrain from any action that runs counter to both the letter and the spirit of the present resolution;

8. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

9. *Invites* all parties to consider the appropriate means that may contribute towards the goal of general and complete disarmament and the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the region of the Middle East;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to pursue consultations with the States of the region and other concerned States, in accordance with paragraph 7 of resolution 46/30 and taking into account the evolving situation in the region, and to seek from those States their views on the measures outlined in chapters III and IV of the study annexed to the report of the Secretary-General of 10 October 1990 or other relevant measures, in order to move towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East".

South Pacific

In 2008, the number of States that had ratified the 1985 South Pacific Nuclear-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Rarotonga) [YUN 1985, p. 58] remained at 17. China and the Russian Federation had ratified Protocols 2 and 3, and France and the United Kingdom had ratified all three Protocols.

Under Protocol 1, the States internationally responsible for territories situated within the zone would undertake to apply the relevant prohibitions of the Treaty to those territories; under Protocol 2, the five nuclear-weapon States would provide security assurances to parties or territories within the same zone; and under Protocol 3, the five would not carry out any nuclear tests in the zone.

Southern hemisphere and adjacent areas

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/389], adopted **resolution 63/65** by recorded vote (171-3-7) [agenda item 89 (s)].

Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas

The General Assembly,

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

Recalling also the adoption by the Disarmament Commission at its 1999 substantive session of a text entitled "Establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned",

Determined to pursue the total elimination of nuclear weapons,

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

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

Stressing the importance of the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones, as well as the Antarctic Treaty, to, inter alia, achieve a world entirely free of nuclear weapons,

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

Noting the adoption of the Declaration of Santiago de Chile by the Governments of the States members of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean and the States parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, during the nineteenth regular session of the General Conference of the Agency, held in Santiago on 7 and 8 November 2005,

Recalling the applicable principles and rules of international law relating to the freedom of the high seas and the rights of passage through maritime space, including those of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,

1. *Welcomes* the continued contribution that the Antarctic Treaty and the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba are making towards freeing the southern hemisphere and adjacent areas covered by those treaties from nuclear weapons;

2. *Also welcomes* the ratification by all original parties of the Treaty of Rarotonga, and calls upon eligible States to adhere to the Treaty and the protocols thereto;

3. *Further welcomes* the efforts towards the completion of the ratification process of the Treaty of Pelindaba, and calls upon the States of the region that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Treaty, with the aim of its early entry into force;

4. *Welcomes* the signing of the Semipalatinsk Treaty on 8 September 2006, and urges all relevant States to cooperate in resolving outstanding issues with a view to the full implementation of the Treaty;

5. *Calls upon* all concerned States to continue to work together in order to facilitate adherence to the protocols to nuclear-weapon-free-zone treaties by all relevant States that have not yet adhered to them;

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

7. *Affirms its conviction* of the important role of nuclear-weapon-free zones in strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and in extending the areas of the world that are nuclear-weapon-free, and, with particular reference to the responsibilities of the nuclear-weapon States, calls upon all States to support the process of nuclear disarmament and to work for the total elimination of all nuclear weapons;

8. *Welcomes* the progress made on increased collaboration within and between zones at the first Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, held in Tlatelolco, Mexico, from 26 to 28 April 2005, at which States reaffirmed their need to cooperate in order to achieve their common objectives;

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

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

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 63/65:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte

d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: France, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: India, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Pakistan, Palau, Russian Federation.

Bacteriological (biological) and chemical weapons

The threat of biological and chemical weapons as well as related materials and technology remained of concern to the international community. In accordance with the decisions and recommendations adopted at the 2006 Sixth Review Conference [YUN 2006, p. 650], the States parties to the 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (BWC) [YUN 1972, p. 5] continued the intersessional process leading to the 2011 Seventh Review Conference. The Second Review Conference of the 1993 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (CWC) [YUN 1993, p. 111], in April, examined the operation of the Convention since the First Review Conference in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 560] and provided recommendations for its future implementation. Significant advances were also made pursuant to the Action Plan on national implementation of CWC, as nearly all States parties had either established or designated a National Authority as required by the Convention.

Other activities. Pursuant to a request of the 2006 Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy [YUN 2006, p. 65], UNODA started in April to develop the software platform for the Biological Incident Data Base for reporting incidents categorized as unusual but natural, accidental or deliberate outbreak of diseases. Also in 2008, UNODA continued to update the roster of experts and laboratories whose services were available to the Secretary-General for the investigation of reports of the possible use of chemical and bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons. The Office also worked on technical guidelines and procedures for investigations of cases of alleged use of biological and chemical weapons.

Bacteriological (biological) weapons

As the international community continued to focus on the increasingly important issue of biological weapons, by the end of the year, States parties to BWC were halfway through their intersessional programme of annual meetings to discuss effective action on issues critical to implementing the Convention. While other disarmament and non-proliferation areas were characterized by setbacks and stalemates, the States parties to BWC were working towards cementing their gains at the next Review Conference, the seventh, scheduled for 2011. The 2008 meetings—made up of sessions at both the expert and the State party levels—considered two specific topics as mandated by the Sixth Review Conference in 2006 [YUN 2006, p. 650]: national, regional and international measures to improve biosafety and biosecurity, including laboratory safety and security of pathogens and toxins; and oversight, education, awareness-raising and adopting and/or developing codes of conduct to prevent misuse in the context of advances in bio-science and bio-technology research.

Meeting of States parties

As decided by the Sixth Review Conference of the States parties to BWC [YUN 2006, p. 650], the meeting of those States was convened in 2008 (Geneva, 1–5 December) [BWC/MSP/2008/5]. It was attended by 97 States parties, five signatory States and one State currently not party, as well as four international organizations and 17 ngos and research institutes. The Meeting succeeded in delivering a comprehensive range of common understandings. Participants agreed that biosafety referred to principles, technologies, practices and measures implemented to prevent the accidental release of, or unintentional exposure to, biological agents and toxins, and that biosecurity meant the protection, control and accountability measures implemented to prevent the loss, theft,

misuse, diversion or intentional release of biological agents and toxins and related resources, as well as unauthorized access to, retention or transfer of such material. It was established that the aims of dealing with bio-safety and biosecurity were to contribute to: preventing the development, acquisition or use of biological and toxin weapons; implementing BWC; and fulfilling other international obligations and agreements, such as the revised International Health Regulations of the World Health Organization and the provisions of Security Council resolution 1540(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 544]. The report also recorded common understandings on how to realize those aims. Tools on biosafety and biosecurity would support accreditation, certification, audit or licensing of facilities, organizations or individuals, as well as training requirements, mechanisms to check qualifications and expertise, national criteria for relevant activities and national lists of agents, equipment and other resources. It was determined that States parties needed assistance in the following areas: to enact and improve relevant legislation; to strengthen laboratory infrastructure, technology, security and management; to provide training; and to help incorporate biosafety and biosecurity into existing efforts to address disease. The report affirmed the importance of balancing “top-down” government and institutional controls with “bottom-up” scientific oversight. The Meeting reviewed a report by the Chairman on efforts to expand BWC membership. The Meeting recognized that progress had been made during the year as the Cook Islands, Madagascar, the United Arab Emirates and Zambia had joined the Convention. The Meeting also had before it the second annual report by the Implementation Support Unit.

Experts’ meeting. In accordance with the outcome of the Sixth Review Conference [YUN 2006, p. 650], the 2008 meeting of States parties was preceded by a preparatory expert meeting (Geneva, 18–22 August) [BWC/MSP/2008/MX/3]. A total of 103 States took part in the meeting. Also represented were four UN institutions and seven specialized agencies or other international organizations, and representatives from science, academia and industry. The two topics of biosafety (improvement through national, regional and international measures) and biosecurity (oversight of science, education, awareness-raising and codes of conduct) were addressed in seven working sessions which, in a departure from past practices, were open to the public. Three panel discussions focused on specific aspects of the two main topics, the role of industry and the private sector in biosafety and biosecurity; risk assessment, management and communication concepts and techniques; and oversight of science and engagement of stakeholders. During the meeting, 35 working papers were circulated and

several Compendiums of National Approaches were introduced.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/396], adopted **resolution 63/88** without vote [agenda item 96].

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions relating to the complete and effective prohibition of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and to their destruction,

Noting with satisfaction that there are one hundred and sixty-two States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, including all of the permanent members of the Security Council,

Bearing in mind its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the implementation of the recommendations of the Review Conferences, including the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention, and to provide such information and data in conformity with standardized procedure to the Secretary-General on an annual basis and no later than 15 April,

Welcoming the reaffirmation made in the Final Declaration of the Fourth Review Conference that under all circumstances the use of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and their development, production and stockpiling are effectively prohibited under article I of the Convention,

Recalling the decision reached at the Sixth Review Conference to hold four annual meetings of the States parties of one week's duration each year commencing in 2007, prior to the Seventh Review Conference, which is to be held no later than the end of 2011, and to hold a one-week meeting of experts to prepare for each meeting of the States parties,

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the increase in the number of States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, reaffirms the call upon all signatory States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so without delay, and calls upon those States that have not signed the Convention to become parties thereto at an early date, thus contributing to the achievement of universal adherence to the Convention;

2. *Welcomes* the information and data provided to date, and reiterates its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

3. *Also welcomes* the successful launching of the 2007–2010 intersessional process, and in this context further welcomes the discussion aimed at the promotion of common understanding and effective action on topics agreed on at the Sixth Review Conference, and urges States parties to continue to participate actively in the intersessional process;

4. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Sixth Review Conference agreed on several measures to update the mechanism for the transmission of information in the framework of the confidence-building measures;

5. *Recalls* the decisions reached at the Sixth Review Conference, and calls upon States parties to the Convention to participate in their implementation;

6. *Urges* States parties to continue to work closely with the Implementation Support Unit of the Conference on Disarmament Secretariat and Conference Support Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs in fulfilling its mandate, in accordance with the decision of the Sixth Review Conference;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to render the necessary assistance to the depositary Governments of the Convention and to provide such services as may be required for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Review Conferences, including all assistance to the annual meetings of the States parties and the meetings of experts;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction".

Chemical weapons

Chemical weapons convention

Guinea-Bissau and Lebanon ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (cwc), bringing the number of States parties to 185 by the end of 2008. The Convention was adopted by the Conference on Disarmament in 1992 [YUN 1992, p. 65] and entered into force in 1997 [YUN 1997, p. 499] with 165 signatories.

Second Review Conference

The Second Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention (The Hague, 7–18 April), with the participation of 114 States parties, reviewed the operation of the Convention since the First Review Conference in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 560]. The Conference adopted a final report [RC-2/4] containing an in-depth review of the Convention's implementation and future guidance.

In his message to the Conference, the Secretary-General stressed that cwc was one of the world's most successful disarmament treaties, with near-universal

membership. He noted that the Action Plan on universality and national implementation, recommended by the First Review Conference, had been effective both in promoting adherence to the Convention and in implementation assistance. In his capacity as depositary, the Secretary-General urged Governments that had not yet done so to ratify or accede to it without delay. He further stressed that all States parties had the obligation to destroy their chemical weapons and production facilities, noting that the possessor States must destroy their stockpiles completely before the final 29 April 2012 deadline established pursuant to the Convention.

In his opening statement, the Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) recalled its core objectives, including complete chemical disarmament. He reported that 26,538 metric tons of Category 1 chemical weapons, which represented over 38 per cent of the total declared stockpiles, had been destroyed under OPCW verification, while 52 per cent of Category 2 chemical weapons, had been completely eliminated. The 65 chemical weapons production facilities declared to OPCW by 12 States parties had all been inactivated, with 94 per cent of them either having been destroyed or converted for peaceful purposes. Noting that the non-proliferation of chemical weapons was a long-term fundamental goal of the Convention and OPCW's second core objective, he highlighted the substantial progress made by its industry verification regime through data monitoring and on-site inspection, as envisaged in the Convention's article VI.

The report adopted by the Second Review Conference reaffirmed that complete destruction of chemical weapons was essential for the realization of the objectives and purposes of the Convention. It reaffirmed the importance of the possessor States parties' obligation to complete the destruction of their stockpiles within the final extended deadline of April 2012, as set by the Conference at its eleventh session [YUN 2006, p. 653], and welcomed the statements of possessor States reiterating their commitment to doing so. Noting that OPCW had established an effective verification system to achieve CWC's non-proliferation and confidence-building aims, it highlighted that after more than 3,000 inspections were carried out at over 1,080 sites in 80 States, not one case of non-compliance was reported. The Conference re-emphasized the continuing relevance and importance of article X on assistance and protection against chemical weapons for States parties. That was recognized as being a motivating factor for States not party to the Convention to join it. Similarly, States parties emphasized the importance of article XI on international cooperation to promote peaceful uses of chemistry as fundamental tools for the objectives and purposes of CWC.

The Conference again stressed the importance of achieving CWC universality and full and effective national implementation. It urged the remaining 12 States not party to the Convention to ratify or accede to it as a matter of urgency and without preconditions.

Thirteenth Session of the Conference of States Parties

At the thirteenth session of the Conference of States Parties (The Hague, 2–5 December), the Director-General of OPCW noted that in follow-up to the Second Review Conference (see p. 606), the OPCW Secretariat had prepared a number of documents, one of which referred to the long-term strategy to address the relationship with the various stakeholders, and that the Secretariat would submit to the Executive Council its views on options to enhance the interaction among the Scientific Advisory Board, States parties and the policymaking organs.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/389], adopted **resolution 63/48** without vote [agenda item 89 (*k*)].

Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject of chemical weapons, in particular resolution 62/23 of 5 December 2007, adopted without a vote, in which it noted with appreciation the ongoing work to achieve the objective and purpose of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction,

Determined to achieve the effective prohibition of the development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and their destruction,

Noting with satisfaction that, since the adoption of resolution 62/23, two additional States have acceded to the Convention, bringing the total number of States parties to the Convention to one hundred and eighty-four,

Reaffirming the importance of the outcome of the Second Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter "the Second Review Conference"), including the consensus final report, which addressed all aspects of the Convention and made important recommendations on its continued implementation,

Emphasizing that the Second Review Conference welcomed the fact that, eleven years after its entry into force, the Convention remains a unique multilateral agreement banning an entire category of weapons of mass destruction in a non-discriminatory and verifiable manner under strict and effective international control,

1. *Emphasizes* that the universality of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction is fundamental to the achievement of its objective and purpose, acknowledges progress made in the implementation of the action plan for the universality of the Convention, and calls upon all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention without delay;

2. *Underlines* that implementation of the Convention makes a major contribution to international peace and security through the elimination of existing stockpiles of chemical weapons, the prohibition of the acquisition or use of chemical weapons, and provides for assistance and protection in the event of use, or threat of use, of chemical weapons and for international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities;

3. *Stresses* the importance to the Convention that all possessors of chemical weapons, chemical weapons production facilities or chemical weapons development facilities, including previously declared possessor States, should be among the States parties to the Convention, and welcomes progress to that end;

4. *Reaffirms* the obligation of the States parties to the Convention to destroy chemical weapons and to destroy or convert chemical weapons production facilities within the time limits provided for by the Convention;

5. *Stresses* that the full and effective implementation of all provisions of the Convention, including those on national implementation (article VII) and assistance and protection (article X), constitutes an important contribution to the efforts of the United Nations in the global fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

6. *Notes* that the effective application of the verification system builds confidence in compliance with the Convention by States parties;

7. *Stresses* the importance of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in verifying compliance with the provisions of the Convention as well as in promoting the timely and efficient accomplishment of all its objectives;

8. *Urges* all States parties to the Convention to meet in full and on time their obligations under the Convention and to support the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in its implementation activities;

9. *Welcomes* progress made in the national implementation of article VII obligations, commends the States parties and the Technical Secretariat for assisting other States parties, on request, with the implementation of the follow-up to the plan of action regarding article VII obligations, and urges States parties that have not fulfilled their obligations under article VII to do so without further delay, in accordance with their constitutional processes;

10. *Emphasizes* the continuing relevance and importance of the provisions of article X of the Convention, and welcomes the activities of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in relation to assistance and protection against chemical weapons;

11. *Reaffirms* that the provisions of the Convention shall be implemented in a manner that avoids hampering

the economic or technological development of States parties and international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention, including the international exchange of scientific and technical information, and chemicals and equipment for the production, processing or use of chemicals for purposes not prohibited under the Convention;

12. *Emphasizes* the importance of article XI provisions relating to the economic and technological development of States parties, recalls that the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of those provisions contributes to universality, and also reaffirms the undertaking of the States parties to foster international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities of the States parties and the importance of that cooperation and its contribution to the promotion of the Convention as a whole;

13. *Notes with appreciation* the ongoing work of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to achieve the objective and purpose of the Convention, to ensure the full implementation of its provisions, including those for international verification of compliance with it, and to provide a forum for consultation and cooperation among States parties, and also notes with appreciation the substantial contribution of the Technical Secretariat and the Director-General to the continued development and success of the Organization;

14. *Welcomes* the cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons within the framework of the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the Organization, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction".

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

OpCW, mandated to oversee cwc implementation and to provide a forum for consultations and cooperation among States parties, continued to make progress in the three areas of work under the Convention: chemical disarmament; non-proliferation, assistance and protection; and international cooperation, as detailed in a December report [C-14/4] on its activities during the year.

In 2008, opcw verified the destruction of 4,137 metric tonnes of chemical weapons, with more than 30,000 metric tonnes of chemical weapons having been verified as destroyed by 31 December. One State party completed the destruction of all its chemical weapons, leaving four remaining possessor States at the end of the year. By 31 December, India had destroyed 99 per cent, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya 2 per cent, the Russian Federation 30 per cent, and the United States 57 per cent of their declared stockpiles. Nine of the 12 States parties that had declared

chemical weapons production facilities had either destroyed or converted all of them. Out of 65 declared facilities, four remained to be fully destroyed or converted.

Under article VI of the Convention, the OPCW secretariat inspected 200 chemical-industry facilities. Measures undertaken to further optimize the chemical-industry inspection regime included a greater use of sequential inspections (that is, conducting several inspections during a single mission), a reduction in the size of inspection teams, increased electronic processing of declarations through the Verification Information System, and the release of the software for creating electronic declarations. The start-up phase of sampling and analysis was completed in March.

OPCW continued to coordinate and deliver protection against chemical weapons under article X of the Convention and provided training to strengthen national capacities. It organized seminars, workshops, and a regional exercise with a view to establishing regional coordination. The Secretariat continued to develop its capacity to coordinate and mobilize the international-response mechanism. As part of that effort, exercise TRIPLEX 2008 focused on the development of capacities for a humanitarian response to complex emergencies.

OPCW also continued to promote the peaceful use of chemistry, and to facilitate fulfilment by Member States of their national obligations. It assisted them in developing capabilities to deal with any situation arising from the use or threat of use of chemical weapons, and continued to provide support to the African States parties to enable them to meet their requirements under the Convention, holding a number of training and capacity-building courses.

OPCW further pursued the implementation of its mandate under article XI, relating to economic and technological development, through a number of programmes. It assisted States parties, in the form of workshops, courses, and visits, to meet their obligations under article VII of the Convention. At the Tenth Annual Meeting of National Authorities (The Hague, 28–30 November), 92 States parties were represented. The Meeting included a thematic segment devoted to the role of industry in CWC implementation. The Director-General noted that 177 out of 184 States parties had established national authorities, a requirement under the Convention and a key element in its implementation. A European Union-sponsored day for national authorities of OPCW Member States was held at OPCW headquarters on 1 December, focusing in two separate sessions on the import and export of scheduled chemicals, article X submissions and legal aspects related to CWC implementation, and on preparing and handling industry inspections.

The OPCW Executive Council, at its fifty-second (4–7 March), fifty-third (24–27 June) and fifty-fourth (14–17 October) sessions, addressed issues relating to deadlines for the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles; the agreed detailed plans for verification of the destruction of chemical weapons at a number of facilities and approved amendments to various facility agreements regarding on-site inspections; revisions to the specifications for three items of inspection equipment; the guidelines regarding declaration of import and export data for chemicals; and the obligation of possessor States parties to destroy their chemical weapons within the extended deadlines. It welcomed the positive steps the Secretariat was undertaking on the implementation of the programme for Africa.

The Secretary-General, by a 22 July note [A/63/155], transmitted to the General Assembly the 2006 OPCW report and the 2007 draft report, in accordance with the Agreement concerning the Relationship between the United Nations and OPCW, signed in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 516], as outlined in Assembly resolution 55/283 [YUN 2001, p. 495], and which entered into force in 2001.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 5 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 63/115** [draft A/63/L.46 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 114 (o)].

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 61/224 of 20 December 2006 on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons,

Having received the annual report for 2006 and the draft report for 2007 of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons on the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction,

1. *Takes note* of the annual report for 2006 and the draft report for 2007 of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons submitted on its behalf by its Director-General;

2. *Welcomes* the successful conclusion of the Second Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, held in The Hague from 7 to 18 April 2008, and its important outcome, including the consensus final report, which addressed all aspects of the Convention and made important recommendations on its continued implementation;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the sub-item entitled “Cooperation

between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons”.

1925 Geneva Protocol

On 8 February, the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare (the 1925 Geneva Protocol) attained the 80th anniversary of its entry into force.

In response to General Assembly resolution 61/61 [YUN 2006, p. 652], the Secretary-General reported in a June note [A/63/91] that the depositary of the 1925 Geneva Protocol had received no notice of withdrawals of reservations since the adoption of that resolution.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/389], adopted **resolution 63/53** by recorded vote (174-0-4) [agenda item 89].

Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject, in particular resolution 61/61 of 6 December 2006,

Determined to act with a view to achieving effective progress towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Recalling the long-standing determination of the international community to achieve the effective prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical and biological weapons as well as the continuing support for measures to uphold the authority of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925, as expressed by consensus in many previous resolutions,

Emphasizing the necessity of easing international tension and strengthening trust and confidence between States,

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General;
2. *Renews its previous call* to all States to observe strictly the principles and objectives of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, and reaffirms the vital necessity of upholding its provisions;
3. *Calls upon* those States that continue to maintain reservations to the 1925 Geneva Protocol to withdraw them;
4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 63/53:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua-Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados,

Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Israel, Marshall Islands, Palau, United States.

Conventional weapons

Member States accorded considerable attention to conventional weapons, including small arms and light weapons, anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions. The Security Council in April held an open debate on issues related to the topic, and for the first time, the debate was broadened beyond merely the illicit trade. In July, the General Assembly convened its Third Biennial Meeting of States on the implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, which produced a substantive outcome document with recommendations on its implementation. The Assembly decided to convene, no later than 2012, a conference to review progress made in implementing the Programme of Action. Sustained efforts resulted in the conclusion on 30 May of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Dublin, Ireland. The process of examining the feasibility, scope and parameters of a possible arms trade treaty to provide international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms continued, with emphasis on strengthening conventional arms con-

trol initiatives at the regional and subregional levels. Progress was made in the area of conventional ammunition with the conclusion of the work of the Group of Governmental Experts on enhancing cooperation on surplus ammunition stockpiles.

Meetings of States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Mine-Ban Convention) and to 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 took place in November.

Disarmament Commission action. Working Group II of the Commission on Disarmament [A/63/42] continued its consideration of practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons, on which it held 10 meetings between 9 and 22 April. Despite extensive discussions and constructive engagement, the Working Group was unable to overcome outstanding issues in the Chairman's revised paper which constituted the basis of its deliberations.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/389], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 63/57** without vote [agenda item 89 (g)].

Information on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind the contribution of confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms, adopted on the initiative and with the agreement of the States concerned, to the improvement of the overall international peace and security situation,

Convinced that the relationship between the development of confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms and the international security environment can also be mutually reinforcing,

Considering the important role that confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms can also play in creating favourable conditions for progress in the field of disarmament,

Recognizing that the exchange of information on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms contributes to mutual understanding and confidence among Member States,

Recalling its resolutions 59/92 of 3 December 2004, 60/82 of 8 December 2005 and 61/79 of 6 December 2006,

1. *Welcomes* all confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms already undertaken by Member

States as well as the information on such measures voluntarily provided;

2. *Encourages* Member States to continue to adopt confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms and to provide information in that regard;

3. *Also encourages* Member States to continue the dialogue on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms;

4. *Welcomes* the establishment of the electronic database containing information provided by Member States, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the database updated and to assist Member States, at their request, in the organization of seminars, courses and workshops aimed at enhancing the knowledge of new developments in this field;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled "Information on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms".

Towards an arms trade treaty

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 61/89 [YUN 2006, p. 655], the Secretary-General established a Group of Governmental Experts to examine the feasibility, scope and draft parameters for a comprehensive, legally binding instrument establishing international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms.

The Group, comprised of experts from 28 countries, met for three sessions (New York, 11–15 February, 12–16 May, 28 July–8 August), and noted that the question of feasibility had both political and technical dimensions, which impacted the security concerns of all States. Treaty feasibility would be dependent on establishing: collectively agreed-upon objectives; practical applicability; resistance to political abuse; and potential for universality. On the issue of scope, the Group noted that no single existing instrument contained an all-encompassing list of options raised by Member States. The Group considered the seven categories of the UN Register of Conventional Arms, small arms and light weapons, and if categories such as ammunition, explosives, components, defence services, technology related to the manufacture of weapons and ammunition should be included. On types of activities, the Experts looked at exports, imports, transfers, re-exports, transit, trans-shipment, licensing, transportation, technology transfer and manufacturing, and foreign licensing production, as well as countering illegal re-exports, unlicensed production and transfers, illicit arms brokering, and transfer of arms to non-State actors. Also mentioned were stockpiles and conventional weapons production.

On the issue of draft parameters, the Group agreed that UN Charter principles would be central to any potential treaty and would have to take into account General Assembly resolutions and the Guidelines

for international arms transfers adopted by the Disarmament Commission in 1996 [YUN 1996, p. 448]. Terrorism and organized crime, regional stability, socio-economic development, end-use and end-user assurances, diversion, and compliance with Security Council arms embargoes and other international obligations were among the aspects that needed to be addressed.

Noting the complexity of the issues related to conventional arms, the Group concluded that further consideration was required, within the UN framework and in an open and transparent manner, to achieve, on the basis of consensus, a balance that would benefit all.

The Secretary-General, in August, presented the Group's report to the General Assembly [A/63/334]. Earlier, in a February addendum [A/62/278/Add.4], to a 2007 report [YUN 2007, p. 570], he had submitted the view of a Member State on an arms trade treaty.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 24 December [meeting 74], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/389], adopted **resolution 63/240** by recorded vote (133-1-19) [agenda item 89].

Towards an arms trade treaty: establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirming its respect for and commitment to international law,

Recalling its resolutions 46/36L of 9 December 1991, 51/45N of 10 December 1996, 51/47B of 10 December 1996, 56/24V of 24 December 2001, 60/69 and 60/82 of 8 December 2005, and 61/89 of 6 December 2006,

Recognizing that arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation are essential for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Reaffirming the inherent right of all States to individual or collective self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter,

Acknowledging the right of all States to manufacture, import, export, transfer and retain conventional arms for self-defence and security needs, and in order to participate in peace support operations,

Recalling the obligations of all States to fully comply with arms embargoes decided by the Security Council in accordance with the Charter,

Reaffirming its respect for international law, including international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and the Charter,

Taking note of and encouraging relevant initiatives, undertaken at the international, regional and subregional levels between States, including those of the United Nations, and of the role played by non-governmental organizations and

civil society, to enhance cooperation, improve information exchange and transparency and implement confidence-building measures in the field of responsible arms trade,

Recognizing that the absence of common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms is one of the contributory factors to conflict, the displacement of people, crime and terrorism, thereby undermining peace, reconciliation, safety, security, stability and sustainable social and economic development,

Acknowledging the growing support across many regions for concluding a legally binding instrument negotiated on a non-discriminatory, transparent and multilateral basis, to establish common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms, including through regional and subregional workshops and seminars held in order to discuss the initiative launched by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/89,

Taking due note of the views expressed by Member States on the feasibility, scope and draft parameters for a comprehensive, legally binding instrument establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms, submitted to the Secretary-General at his request,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General, prepared with the assistance of the Group of Governmental Experts, which states that, in view of the complexity of the issues of conventional arms transfers, further consideration of efforts within the United Nations to address the international trade in conventional arms is required on a step-by-step basis in an open and transparent manner to achieve, on the basis of consensus, a balance that will provide benefit to all, with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations at the centre of such efforts,

Determined to prevent the diversion of conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons, from the legal to the illicit market,

1. *Endorses* the report of the Secretary-General prepared with the assistance of the Group of Governmental Experts, taking into account the views of Member States;

2. *Encourages* all States to implement and address, on a national basis, the relevant recommendations contained in paragraphs 28 and 29 of the report of the Secretary-General, and commends all States to carefully consider how to achieve such implementation in order to ensure that their national systems and internal controls are at the highest possible standards to prevent the diversion of conventional arms from the legal to the illicit market, where they can be used for terrorist acts, organized crime and other criminal activities, and further calls upon those States in a position to do so to render assistance in this regard upon request;

3. *Decides*, in order to facilitate further consideration on the implementation of the relevant recommendation contained in paragraph 27 of the report of the Secretary-General on a step-by-step basis among all States Members of the United Nations, in an open and transparent manner, to establish an open-ended working group, to meet for up to six one-week sessions starting in 2009, of which the two sessions foreseen in 2009 will be held in New York, from 2 to 6 March and 13 to 17 July, respectively;

4. *Decides also* that the open-ended working group will hold a one-day organizational session in New York by 27 February 2009 in order to agree on the organiza-

tional arrangements connected with the working group, including the dates and venues for its future substantive sessions;

5. *Decides further* that the open-ended working group will, during 2009, further consider those elements in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts where consensus could be developed for their inclusion in an eventual legally binding treaty on the import, export and transfer of conventional arms which provides a balance giving benefit to all, with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and other existing international obligations at the centre of such considerations, and transmit an initial report from the working group to the General Assembly for consideration at its sixty-fourth session;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the replies of Member States and the report of the Group of Governmental Experts to the open-ended working group and to render the working group all necessary assistance, including the provision of essential background information and relevant documents;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session an item entitled "Towards an arms trade treaty: establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 63/240:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States.

Abstaining: Bahrain, Belarus, China, Egypt, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, Yemen.

Small arms

Report of Secretary-General. In an April report [S/2008/258] submitted pursuant to a 2007 Security Council request [YUN 2007, p. 570], the Secretary-

General discussed various aspects of small arms, with an emphasis on the negative impact illicit small arms had on security, human rights and social and economic development, in particular in areas of crisis and post-conflict situations. The report analysed global instruments of relevance in stemming uncontrolled proliferation of small arms. The Secretary-General made 13 recommendations geared to strengthening coordination on the issue, especially within the UN system.

Security Council consideration. Having the Secretary-General's report before it, the Security Council met on 30 April [meeting 5881] in an open debate to discuss small arms and light weapons-related issues. For the first time, the debate was broadened beyond the illicit trade of such weapons, reflecting the increased recognition that effective policy measures should be comprehensive and cross-cutting. UNODA introduced the report, and speakers from almost 50 countries joined in the discussion.

Report of Secretary-General. In an August report [A/63/261], the Secretary-General described activities to consolidate peace through practical disarmament measures, and summarized national, regional and sub-regional assistance to States in their efforts to curb the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons. The report also provided an overview of the implementation by the UN system, intergovernmental organizations and States of General Assembly resolution 62/47 [YUN 2007, p. 574]. Pursuant to that resolution, 109 reports from States had been received on the implementation of the Programme of Action to curb illicit trade in small arms, 104 of which also included information on the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument, while 84 also provided information on activities related to curbing illicit brokering.

The Secretary-General reported that under the auspices of the UN Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA), two important initiatives had been launched: the Programme of Action Implementation Support System, which succeeded the CASA database and served as an electronic "one-stop shop" for information on the implementation of the Programme of Action and as a clearing house for international cooperation and assistance; and the development of international small arms control standards aimed at responding to the challenges posed by the uncontrolled proliferation of small arms.

In conclusion, the Secretary-General stated that the unprecedented adoption of an outcome document at the Third Biennial Meeting of States (see p. 614) constituted a reaffirmation of Member States' commitment to the full implementation of the Programme of Action and the adoption of a more results-oriented approach. The discussion at the Meeting emphasized the critical importance of international cooperation and assistance and highlighted the need for States

to implement the 2007 Group of Governmental Experts recommendations on illicit arms brokering [ibid., p. 571].

During the reporting period, the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument was one of the priorities of States, and the regional workshops organized by UNODA underscored the need for continued efforts to promote the Instrument and to develop concrete projects aimed at building States' capacity in marking, record-keeping and tracing. The workshops were useful in enhancing the understanding of the Instrument's provisions, familiarizing participants with the tracing tools available through the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) and preparing for consideration of the Instrument at the Third Biennial Meeting of States.

Other action. In an effort to publicize linkages between gender and small arms issues, UNODA organized during the year a number of public events in partnership with civil society.

Programme of Action on illicit trade in small arms

Third Biennial Meeting of States. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 62/47 [YUN 2007, p. 574], the Third Biennial Meeting of States to Consider 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 [YUN 2001, p. 499] was held (New York, 14–18 July) [A/CONF.192/BMS/2008/3]. During ten plenary sessions, Member States considered four main themes: international cooperation, assistance and national capacity-building; illicit brokering; stockpile management; and small arms and light weapons tracing. The outcome of the first Meeting of States to consider the implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (International Tracing Instrument or ITI) was annexed to the report of the Third Biennial Meeting.

The national reports on implementation of the Programme of Action submitted by 109 States were analysed by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research in a draft report entitled *Implementing the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons*.

The Meeting was able to adopt, for the first time, a report that contained a substantive outcome for each theme considered, including recommendations for the “way forward”. Despite the efforts of the Chair and the facilitators to achieve consensus on the recommendations, the report was adopted by recorded vote (134-0-2).

As a contribution to the Meeting, UNODA, together with the Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict and the International Action Network on Small Arms of Belgium, on 15 June, sponsored a high-profile panel discussion on the impact of small arms on children, which was aimed at raising global awareness and exploring solutions for better protection of children.

Illicit arms brokering

The United Nations continued to pay attention to the threat posed by black-market weapons-related activities, including through illicit brokering and intermediation services. The Organization remained engaged in efforts to prevent and combat illicit arms brokering, particularly with respect to small arms and light weapons. The report of the Group of Governmental Experts, established by General Assembly resolution 60/81 [YUN 2005, p. 625] to consider further steps for enhancing international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering, emphasized that the globalized environment in which arms brokering took place necessitated the development of a holistic approach to address the issue.

At the Third Biennial Meeting, States noted the negative impact of illicit brokering on security, stability, conflict resolution, development, the prevention of crime and drug trafficking, humanitarian assistance, international humanitarian law and the implementation of arms embargoes. They reaffirmed that illicit brokering was a global problem requiring a comprehensive approach, and noted that the 2007 Group of Governmental Experts [YUN 2007, p. 571] had provided a set of key recommendations to address the challenges posed by illicit brokering. The importance of end-user certification was noted, as was the importance of regional and international initiatives and of subregional, regional and international cooperation. The UN role in enhancing information-sharing on illicit brokering was also recognized. In addition, States exchanged views on the possibility of negotiating an international legally binding instrument on illicit brokering.

Recognizing that addressing illicit brokering was essential to the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action, States reaffirmed their commitment to develop regulatory national legislation or administrative procedures; acknowledged the importance of implementing the recommendations by the Group of Governmental Experts; underlined the importance of international cooperation, including among national law enforcement agencies; and declared that they would consider working to advance the process in order to reach agreements and establish mechanisms to find solutions.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/389], adopted **resolution 63/67** without vote [agenda item 89].

Preventing and combating illicit brokering activities

The General Assembly,

Noting the threat to international peace and security posed by illicit brokering activities circumventing the international arms control and non-proliferation framework,

Concerned that, if proper measures are not taken, the illicit brokering of arms in all its aspects will adversely affect the maintenance of international peace and security and prolong conflicts, thereby impeding sustainable economic and social development, and result in the threat of illicit transfers of conventional arms and the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors,

Recognizing the need for Member States to prevent and combat illicit brokering activities, which covers not only conventional arms but also materials, equipment and technology that could contribute to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery,

Reaffirming that efforts to prevent and combat illicit brokering activities should not hamper the legitimate arms trade and international cooperation with respect to materials, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes,

Recalling Security Council resolution 1540(2004) of 28 April 2004, in particular paragraph 3, which determined that all States should develop and maintain appropriate effective border controls and law enforcement efforts to detect, deter, prevent and combat, including through international cooperation when necessary, illicit trafficking and brokering in accordance with their national legal authorities and legislation and consistent with international law,

Recalling also relevant resolutions adopted in previous years, including resolutions 62/40 and 62/47 of 5 December 2007, which include calls for the control of brokering activities, as well as resolution 62/26 of 5 December 2007, by which the General Assembly invited Member States to enact or improve national legislation on the transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology,

Taking note of international efforts to prevent and combat illicit arms brokering, in particular in small arms and light weapons, as demonstrated by the adoption in 2001 of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, and the entry into force in 2005 of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,

Noting the report of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to resolution 60/81 of 8 December 2005 to consider further steps to enhance international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons as an international initiative within the framework of the United Nations,

Recalling the report of the Third Biennial Meeting of States to Consider 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, which acknowledges the importance of implementing the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on illicit brokering, and of developing national legislation and administrative procedures in this area,

Underlining the inherent right of Member States to determine the specific scope and content of domestic regulations in accordance with their legislative frameworks and export control systems, consistent with international laws,

Welcoming the efforts made by Member States to implement laws and/or administrative measures to regulate arms brokering within their legal systems,

Acknowledging the constructive role civil society can play in raising awareness and providing practical expertise on the prevention of illicit brokering activities,

1. *Underlines* the commitment of Member States to address the threat posed by illicit brokering activities;
2. *Encourages* Member States to fully implement relevant international treaties, instruments and resolutions to prevent and combat illicit brokering activities;
3. *Calls upon* Member States to establish appropriate national laws and/or measures to prevent and combat the illicit brokering of conventional arms and of materials, equipment and technology that could contribute to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, in a manner consistent with international law;
4. *Acknowledges* that national efforts to prevent and combat illicit brokering activities can be reinforced by such efforts at the regional and subregional levels;
5. *Emphasizes* the importance of international cooperation and assistance, capacity-building and information-sharing in preventing and combating illicit brokering activities;
6. *Encourages* Member States to draw, where appropriate, on the relevant expertise of civil society in developing effective measures to prevent and combat illicit brokering activities;
7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session an item entitled "Preventing and combating illicit brokering activities".

Stockpile management

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/72 [YUN 2006, p. 661], the Secretary-General established a Group of Governmental Experts to consider further steps to enhance cooperation with regard to the issue of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus. In three one-week sessions (Geneva, 14–18 January; New York, 30 March–4 April and 7–11 July), the Group examined a wide range of issues relating to conventional ammunition stockpiles and adopted a report [A/63/182] with a set of recommendations on measures that could be undertaken to address the problem at the national, regional and global levels.

The Group stressed that the problem was largely a result of inadequate stockpile management, which

posed an excessive risk for two main reasons: stockpiles could become unstable and threaten public safety with explosions or contamination, and unsecured stockpiles could easily be diverted for illicit use. The Group's recommendations emphasized the need for greater international cooperation and assistance to address the problem. It proposed that: national stockpile management staff be educated and trained; technical guidelines be developed to assist States in improving their management capacities; and knowledge resource management on ammunition and technical issues within the UN system be improved to ensure that States had ready access to technical expertise and guidance for the safe and secure storage of ammunition and the disposal of surplus stockpiles.

Acting on the Group's recommendations, UNODA formulated a project for the development of technical guidelines for the stockpile management of conventional ammunition, which was expected to commence in 2009. The guidelines would be available for States to use on a voluntary basis.

Recognizing that effective stockpile management and responsible surplus disposal were essential to full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and that poorly managed and inadequately secured stockpiles posed a security threat, States at the Third Biennial Meeting stressed the need for raising awareness among national authorities of the critical importance of putting in place adequate systems and procedures for national stockpile management. Among those procedures were revising policies and developing practical guidelines, as well as enhancing cooperation and exchange of information on national experiences and providing technical and financial support for capacity-building.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/389], adopted **resolution 63/61** without vote [agenda item 89 (c)].

Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus

The General Assembly,

Mindful of contributing to the process initiated within the framework of the United Nations reform to make the Organization more effective in maintaining peace and security by giving it the resources and tools it needs for conflict prevention, peaceful resolution of disputes, peacekeeping, post-conflict peacebuilding and reconstruction,

Underlining the importance of a comprehensive and integrated approach to disarmament through the development of practical measures,

Taking note of the report of the Group of Experts on the problem of ammunition and explosives,

Recalling the recommendation contained in paragraph 27 of the report submitted by the Chairman of the Open-ended Working Group to Negotiate an International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, namely, to address the issue of small arms and light weapons ammunition in a comprehensive manner as part of a separate process conducted within the framework of the United Nations,

Noting with satisfaction the work and measures pursued at the regional and subregional levels with regard to the issue of conventional ammunition,

Recalling its decision 59/515 of 3 December 2004 and its resolution 60/74 of 8 December 2005, as well as its resolution 61/72 of 6 December 2006, by which it decided to include the issue of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus in the agenda of its sixty-third session,

1. *Encourages* all interested States to assess, on a voluntary basis, whether, in conformity with their legitimate security needs, parts of their stockpiles of conventional ammunition should be considered to be in surplus, and recognizes that the security of such stockpiles must be taken into consideration and that appropriate controls with regard to the security and safety of stockpiles of conventional ammunition are indispensable at the national level in order to eliminate the risk of explosion, pollution or diversion;

2. *Appeals* to all interested States to determine the size and nature of their surplus stockpiles of conventional ammunition, whether they represent a security risk, if appropriate, their means of destruction, and whether external assistance is needed to eliminate this risk;

3. *Encourages* States in a position to do so to assist interested States within a bilateral framework or through international or regional organizations, on a voluntary and transparent basis, in elaborating and implementing programmes to eliminate surplus stockpiles or to improve their management;

4. *Encourages* all Member States to examine the possibility of developing and implementing, within a national, regional or subregional framework, measures to address accordingly the illicit trafficking related to the accumulation of such stockpiles;

5. *Takes note* of the replies submitted by Member States in response to the Secretary-General's request for views regarding the risks arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus and regarding national ways of strengthening controls on conventional ammunition;

6. *Welcomes* the report by the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to resolution 61/72 to consider further steps to enhance cooperation with regard to the issue of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus, and strongly encourages States to implement its recommendations;

7. *Encourages* States in a position to do so to contribute, on a voluntary and transparent basis, to the development within the United Nations of technical guidelines for the stockpile management of conventional ammunition, which would be available for States to use on a voluntary basis, in order to assist States in improving their national stockpile management capacity, preventing the growth of conventional ammunition surpluses and addressing wider risk mitigation;

8. *Reiterates* its decision to address the issue of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus in a comprehensive manner;

9. *Decides* to include this issue in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session.

International Tracing Instrument

The International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (International Tracing Instrument or ITI) was adopted by General Assembly decision 60/519 [YUN 2005, p. 621]. The first Meeting of States to consider the implementation of ITI constituted a segment of the Third Meeting of States. In four regional workshops (Nairobi, 10–11 December 2007; Lome, Togo, 17–18 April 2008; Seoul, Republic of Korea, 27–28 May; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 11–12 June), UNODA, in collaboration with Interpol, raised awareness and helped States build capacity to implement the Instrument.

The Secretary-General, in his April report on small arms [S/2008/258] to the Security Council, stated that the Instrument could be of high practical value to counter illicit small arms trade, but its ultimate success depended on its actual implementation, for which a framework for assistance and cooperation was essential; it needed to be promoted and its implications understood by policymakers and practitioners.

With a view to ensuring full and effective implementation of the Instrument, States at the Third Meeting of States agreed to a number of measures, including: bringing national laws, regulations and administrative procedures in line with the Instrument; including in national reports information on experiences in tracing illicit small arms and light weapons; supporting the role of the United Nations in building national capacity; supporting the role of Interpol, including further development and promotion of the Interpol Weapons Electronic Tracing System and other mechanisms facilitating tracing; making use of and supporting the web-based Programme of Action Implementation Support System; and cooperating with civil society to advance implementation of the Instrument.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/389], adopted **resolution 63/72** by recorded vote (181-1-0) [agenda item 89 (z)].

The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 62/47 of 5 December 2007 as well as all previous resolutions entitled “The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects”, including resolution 56/24 V of 24 December 2001,

Emphasizing the importance of the continued and full implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,

Emphasizing also the importance of the continued and full implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (the International Tracing Instrument),

Recalling the commitment of States to the Programme of Action as the main framework for measures within the activities of the international community to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects,

Underlining the need for States to enhance their efforts to build national capacity for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument,

Welcoming the efforts by Member States to submit, on a voluntary basis, national reports on their implementation of the Programme of Action,

Bearing in mind the importance of regular national reporting, which could greatly facilitate the rendering of international cooperation and assistance to affected States,

Noting the analysis of national reports prepared for the biennial meetings of States to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research,

Taking into account the importance of regional approaches to the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Noting with satisfaction regional and subregional efforts being undertaken in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action, and commending the progress that has already been made in this regard, including tackling both supply and demand factors that are relevant to addressing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons,

Recognizing that illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons is a serious problem that the international community should address urgently,

Recognizing also the efforts undertaken by non-governmental organizations in the provision of assistance to States for the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Welcoming the holding of the third biennial meeting of States to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action in New York, from 14 to 18 July 2008,

Welcoming also the establishment by the United Nations of the Programme of Action Implementation Support System, as well as the initiative by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research to develop the database for matching needs and resources,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 62/47,

1. *Underlines* the fact that the issue of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects requires concerted efforts at the national, regional and international levels to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit manufacture, transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons and that their uncontrolled spread in many regions of the world has a wide range of humanitarian and

socio-economic consequences and poses a serious threat to peace, reconciliation, safety, security, stability and sustainable development at the individual, local, national, regional and international levels;

2. *Encourages* all initiatives, including those of the United Nations, other international organizations, regional and subregional organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society, for the successful implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, and calls upon all Member States to contribute towards the continued implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and global levels;

3. *Encourages* States to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to resolution 60/81 to consider further steps to enhance international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons;

4. *Endorses* the report adopted at the third biennial meeting of States to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action, and encourages all States to implement the measures highlighted in the section of the report entitled "The way forward";

5. *Encourages* all efforts to build national capacity for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action, including those highlighted in the report of the third biennial meeting of States;

6. *Decides* that, in conformity with the follow-up to the Programme of Action, the next biennial meeting of States to consider the national, regional and global implementation of the Programme of Action shall be held in New York for a period of one week, no later than in 2010;

7. *Also decides* that the meeting of States to consider the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument shall be held within the framework of the biennial meeting of States;

8. *Encourages* States to submit their national reports, to the extent possible, by the end of 2009, and for those in a position to do so to use the reporting template prepared by the United Nations Development Programme, and to include therein information on progress made in the implementation of the measures highlighted in the report of the third biennial meeting of States;

9. *Calls upon* all States to implement the International Tracing Instrument by, inter alia, including in their national reports information on the name and contact information of the national points of contact and on national marking practices related to markings used to indicate country of manufacture and/or country of import, as applicable;

10. *Encourages* States, on a voluntary basis, to make increasing use of their national reports as another tool for communicating assistance needs and information on the resources and mechanisms available to address such needs, and encourages States in a position to render such assistance to make use of these national reports;

11. *Stresses* the importance of the early designation of the Chair, and encourages the regional group which will designate the Chair of the fourth biennial meeting of States to nominate the Chair-designate by October 2009;

12. *Encourages* States to identify, in cooperation with the Chair-designate, well in advance of the fourth biennial

meeting of States, priority issues or topics of relevance in the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, including their implementation challenges and opportunities, as well as any follow-up to the third biennial meeting of States;

13. *Decides* to convene an open-ended meeting of governmental experts for a period of one week, no later than in 2011, to address key implementation challenges and opportunities relating to particular issues and themes, including international cooperation and assistance;

14. *Also decides* to convene a conference to review progress made in implementation of the Programme of Action, for a period of two weeks in New York, no later than in 2012;

15. *Encourages* interested States and international, regional and other relevant organizations in a position to do so, to convene regional meetings to consider and advance the implementation of the Programme of Action as well as the International Tracing Instrument;

16. *Emphasizes* the need to facilitate the implementation at the national level of the Programme of Action through the strengthening of national coordination agencies or bodies and institutional infrastructure;

17. *Also emphasizes* the fact that initiatives by the international community with respect to international cooperation and assistance remain essential and complementary to national implementation efforts, as well as to those at the regional and global levels;

18. *Recognizes* the necessity for interested States to develop effective coordination mechanisms, where they do not exist, in order to match the needs of States with existing resources to enhance the implementation of the Programme of Action and to make international cooperation and assistance more effective;

19. *Encourages* States to consider, among other mechanisms, the coherent identification of needs, priorities, national plans and programmes that may require international cooperation and assistance from States and regional and international organizations in a position to do so;

20. *Encourages* civil society and relevant organizations to strengthen their cooperation and work with States at the respective national and regional levels to achieve the implementation of the Programme of Action;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 63/72:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia,

Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States.

Abstaining: None.

Assistance to States for curbing illicit small arms traffic

The Secretary-General, in his August report [A/63/261] on consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures, discussed assistance to States for curbing illicit traffic in small arms, including activities undertaken at the regional and subregional levels.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), in partnership with the West African Action Network on Small Arms and the national commissions on small arms and light weapons, conducted campaigns in its member States to raise awareness of the negative impact of illicit traffic and to advocate for the ratification of the 2006 ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons. Through its Small Arms Control Programme, ECOWAS strengthened its efforts to institutionalize the national commissions and build their capacity, and convened the Second Annual Consultative Meeting of National Commissions on Small Arms and Light Weapons (Cotonou, Benin, 3–4 July). The Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States [YUN 2007, p. 1430], to assist its 12 member States in implementing their commitments, organized a regional workshop on marking and record-keeping (Mombasa, Kenya, 31 March–4 April) and a seminar on man-portable air defence systems (Nairobi, 1–2 July).

The Organization of American States had approved three pieces of model legislation covering: marking and tracing of firearms; legislative measures to establish criminal offences for illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms and related materials; and

strengthening controls at export points. The models were designed to promote the adoption of legislative and other measures as part of the implementation of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials.

The European Union (EU) reported that its Council adopted, on 17 March, a Joint Action to support EU activities to promote, among developing countries, the control of arms exports and the principles of the EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports. Its members agreed to exchange information on a confidential basis on brokering licences granted. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe promoted information-sharing among its members through annual and one-off confidential information exchanges, and NATO continued to support projects for the destruction of small arms and light weapons stockpiles.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/389], adopted **resolution 63/66** without vote [agenda item 89 (j)].

Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 62/22 of 5 December 2007 on assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them,

Deeply concerned by the magnitude of human casualty and suffering, especially among children, caused by the illicit proliferation and use of small arms and light weapons,

Concerned by the negative impact that the illicit proliferation and use of those weapons continue to have on the efforts of States in the Sahelo-Saharan subregion in the areas of poverty eradication, sustainable development and the maintenance of peace, security and stability,

Bearing in mind the Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons, adopted at Bamako on 1 December 2000,

Recalling the report of the Secretary-General entitled “In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all”, in which he emphasized that States must strive just as hard to eliminate the threat of illicit small arms and light weapons as they do to eliminate the threat of weapons of mass destruction,

Taking note of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, adopted on 8 December 2005,

Welcoming the expression of support in the 2005 World Summit Outcome for 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,

Welcoming also the adoption, at the thirtieth ordinary summit of the Economic Community of West African States, held in Abuja in June 2006, of the Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials, in replacement of the moratorium on the importation, exportation and manufacture of small arms and light weapons in West Africa,

Welcoming further the decision taken by the Economic Community to establish a Small Arms Unit responsible for advocating appropriate policies and developing and implementing programmes, as well as the establishment of the Economic Community's Small Arms Control Programme, launched on 6 June 2006 in Bamako, in replacement of the Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development,

Taking note of the latest report of the Secretary-General on assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects,

Welcoming, in that regard, the decision of the European Union to significantly support the Economic Community in its efforts to combat the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons,

Recognizing the important role that civil society organizations play, by raising public awareness, in efforts to curb the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons,

Taking note of the report of the 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 26 June to 7 July 2006,

1. *Commends* the United Nations and international, regional and other organizations for their assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them;

2. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to pursue his efforts in the context of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 49/75 G of 15 December 1994 and the recommendations of the United Nations advisory missions aimed at curbing the illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons and collecting them in the affected States that so request, with the support of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and in close cooperation with the African Union;

3. *Encourages* the international community to support the implementation of the Economic Community of West African States Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials;

4. *Encourages* the countries of the Sahelo-Saharan sub-region to facilitate the effective functioning of national commissions to combat the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and, in that regard, invites the international community to lend its support wherever possible;

5. *Encourages* the collaboration of civil society organizations and associations in the efforts of the national commissions to combat the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and 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;

6. *Also encourages* cooperation among State organs, international organizations and civil society in supporting programmes and projects aimed at combating the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them;

7. *Calls upon* the international community to provide technical and financial support to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations to take action to help to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons;

8. *Invites* the Secretary-General and those States and organizations that are in a position to do so to continue to provide assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to consider the matter and to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them".

Convention on excessively injurious conventional weapons and Protocols

Status

As at 31 December, the accession of Guinea-Bissau, Iceland, Jamaica and Madagascar brought to 108 the number of States parties to the 1980 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 (CCW) and its annexed Protocols [YUN 1980, p. 76] on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol I); on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices, as amended on 3 May 1996 (Protocol II) [YUN 1996, p. 484]; and on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III). Amended Protocol II, which had entered into force on 3 December 1998 [YUN 1998, p. 844], had 92 acceptances as at the end of 2008. The 1995 Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV) [YUN 1995, p. 530], which took effect on 30 July 1998 [YUN 1998, p. 530], had 93 parties, following the consent to be bound by five States. The Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V), which was adopted in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 566] and entered into force in 2006 [YUN 2006, p. 663], had 51 acceptances. The number of parties to the amendment to Article I of the Convention, which entered into force on 18 May 2004 [YUN 2004, p. 563], stood at 72.

Group of Governmental Experts

The Group of Governmental Experts, established by the Second Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention [YUN 2001, p. 504], held five ses-

sions (14–18 January, 7–11 April, 7–11 July, 1–5 September, 3–7 November). In December 2007 [YUN 2007, p. 576], the States parties had mandated the Group to negotiate a proposal urgently addressing the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions, while striking a balance between military and humanitarian considerations, and to report to the November 2008 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties. The mandate proved to be a difficult challenge. It became clear that minimizing the hazards caused by cluster munitions required a comprehensive approach. The negotiations also revealed the technical complexity and political sensitivity of the process, and were under pressure from and dependent on the development of the Oslo Process [YUN 2007, p. 576], which resulted in the Convention on Cluster Munitions (see p. 623), with a strong humanitarian focus. Building on the political momentum and substantive foundation set by the 2007 Group of Governmental Experts [ibid., p. 575], the Chair submitted a paper that listed the elements identified by the States as those most essential for the draft protocol on cluster munitions.

It appeared possible for the Group to make progress on some less controversial and divisive issues, such as most definitions, victim assistance, international cooperation and assistance, and stockpile management. However, discussions on other elements, among them the definition of cluster munitions, the core provisions of international humanitarian law, the scope of prohibitions and restrictions, and the issue of transfers, revealed a divergence of views. By the fifth session, the Group encountered much difficulty in striking a balance between military and humanitarian considerations. On 3 November, the Chair produced a text before the opening of the final plenary meeting. The Convention on Cluster Munitions adherents felt that humanitarian considerations were inadequately reflected. The International Committee of the Red Cross, the UN Mine Action Service and civil society expressed concerns over deficiencies in the protection of civilians. In a statement, some 25 delegations stressed that the text did not meet humanitarian standards and would only serve to justify the continued use of those weapons. A number of delegations also tabled amendments and proposals, including the text of a draft protocol prohibiting the transfer of cluster munitions.

The Group adopted its procedural report [CCW/GGE/2008-V/2], which stated that at its final plenary meeting on 12 November, the Group had not concluded its negotiations on the Chair's text and recommended to the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties that possible further negotiations take place in 2009, without prejudice to any present or future proposals.

Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the Convention

The Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention (Geneva, 13–14 November) ended on a positive note due to the number of solid decisions taken by the Conferences of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II and Protocol V, and to a compromise solution for continuation in 2009 of the Group of Governmental Experts' work on cluster munitions. The Meeting adopted a report [CCW/MSP/2008/4] that included all decisions for 2009 activities.

The most tangible action was that surrounding the Convention Parties' work on cluster munitions. The Chair renewed a mandate for the Group of Governmental Experts: to address urgently the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions, while striking a balance between military and humanitarian considerations, and to report to the next Meeting of the High Contracting Parties. The Group would meet for up to two weeks in early 2009.

Other issues considered by the Meeting were impacted by the fate of the new protocol on cluster munitions that shifted the focus on negotiating a new mandate for the Group of Governmental Experts. Nonetheless, the following were included: the report on implementation of the Plan of Action; the report on the activities of the Sponsorship Programme; the compliance mechanism whereby States parties were requested to submit annually national compliance reports and to nominate experts for inclusion in the Pool of Experts the issue of mines other than anti-personnel mines, which was to be considered under the overall responsibility of the future Chair-designate; and the proposal to establish an Implementation Support Unit. The Meeting further decided on 2009 dates and the duration of the Convention's activities.

Protocol V on explosive remnants of war

The year marked the commencement of implementing the relevant decisions by the First Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V held in 2007 [YUN 2007, p. 576]. At the first Meeting of Experts (see below) several substantive aspects of implementing Protocol V provisions at the national level were considered, and tools were developed to assist States parties in complying with the Protocol as well as with some of the decisions of the First Conference. Subsequently, the tools were approved by the Second Conference of the High Contracting Parties.

Meeting of Experts

Pursuant to a 2007 decision of the First Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V,

the first Protocol V Meeting of Experts took place (Geneva, 2–4 July). The substantive discussions addressed each of the five main topics identified by the First Conference: clearance of explosive remnants of war; cooperation and assistance and requests for assistance; Article 4 generic electronic template for recording information; generic preventive measures; and victim assistance.

Second Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V

The Second Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V met (Geneva, 10–11 November) on ways to enhance the implementation mechanism of the Protocol.

Based on the Coordinators' reports of the discussions held during the July Meeting of Experts and the recommendations contained therein, the Second Conference decided to adopt the Plan of Action of Victim Assistance; continue consideration of victim assistance and of clearance, removal or destruction of explosive remnants of war; change the reporting format of form "G" to conform with the Technical Annex to Protocol V; adopt the revised Article 4 Generic Electronic Template and keep under review its usefulness as a tool for recording and retaining information; approve the formats for request for assistance to the database submissions; further develop the concept for a web-based information system for Protocol V, in order that the 2009 Meeting of Experts could develop a proposal for consideration and adoption by the Third Conference of the High Contracting Parties; and link the available materials on generic preventive measures to the Protocol V website. The Coordinator was invited to undertake open-ended consultations to identify how best to use existing theory and practice, and to develop recommendations for progress in the field of preventive technical measures; a proposal by France [CCW/P.V/CONF/2008/7] would be used as a starting point.

The Second Conference adopted its report [CCW/P.V/CONF./2008/12], containing the mandate for the Third Conference in 2009, including the Meeting of Experts, to be held in Geneva in April 2009.

Annual Conference of States Parties to Amended Protocol II

The Tenth Annual Conference of High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II on Mines, Booby-traps and Other Devices (Geneva, 12 November) successfully revitalized the activities under that Protocol. The most important outcome of the Conference was the decision to establish an informal open-ended group of experts to be overseen by the President of

the Eleventh Annual Conference, which would meet from 20 to 21 April 2009 to review the operation and status of the Protocol; consider matters arising from States parties' reports and the development of technologies to protect civilians against indiscriminate effects of mines; and address the issue of improvised explosive devices.

The Conference also considered matters arising from reports of the parties, and noted that only 45 of the 92 States parties had submitted annual reports or updates. An appeal for universality was adopted on the occasion of the Protocol's tenth anniversary of entering into force on 3 December. The Conference adopted its final report [CCW/AP.II/CONF.10/2], and nominated the office holders of the 2009 Eleventh Annual Conference.

In an effort to encourage more accessions to the Convention and its Protocols and continue the 2006 Plan of Action to Promote Universality [YUN 2006, p. 664], six regional seminars were organized during 2008.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/393], adopted **resolution 63/85** without vote [agenda item 93].

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

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 62/57 of 5 December 2007,

Recalling with satisfaction the adoption and the entry into force 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, and its amended article 1, and the Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol I), the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II) and its amended version, the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III), the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV) and the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V),

Welcoming the results of the Third Review Conference of the States Parties to 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,

Welcoming also the results of the 2007 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, held from 7 to 13 November 2007 in Geneva,

Welcoming further the results of the Ninth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II, held on 6 November 2007 in Geneva,

Welcoming the results of the First Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V, held on 5 November 2007 in Geneva,

Recalling the role played by the International Committee of the Red Cross in the elaboration of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, and welcoming the particular efforts of various international, non-governmental and other organizations in raising awareness of the humanitarian consequences of explosive remnants of war,

1. *Calls upon* all States that have not yet done so to take all measures to become parties, as soon as possible, to 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 Protocols thereto, as amended, with a view to achieving the widest possible adherence to these instruments at an early date, and so as to ultimately achieve their universality;

2. *Calls upon* all States parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to express their consent to be bound by the Protocols to the Convention and the amendment extending the scope of the Convention and the Protocols thereto to include armed conflicts of a non-international character;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of the universalization of the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V);

4. *Welcomes* the additional ratifications and acceptances of or accessions to the Convention, as well as the consents to be bound by the Protocols thereto;

5. *Also welcomes* the adoption by the Third Review Conference of a Plan of Action to promote universality of the Convention and its annexed Protocols, and expresses appreciation for the continued efforts of the Secretary-General, as depositary of the Convention and its annexed Protocols, the Chairperson of the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, the President of the First Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V and the President of the Ninth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II, on behalf of the High Contracting Parties, to achieve the goal of universality;

6. *Further welcomes* the commitment by States parties to continue to address the humanitarian problems caused by certain specific types of munitions in all their aspects, including cluster munitions, with a view to minimizing the humanitarian impact of these munitions;

7. *Expresses support* for the work conducted by the Group of Governmental Experts to negotiate a proposal to address urgently the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions, while striking a balance between military and humanitarian considerations, and to make every effort to negotiate this proposal as rapidly as possible and report on the progress made to the next Meeting of the High Contracting Parties, in November 2008;

8. *Welcomes* the commitment of States parties to the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V) to the effective and efficient implementation of the Protocol and the decisions by the First Conference of the High Contracting Parties establishing a comprehensive framework for exchange of information and cooperation, and also welcomes the holding of the first Meeting of Experts

as a mechanism for consultation and cooperation among the States parties;

9. *Notes with appreciation* that 2008 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention, as well as the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Amended Protocol II;

10. *Notes* that, in conformity with article 8 of the Convention, conferences may be convened to examine amendments to the Convention or to any of the Protocols thereto, to examine additional protocols concerning other categories of conventional weapons not covered by existing Protocols or to review the scope and application of the Convention and the Protocols thereto and to examine any proposed amendments or additional protocols;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services, including summary records, as may be required for the Second Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V, to be held on 10 and 11 November 2008, for the Tenth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II, to be held on 12 November 2008, and for the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, to be held on 13 and 14 November 2008, as well as for any continuation of work after the meetings;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in his capacity as depositary of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, to continue to inform the General Assembly periodically, by electronic means, of ratifications and acceptances of and accessions to the Convention, its amended article 1 and the Protocols thereto;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "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".

Cluster munitions

The Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), which prohibits all use, stockpiling, production and transfer of cluster munitions causing unacceptable harm to civilians and provides for support to victims and affected communities, was adopted in Dublin, Ireland, on 30 May by 107 States, and signed in Oslo, Norway, on 3 December by 94 States and simultaneously ratified by four.

The cluster munitions ban process, also known as the Oslo Process, was launched in February 2007 [YUN 2007, p. 576]. At that time, 46 nations issued the "Oslo Declaration", committing themselves to conclude by 2008 a legally binding international instrument. The Oslo Process held meetings in Lima, Peru, in May 2007 and in Vienna in December 2007. In February 2008, 79 countries adopted the "Wellington Declaration" at a conference in Wellington, New Zealand, setting forth the principles to be included in the Convention.

During the year, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supported seven regional meetings on cluster munitions (Livingstone, Zambia, 31 March–1 April; Mexico City, 16–17 April; Sofia, Bulgaria, 18–19 September; Kampala, Uganda, 29–30 September; Xiengkhuang, Lao People's Democratic Republic, 20–22 October; Quito, Ecuador, 6–7 November; Beirut, Lebanon, 11–12 November).

On 13 October, Ireland transmitted to the General Assembly's First Committee the Final Document of the Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of a Convention on Cluster Munitions (Dublin, 19–30 May) [A/C.1/63/5], adding that the President of the Conference would report to the Committee on 21 October.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/389], adopted **resolution 63/71** without vote [agenda item 89].

Convention on Cluster Munitions

The General Assembly,

Recalling the conclusion of negotiations on the Convention on Cluster Munitions at Dublin on 30 May 2008,

Noting that the Convention will be opened for signature at Oslo on 3 December 2008, and will remain open for signature thereafter at United Nations Headquarters in New York until its entry into force,

Bearing in mind, in particular, the tasks entrusted to the Secretary-General pursuant to the terms of the Convention,

Requests the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services as may be necessary to fulfil the tasks entrusted to him by the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Anti-personnel mines

1997 Convention

The number of States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Mine-Ban Convention), which was adopted in 1997 [YUN 1997, p. 503] and entered into force in 1999 [YUN 1999, p. 498], remained at 156.

Meeting of States parties

The Ninth Meeting of the States Parties to the Mine-Ban Convention (Geneva, 24–28 November) [APLC/MSP.9/2008/4] was held in accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/41 [YUN 2007, p. 582]. A total of 95 States parties, 2 signatories and 20 States not parties, together with international organizations and institutions, as well as NGOs, participated in the meeting. Intersessional preparatory work was conducted in Standing Committees (Geneva, 2–6 June).

The most significant challenge confronting the Meeting was in relation to implementing Article 5. For the first time, States parties had to decide whether or not to grant requests for extension to 15 States parties that were unable to meet their mine-clearance deadline. Consequently, all requests submitted earlier in 2008 were examined by a group of States parties under the authority of the President of the Eighth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention [YUN 2007, p. 581]. The report of the former President and the requests by 15 States were considered by the States parties at an informal session. While most of the cases did not pose any significant problem, it was possible to avoid a vote and grant the extensions.

The implementation of Article 4 proved to be another pointed issue. The Meeting focused on three cases of failure to comply with obligations to destroy or ensure the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines. Non-compliance represented a serious challenge as stockpile destruction was essential for implementing the Convention's comprehensive ban. To prevent future non-compliance, the Meeting welcomed a proposal by the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction on steps to ensure full Article 4 implementation [APLC/MSP.9/2008/WP.36].

The Meeting agreed to hold the Convention's Second Review Conference in Cartagena, Colombia (30 November–4 December 2009).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/389], adopted **resolution 63/42** by recorded vote (163-0-18) [agenda item 89].

Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 54/54B of 1 December 1999, 55/33V of 20 November 2000, 56/24M of 29 November 2001, 57/74 of 22 November 2002, 58/53 of 8 December 2003, 59/84 of 3 December 2004, 60/80 of 8 December 2005, 61/84 of 6 December 2006 and 62/41 of 5 December 2007,

Reaffirming its determination to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, which kill or maim hundreds of people every week, mostly innocent and defenceless civilians, including children, obstruct economic development and reconstruction, inhibit the repatriation of refugees and internally displaced persons and have other severe consequences for years after emplacement,

Believing it necessary to do the utmost to contribute in an efficient and coordinated manner to facing the challenge of removing anti-personnel mines placed throughout the world and to assure their destruction,

Wishing to do the utmost in ensuring assistance for the care and rehabilitation, including the social and economic reintegration, of mine victims,

Welcoming the entry into force, on 1 March 1999, of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, and noting with satisfaction the work undertaken to implement the Convention and the substantial progress made towards addressing the global anti-personnel landmine problem,

Recalling the first to eighth meetings of the States parties to the Convention, held in Maputo (1999), Geneva (2000), Managua (2001), Geneva (2002), Bangkok (2003), Zagreb (2005), Geneva (2006), and the Dead Sea (2007) and the First Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, held in Nairobi (2004),

Recalling also that at the eighth meeting of the States parties to the Convention, held at the Dead Sea from 18 to 22 November 2007, the international community monitored progress on implementation of the Convention and supported continued application of the Nairobi Action Plan 2005–2009, and established priorities to achieve further progress towards ending, for all people and for all time, the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines,

Noting with satisfaction that additional States have ratified or acceded to the Convention, bringing the total number of States that have formally accepted the obligations of the Convention to one hundred and fifty-six,

Emphasizing the desirability of attracting the adherence of all States to the Convention, and determined to work strenuously towards the promotion of its universalization,

Noting with regret that anti-personnel mines continue to be used in conflicts around the world, causing human suffering and impeding post-conflict development,

1. *Invites* all States that have not signed the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction to accede to it without delay;

2. *Urges* all States that have signed but have not ratified the Convention to ratify it without delay;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the full and effective implementation of and compliance with the Convention, including through the continued implementation of the Nairobi Action Plan 2005–2009;

4. *Urges* all States parties to provide the Secretary-General with complete and timely information as required under article 7 of the Convention in order to promote transparency and compliance with the Convention;

5. *Invites* all States that have not ratified the Convention or acceded to it to provide, on a voluntary basis, information to make global mine action efforts more effective;

6. *Renews its call upon* all States and other relevant parties to work together to promote, support and advance the care, rehabilitation and social and economic reintegration of mine victims, mine risk education programmes and the removal and destruction of anti-personnel mines placed or stockpiled throughout the world;

7. *Urges* all States to remain seized of the issue at the highest political level and, where in a position to do so, to promote adherence to the Convention through bilateral, subregional, regional and multilateral contacts, outreach, seminars and other means;

8. *Reiterates its invitation and encouragement* to all interested States, the United Nations, other relevant international organizations or institutions, regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and relevant non-governmental organizations to participate in the ninth meeting of the States parties to the Convention, to be held in Geneva from 24 to 28 November 2008 and in the intersessional work programme established at the first meeting of the States parties and further developed at subsequent meetings of the States parties;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in accordance with article 12, paragraph 1, of the Convention, to undertake the preparations necessary to convene the next Review Conference of the States parties to the Convention and, pending a decision to be taken at the ninth meeting of the States parties, and on behalf of the States parties and in accordance with article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention, to invite States not parties to the Convention, as well as the United Nations, other relevant international organizations or institutions, regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and relevant non-governmental organizations to attend the Review Conference as observers;

10. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 63/42:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, United States, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam.

Practical disarmament

Disarmament Commission action. The Disarmament Commission [A/63/42] allocated to Working Group II the item “Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons”. The Group discussed the item between 9 and 22 April, based on a paper by its Chairman, and decided to continue consideration of the issue in the future.

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 61/76 [YUN 2006, p. 666], the Secretary-General, in August [A/63/261], presented an overview of action taken by States and regional and subregional organizations regarding practical disarmament measures, especially those by the Group of Interested States in Practical Disarmament Measures. He reported that following a review of its mandate in light of the overlap with some of the activities included in the Programme of Action, the Group resolved to refocus on its original activities, which included examination and provision of joint support for concrete projects in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, weapons collection programmes, demining, conversion and public awareness campaigns. The Group engaged in exchanging information on lessons learned and their dissemination to interested States. At its March meeting, the Group considered a funding proposal by the Nairobi-based Regional Centre on Small Arms [YUN 2007, p. 1430] to support practical disarmament projects in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia and the Sudan.

In addition to the assistance by some of the Group’s members, UNDP provided support to over 15 States and led several joint missions with other UN agencies and departments in the fields of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, security sector reform, gender and early recovery. In the Sudan, UNDP, the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the United Nations Children’s Fund coordinated their efforts in supporting a national strategy for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, complemented by community security and small arms control initiatives.

The Secretary-General noted that 12 States had submitted information in the areas of capacity-building of national institutions dealing with small arms and light weapons; collection and destruction of surplus and illicit arms; destruction and demilitarization of ammunition; support to civil society with a view to enhancing capacity to assist in combating illicit arms; support for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in countries emerging from conflict; and disarmament of illegal armed groups in countries not in conflict.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/389], adopted **resolution 63/62** by recorded vote (182-0-0) [agenda item 89 (e)].

Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/45 N of 10 December 1996, 52/38 G of 9 December 1997, 53/77 M of 4 December 1998, 54/54 H of 1 December 1999, 55/33 G of 20 November 2000, 56/24 P of 29 November 2001 and 57/81 of 22 November 2002, its decision 58/519 of 8 December 2003, as well as its resolutions 59/82 of 3 December 2004 and 61/76 of 6 December 2006 entitled “Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures”,

Convinced that a comprehensive and integrated approach towards certain practical disarmament measures often is a prerequisite to maintaining and consolidating peace and security and thus provides a basis for effective post-conflict peacebuilding; such measures include collection and responsible disposal, preferably through destruction, of weapons obtained through illicit trafficking or illicit manufacture as well as of weapons and ammunition declared by competent national authorities to be surplus to requirements, particularly with regard to small arms and light weapons, unless another form of disposition or use has been officially authorized and provided that such weapons have been duly marked and registered; confidence-building measures; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants; demining; and conversion,

Noting with satisfaction that the international community is more than ever aware of the importance of such practical disarmament measures, especially with regard to the growing problems arising from the excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons, including their ammunition, which pose a threat to peace and security and reduce the prospects for economic development in many regions, particularly in post-conflict situations,

Stressing that further efforts are needed in order to develop and effectively implement programmes of practical disarmament in affected areas as part of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration measures so as to complement, on a case-by-case basis, peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on prevention of armed conflict, which, inter alia, refers to the role which the proliferation and the illicit transfer of small arms and light weapons play in the context of the build-up and sustaining of conflicts,

Taking note of the statement by the President of the Security Council of 31 August 2001 underlining the importance of practical disarmament measures in the context of armed conflicts, and, with regard to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, emphasizing the importance of measures to contain the security risks stemming from the use of illicit small arms and light weapons,

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General prepared with the assistance of the Group of Governmental Experts on Small Arms and, in particular, the recommendations contained therein, as an important contribution to the consolidation of the peace process through practical disarmament measures,

Welcoming the work of the United Nations Coordinating Action on Small Arms mechanism, which was established by the Secretary-General to bring about a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to this complex and multifaceted global problem,

Welcoming also the establishment, within the United Nations system, of the Programme of Action Implementation Support System, which provides a comprehensive tool to facilitate international cooperation and assistance for the implementation of practical disarmament measures, including the matching of assistance needs with available resources,

Welcoming further the reports of the first, second and third biennial meetings of States to consider 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 7 to 11 July 2003, from 11 to 15 July 2005 and from 14 to 18 July 2008,

1. *Stresses* the particular relevance of the “Guidelines on conventional arms control/limitation and disarmament, with particular emphasis on consolidation of peace in the context of General Assembly resolution 51/45 N”, adopted by the Disarmament Commission by consensus at its 1999 substantive session;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures, submitted pursuant to resolution 61/76, and once again encourages Member States as well as regional arrangements and agencies to lend their support to the implementation of recommendations contained therein;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of including in United Nations-mandated peacekeeping missions, as appropriate and with the consent of the host State, practical disarmament measures aimed at addressing the problem of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in conjunction with disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes aimed at former combatants, with a view to promoting an integrated comprehensive and effective weapons management strategy that would contribute to a sustainable peacebuilding process;

4. *Welcomes* the activities undertaken by the Group of Interested States, and invites the Group to continue to promote, on the basis of lessons learned from previous disarmament and peacebuilding projects, new practical disarmament measures to consolidate peace, especially as undertaken or designed by affected States themselves, regional and subregional organizations as well as United Nations agencies;

5. *Encourages* Member States, also in the framework of the Group of Interested States, to continue to lend their support to the Secretary-General, relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, and non-governmental organizations in responding to requests by Member States to collect and destroy small arms and light weapons, including their ammunition, in post-conflict situations;

6. *Welcomes* the synergies within the multi-stakeholder process, including Governments, the United Nations system, regional and subregional organizations and institutions as well as non-governmental organizations in support of practical disarmament measures and the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report on the implementation of practical disarmament measures, taking into consideration the activities of the Group of Interested States in this regard;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled “Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures”.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 63/62:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: None.

Transparency

Conference on Disarmament. The Conference on Disarmament [A/63/27] held two informal meetings, on 15 and 28 February, followed by a 12 August session on “Transparency in Armaments”.

Israel's initiative to ban arms transfers to terrorists remained the most sensitive issue. The discussions revealed considerable divergences of views, particularly with Algeria and the Syrian Arab Republic warning of potentially politicizing the issue.

A number of delegations were of the view that transparency in armaments remained important, and while there was no opposition to the idea of appointing a Special Coordinator or establishing an Ad Hoc Committee, it was deemed essential to remain focused on an agreed programme of work, based primarily on the four core issues of nuclear disarmament, a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty, prevention of an arms race in outer space, and negative security assurances.

UN Register of Conventional Arms

In response to General Assembly resolution 61/77 [YUN 2006, p. 668], the Secretary-General in July submitted the sixteenth annual report on the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms [A/63/120 & Add.1-3], established in 1992 [YUN 1992, p. 75] to promote transparency on arms transfers.

The report presented information provided by 91 Governments on imports and exports in 2007 in the seven categories of conventional arms (battle tanks, armoured combat vehicles, large-calibre artillery systems, attack helicopters, combat aircraft, warships and missiles, and missile launchers). Governments also provided information on military holdings, procurement through national production, and international transfers of small arms and light weapons. The number of States complementing their reports with data on international small arms and light weapons transfers increased from 37 in 2006 to 48 in 2007.

The report also highlighted numerous activities undertaken by the Secretariat during the year, through UNODA, in collaboration with Governments and regional organizations, to enhance awareness of the Register and encourage greater participation in it.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/389], adopted **resolution 63/69** by recorded vote (160-0-22) [agenda item 89 (f)].

Transparency in armaments

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/36L of 9 December 1991, 47/52L of 15 December 1992, 48/75E of 16 December 1993, 49/75C of 15 December 1994, 50/70D of 12 December 1995, 51/45H of 10 December 1996, 52/38R of 9 December 1997, 53/77V of 4 December 1998, 54/54O of 1 December 1999, 55/33U of 20 November 2000, 56/24Q of 29 November 2001, 57/75 of 22 November

2002, 58/54 of 8 December 2003, 60/226 of 23 December 2005 and 61/77 of 6 December 2006 entitled "Transparency in armaments",

Continuing to take the view that an enhanced level of transparency in armaments contributes greatly to confidence-building and security among States and that the establishment of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms constitutes an important step forward in the promotion of transparency in military matters,

Welcoming the consolidated reports of the Secretary-General on the Register, which includes the returns of Member States for 2006 and 2007,

Welcoming also the response of Member States to the request contained in paragraphs 9 and 10 of resolution 46/36L to provide data on their imports and exports of arms, as well as available background information regarding their military holdings, procurement through national production and relevant policies,

Welcoming further the inclusion by some Member States of their transfers of small arms and light weapons in their annual report to the Register as part of their additional background information,

Noting the focused discussion on transparency in armaments that took place in the Conference on Disarmament in 2007 and 2008,

Stressing that the continuing operation of the Register and its further development should be reviewed in order to secure a Register that is capable of attracting the widest possible participation,

1. *Reaffirms its determination* to ensure the effective operation of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, as provided for in paragraphs 7 to 10 of resolution 46/36L;

2. *Calls upon* Member States, with a view to achieving universal participation, to provide the Secretary-General, by 31 May annually, with the requested data and information for the Register, including nil reports if appropriate, on the basis of resolutions 46/36L and 47/52L, the recommendations contained in paragraph 64 of the 1997 report of the Secretary-General on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development, the recommendations contained in paragraph 94 of the 2000 report of the Secretary-General and the appendices and annexes thereto, the recommendations contained in paragraphs 112 to 114 of the 2003 report of the Secretary-General and the recommendations contained in paragraphs 123 to 127 of the 2006 report of the Secretary-General;

3. *Invites* Member States in a position to do so, pending further development of the Register, to provide additional information on procurement through national production and military holdings and to make use of the "Remarks" column in the standardized reporting form to provide additional information such as types or models;

4. *Also invites* Member States in a position to do so to provide additional background information on transfers of small arms and light weapons on the basis of the optional standardized reporting form, as adopted by the 2006 group of governmental experts, or by any other methods they deem appropriate;

5. *Reaffirms* its decision, with a view to further development of the Register, to keep the scope of and participation in the Register under review and, to that end:

(a) Recalls its request to Member States to provide the Secretary-General with their views on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development and on transparency measures related to weapons of mass destruction;

(b) Requests the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a group of governmental experts to be convened in 2009, within available resources, on the basis of equitable geographical representation, to prepare a report on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development, taking into account the work of the Conference on Disarmament, the views expressed by Member States and the reports of the Secretary-General on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development, with a view to taking a decision at its sixty-fourth session;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to implement the recommendations contained in his 2000, 2003 and 2006 reports on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development and to ensure that sufficient resources are made available for the Secretariat to operate and maintain the Register;

7. *Invites* the Conference on Disarmament to consider continuing its work undertaken in the field of transparency in armaments;

8. *Reiterates its call upon* all Member States to cooperate at the regional and subregional levels, taking fully into account the specific conditions prevailing in the region or subregion, with a view to enhancing and coordinating international efforts aimed at increased openness and transparency in armaments;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on progress made in implementing the present resolution;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled “Transparency in armaments”.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 63/69:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Panama,

Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Myanmar, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

Transparency of military expenditures

UNODA continued its efforts to raise awareness of and promote transparency in military matters. During the First Committee session, it prepared and distributed among delegations a fact sheet on the Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures, recommended by the General Assembly in resolution 35/142 B [YUN 1980, p. 88]. In view of the forthcoming governmental review of the operation and further development of the Instrument in 2010, efforts were made to start preparations for the review, as mandated by General Assembly resolution 62/13 [YUN 2007, p. 579].

Report of Secretary-General. In response to Assembly resolution 62/13, the Secretary-General, in a July report with later addenda [A/63/97 & Add.1–3], presented reports from 77 Member States on their national military expenditures for the latest fiscal year for which data were available. The reporting instrument was that recommended by the Assembly in resolution 35/142 B [YUN 1980, p. 88].

The report was presented to the First Committee under agenda item 81, “Reduction of military budgets”. In the Committee, no proposal was submitted and no action was taken under that item.

On 2 December, the General Assembly took note of the First Committee’s report [A/63/381] on the item “Reduction of military budgets” (**decision 63/516**).

Verification

The United Nations continued to consider the issue of verification of arms agreements and the work of the Panel of Governmental Experts in 2006 [YUN 2006, p. 670]. The Panel’s report including recommendations was presented to the General Assembly in 2007 [YUN 2007, p. 580].

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 62/21 [*ibid.*, p. 581], the

Secretary-General submitted a report on the issue of verification of arms agreements, treaties and other commitments [A/63/114 & Add.1], including the views of five Governments (Canada, Cuba, Spain, Sweden, United States) and one international treaty organization (OPCW).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/389], adopted **resolution 63/59** by recorded vote (158-0-18) [agenda item 89].

Compliance with non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament agreements and commitments

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 60/55 of 8 December 2005 and other relevant resolutions on the question, and noting the report of the Panel of Government Experts on verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification,

Recognizing the abiding concern of all Member States for ensuring respect for the rights and obligations arising from treaties to which they are parties and from other sources of international law,

Convinced that observance by Member States of the Charter of the United Nations and compliance with non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament agreements to which they are parties and with other agreed obligations are essential for regional and global peace, security and stability,

Stressing that failure by States parties to comply with such agreements and with other agreed obligations not only adversely affects the security of States parties but also can create security risks for other States relying on the constraints and commitments stipulated in those agreements,

Stressing also that the viability and effectiveness of non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament agreements and of other agreed obligations require that those agreements be fully complied with and enforced,

Concerned by non-compliance by some States with their respective obligations,

Noting that verification and compliance, and enforcement in a manner consistent with the Charter, are integrally related,

Recognizing the importance of and support for effective national, regional, and international capacities for such verification, compliance, and enforcement,

Recognizing also that full compliance by States with all their respective non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament agreements and with other agreed obligations they have undertaken contributes to efforts to prevent the development and proliferation, contrary to international obligations, of weapons of mass destruction, related technologies and means of delivery, as well as to efforts to deny non-State actors access to such capabilities,

1. *Underscores* the contribution that compliance with non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament agree-

ments and with other agreed obligations makes to enhancing confidence and to strengthening international security and stability;

2. *Urges* all States to implement and to comply fully with their respective obligations;

3. *Calls upon* all Member States to encourage and, for those States in a position to do so, to appropriately assist States which request assistance to increase their capacity to implement fully their obligations;

4. *Calls upon* all concerned States to take concerted action, in a manner consistent with relevant international law, to encourage, through bilateral and multilateral means, the compliance by all States with their respective non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament agreements and with other agreed obligations, and to hold those not in compliance with such agreements accountable for their non-compliance in a manner consistent with the Charter of the United Nations;

5. *Urges* those States not currently in compliance with their respective obligations and commitments to make the strategic decision to come back into compliance;

6. *Encourages* efforts by all States, the United Nations and other international organizations, pursuant to their respective mandates, to take action, consistent with the Charter, to prevent serious damage to international security and stability arising from non-compliance by States with their existing non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament obligations.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 63/59:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Zambia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Bahrain, Belarus, Cuba, Egypt, Iran, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Other disarmament issues

Prevention of an arms race in outer space

Conference on Disarmament. The issue of the prevention of an arms race in outer space was again addressed by the Conference on Disarmament [A/63/27]. In the absence of a programme of work, the Conference was unable to establish a formal framework for dealing with the issue, but in accordance with the agreed organizational procedure, it held three rounds of informal deliberations, on 7 and 21 February and 5 August. In February, China and the Russian Federation presented a draft “Treaty on Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space and of the Threat or Use of Force Against Outer Space Objects”, which was welcomed by a number of countries, including the 21 members of the Non-Aligned Movement, as well as the EU. During the high-level segment in March, a number of dignitaries underlined the importance of the issue and welcomed the draft treaty, whereas the United States, in a paper submitted in August, informed the Conference that the draft provided no grounds for it to change its long-standing principle that arms control constraints or limitations on space-based systems and activities, beyond the existing regimes in force, were not in its national security interests, and that it was not possible to develop an effectively verifiable agreement for banning either space-based weapons or a terrestrial-based anti-satellite system.

A number of Conference members stressed the importance of transparency and confidence-building measures (TCBMs) in outer space activities. In particular, the EU referred to its code of conduct on outer space activities and announced that it was working on a set of TCBMs for presentation to the Conference. Several countries supported the establishment of a code of conduct for outer space activities. At the informal meeting on 21 February, the Chairman of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space made a presentation to the Conference, clarifying the Committee’s mandate, roles and responsibilities in relation to the Conference.

Summarizing the discussion, the Coordinator observed that there was broad consensus on the existence of deficiencies in the current outer space architecture; TCBMs could either be complementary to a future legal instrument, be sufficient on their own, or taken up in the context of the draft Treaty that was welcomed by many delegations, with several expressing interest in continuing more substantive discussions thereon and

one opposing new binding space control agreements. The Coordinator reported that interest was shown in continuing work in two areas: TCBMs, with the work of the EU serving as a basis for further discussions, and the Chinese-Russian draft treaty.

Report of Secretary-General. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/43 [YUN 2007, p. 585], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/63/136 & Add.1] containing proposals from six States (Bangladesh, Chile, Cuba, France (on behalf of the EU), Qatar, Ukraine) on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation and the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/388], adopted **resolution 63/40** by recorded vote (177-1-1) [agenda item 88].

Prevention of an arms race in outer space

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the common interest of all mankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Reaffirming the will of all States that the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be for peaceful purposes and shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development,

Reaffirming also the provisions of articles III and IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,

Recalling the obligation of all States to observe the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations regarding the use or threat of use of force in their international relations, including in their space activities,

Reaffirming paragraph 80 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, in which it is stated that in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, further measures should be taken and appropriate international negotiations held in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty,

Recalling its previous resolutions on this issue, and taking note of the proposals submitted to the General Assembly at its tenth special session and at its regular sessions, and of the recommendations made to the competent organs of the United Nations and to the Conference on Disarmament,

Recognizing that prevention of an arms race in outer space would avert a grave danger for international peace and security,

Emphasizing the paramount importance of strict compliance with existing arms limitation and disarmament agreements relevant to outer space, including bilateral

agreements, and with the existing legal regime concerning the use of outer space,

Considering that wide participation in the legal regime applicable to outer space could contribute to enhancing its effectiveness,

Noting that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, taking into account its previous efforts since its establishment in 1985 and seeking to enhance its functioning in qualitative terms, continued the examination and identification of various issues, existing agreements and existing proposals, as well as future initiatives relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and that this contributed to a better understanding of a number of problems and to a clearer perception of the various positions,

Noting also that there were no objections in principle in the Conference on Disarmament to the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee, subject to re-examination of the mandate contained in the decision of the Conference on Disarmament of 13 February 1992,

Emphasizing the mutually complementary nature of bilateral and multilateral efforts in the field of preventing an arms race in outer space, and hoping that concrete results will emerge from those efforts as soon as possible,

Convinced that further measures should be examined in the search for effective and verifiable bilateral and multilateral agreements in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, including the weaponization of outer space,

Stressing that the growing use of outer space increases the need for greater transparency and better information on the part of the international community,

Recalling, in this context, its previous resolutions, in particular resolutions 45/55 B of 4 December 1990, 47/51 of 9 December 1992 and 48/74 A of 16 December 1993, in which, inter alia, it reaffirmed the importance of confidence-building measures as a means conducive to ensuring the attainment of the objective of the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

Conscious of the benefits of confidence- and security-building measures in the military field,

Recognizing that negotiations for the conclusion of an international agreement or agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space remain a priority task of the Ad Hoc Committee and that the concrete proposals on confidence-building measures could form an integral part of such agreements,

Noting with satisfaction the constructive, structured and focused debate on the prevention of an arms race in outer space at the Conference on Disarmament in 2008,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance and urgency of preventing an arms race in outer space and the readiness of all States to contribute to that common objective, in conformity with the provisions of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies;

2. *Reaffirms its recognition*, as stated in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, that the legal regime applicable to outer space does not in and of itself guarantee the prevention of an arms race in outer space, that the regime plays a significant role in the prevention of an arms race in that environment,

that there is a need to consolidate and reinforce that regime and enhance its effectiveness and that it is important to comply strictly with existing agreements, both bilateral and multilateral;

3. *Emphasizes* the necessity of further measures with appropriate and effective provisions for verification to prevent an arms race in outer space;

4. *Calls upon* all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the objective of the peaceful use of outer space and of the prevention of an arms race in outer space and to refrain from actions contrary to that objective and to the relevant existing treaties in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation;

5. *Reiterates* that the Conference on Disarmament, as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;

6. *Invites* the Conference on Disarmament to complete the examination and updating of the mandate contained in its decision of 13 February 1992 and to establish an ad hoc committee as early as possible during its 2009 session;

7. *Recognizes*, in this respect, the growing convergence of views on the elaboration of measures designed to strengthen transparency, confidence and security in the peaceful uses of outer space;

8. *Urges* States conducting activities in outer space, as well as States interested in conducting such activities, to keep the Conference on Disarmament informed of the progress of bilateral and multilateral negotiations on the matter, if any, so as to facilitate its work;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 63/40:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa,

Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States.

Abstaining: Israel.

Also on 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/389], adopted **resolution 63/68** by recorded vote (180-1-1) [agenda item 89 (*w*)].

Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 60/66 of 8 December 2005, 61/75 of 6 December 2006 and 62/43 of 5 December 2007,

Reaffirming that the prevention of an arms race in outer space would avert a grave danger to international peace and security,

Conscious that further measures should be examined in the search for agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space, including the weaponization of outer space,

Recalling, in this context, its previous resolutions, including resolutions 45/55 B of 4 December 1990 and 48/74 B of 16 December 1993, which, inter alia, emphasize the need for increased transparency and confirm the importance of confidence-building measures as a means conducive to ensuring the attainment of the objective of the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

Recalling also the report of the Secretary-General of 15 October 1993 to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, the annex to which contains the study by governmental experts on the application of confidence-building measures in outer space,

Noting the constructive debate which the Conference on Disarmament held on this subject in 2008, including the views and ideas expressed by the European Union and other States,

Noting also the introduction by the Russian Federation and China at the Conference on Disarmament of the draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects,

Noting further the contribution of Member States which have submitted to the Secretary-General concrete proposals on international outer space transparency and confidence-building measures pursuant to paragraph 1 of resolution 61/75 and paragraph 2 of resolution 62/43,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General containing concrete proposals from Member States on international outer space transparency and confidence-building measures;

2. *Invites* all Member States to continue to submit to the Secretary-General concrete proposals on international outer space transparency and confidence-building measures in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation and the prevention of an arms race in outer space;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report with an annex containing concrete proposals from Member States on international outer space transparency and confidence-building measures;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 63/68:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States.

Abstaining: Israel.

Maritime security and safety

At the ninth meeting [A/63/174] of the Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (New York, 23–27 June) (see p. 1497), delegations underscored the danger posed to maritime security by illicit trafficking of small arms and weapons of mass destruction. It was recognized that the legal regimes governing maritime security and safety might have common and mutually reinforcing objectives that could benefit from synergies with non-proliferation measures and instruments such as the Treaty on the

Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and the Subsoil Thereof (Seabed Treaty), adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 2660(XXV) [YUN 1970, p. 17].

Disarmament and development

The issue of the relationship between disarmament and development remained controversial in 2008.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/48 [YUN 2007, p. 586] the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/63/134], summarizing activities to implement the action programme adopted by the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development [YUN 1987, p. 82] and the recommendations of the Group of Governmental Experts on the relationship [YUN 2004, p. 579]. It also detailed information received from five Governments (Cuba, Dominican Republic, Lebanon, Qatar, Serbia). To strengthen the UN role in disarmament and development, a high-level Steering Group had designated focal points at the working level to discuss the issue, but a significant divergence of views between States had resulted in a limited response from Member States, which impacted the Steering Group's ability to take decisive action and to commit the necessary resources.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/389], adopted **resolution 63/52** without vote [agenda item 89 (aa)].

Relationship between disarmament and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling that the Charter of the United Nations envisages the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources,

Recalling also the provisions of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly concerning the relationship between disarmament and development, as well as the adoption on 11 September 1987 of the Final Document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development,

Recalling further its resolutions 49/75 J of 15 December 1994, 50/70 G of 12 December 1995, 51/45 D of 10 December 1996, 52/38 D of 9 December 1997, 53/77 K of 4 December 1998, 54/54 T of 1 December 1999, 55/33 L of 20 November 2000, 56/24 E of 29 November 2001, 57/65 of 22 November 2002, 59/78 of 3 December 2004, 60/61 of 8 December 2005, 61/64 of 6 December 2006 and 62/48

of 5 December 2007, and its decision 58/520 of 8 December 2003,

Bearing in mind the Final Document of the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Durban, South Africa, from 29 August to 3 September 1998, and the Final Document of the Thirteenth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Cartagena, Colombia, on 8 and 9 April 2000,

Mindful of the changes in international relations that have taken place since the adoption on 11 September 1987 of the Final Document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, including the development agenda that has emerged over the past decade,

Bearing in mind the new challenges for the international community in the field of development, poverty eradication and the elimination of the diseases that afflict humanity,

Stressing the importance of the symbiotic relationship between disarmament and development and the important role of security in this connection, and concerned at increasing global military expenditure, which could otherwise be spent on development needs,

Recalling the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the relationship between disarmament and development and its reappraisal of this significant issue in the current international context,

Bearing in mind the importance of following up on the implementation of the action programme adopted at the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development,

1. *Stresses* the central role of the United Nations in the disarmament-development relationship, and requests the Secretary-General to strengthen further the role of the Organization in this field, in particular the high-level Steering Group on Disarmament and Development, in order to ensure continued and effective coordination and close cooperation between the relevant United Nations departments, agencies and sub-agencies;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take action, through appropriate organs and within available resources, for the implementation of the action programme adopted at the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development;

3. *Urges* the international community to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development, with a view to reducing the ever-widening gap between developed and developing countries;

4. *Encourages* the international community to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and to make reference to the contribution that disarmament could provide in meeting them when it reviews its progress towards this purpose in 2008, as well as to make greater efforts to integrate disarmament, humanitarian and development activities;

5. *Encourages* the relevant regional and subregional organizations and institutions, non-governmental organizations and research institutes to incorporate issues related to the relationship between disarmament and development in their agendas and, in this regard, to take into account

the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the relationship between disarmament and development;

6. *Reiterates the invitation* to Member States to provide the Secretary-General with information regarding measures and efforts to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development, with a view to reducing the ever-widening gap between developed and developing countries;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including the information provided by Member States pursuant to paragraph 6 above;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development".

Promoting development through reduction of armed violence

In September, 85 States met in Geneva for a Review Summit of the 2006 Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, hosted by Switzerland and UNDP. On 16 October [A/63/494], Switzerland, on behalf of the Geneva Declaration core group of States (Brazil, Finland, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kenya, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom) forwarded to the General Assembly the Geneva Declaration and the statement adopted by the Review Summit.

By the Declaration, 42 countries acknowledged that armed violence and conflict impeded realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and that conflict prevention and resolution, violence reduction, human rights, good governance and peacebuilding were key steps towards reducing poverty, promoting economic growth and improving people's lives. The participants agreed to work individually and together, at national, regional and multilateral levels, on practical measures that: promoted conflict prevention, resolution and reconciliation and supported post-conflict peacebuilding; stemmed the proliferation and illegal trafficking of small arms and light weapons; upheld respect for human rights and promoted the peaceful settlement of conflicts based on justice and the rule of law; fostered public security institutions; and ensured that armed violence prevention and reduction initiatives targeted specific risk factors and groups, and were linked to providing alternative livelihoods. They supported initiatives to measure the human, social and economic costs of armed violence, to assess risks, and to disseminate best practices. They set the goal of achieving, by 2015, measurable reductions in armed violence and tangible improvements in human security worldwide.

At the conclusion of the Review Summit, a statement was adopted reaffirming the goals of the Ge-

neva Declaration, to which meanwhile 94 States had subscribed. The participating States recognized that development, peace and security and human rights were interlinked and mutually reinforcing, and that armed violence might hinder the achievement of the MDGs. They commended the efforts made to promote sustainable security and a culture of peace by taking action to reduce armed violence and its negative impact on socio-economic and human development. They further commended Guatemala, Kenya and Thailand for having hosted regional conferences on armed violence and development, which had resulted in regional declarations, and encouraged States and organizations to implement those declarations. They acknowledged that States bore the primary responsibility for preventing, reducing and ending armed violence through practical measures, reaffirmed the commitments in the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome, as expressed in Assembly resolution 60/1 [YUN 2005, p. 48], and reaffirmed their support for UN efforts to promote implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. They agreed to meet again no later than 2011 to assess progress in achieving those goals.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 17 November [meeting 51], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 63/23** [draft A/63/L.27 & Add.1, as orally revised] without vote [agenda item 107].

Promoting development through the reduction and prevention of armed violence

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the commitments made by the international community in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in particular its goal to create an environment conducive to development and the elimination of poverty,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Recalling also the 2001 Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, reflecting, inter alia, the concern with the implications that poverty and underdevelopment may have for the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects,

Taking note of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development of 7 June 2006, and the regional declarations adopted by regional conferences hosted by the Governments of Guatemala, Kenya and Thailand, having the aim of raising awareness among Member States of the relationship between armed violence and development,

Reaffirming that development, peace and security, and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing,

Stressing the importance of the symbiotic relationship between disarmament and development and the important role of security in this connection,

Recognizing that sustained socio-economic development and the reduction of inequalities, including measures aimed at improving social inclusion, employment and education, constitute essential requirements for reducing levels of armed violence,

Taking note of the resolve expressed in the Summit statement, adopted at the conclusion of the Review Summit of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, to develop goals, targets and measurable indicators on armed violence and development as a complement to the Millennium Development Goals,

Cognizant of past and ongoing efforts, including within the United Nations system, to achieve the Millennium Development Goals through the prevention and reduction of armed violence at national, regional and international levels,

Mindful of the primary responsibility of national Governments for curbing armed violence and for fostering the Millennium Development Goals,

1. *Stresses* the need for a coherent and integrated approach to the prevention of armed violence, with a view to achieving sustainable peace and development;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the interrelation between armed violence and development and, in close consultation with the relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, and with the three United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament, to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session.

Observance of environmental norms

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 62/28 [YUN 2007, p. 587], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/63/116 & Add.1] containing information from 10 Member States (Canada, Cuba, Finland, Greece, Lebanon, Panama, Qatar, Serbia, Spain, Ukraine) on measures they had adopted to promote the observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/389], adopted **resolution 63/51** without vote [agenda item 89 (*n*)].

Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/70 M of 12 December 1995, 51/45 E of 10 December 1996, 52/38 E of 9 December 1997, 53/77 J of 4 December 1998, 54/54 S of 1 December 1999, 55/33 K of 20 November 2000, 56/24 F of 29 November 2001, 57/64 of 22 November 2002, 58/45 of 8 December

2003, 59/68 of 3 December 2004, 60/60 of 8 December 2005, 61/63 of 6 December 2006 and 62/28 of 5 December 2007,

Emphasizing the importance of the observance of environmental norms in the preparation and implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements,

Recognizing that it is necessary to take duly into account the agreements adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as prior relevant agreements, in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms limitation,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to resolution 62/28,

Mindful of the detrimental environmental effects of the use of nuclear weapons,

1. *Reaffirms* that international disarmament forums should take fully into account the relevant environmental norms in negotiating treaties and agreements on disarmament and arms limitation and that all States, through their actions, should contribute fully to ensuring compliance with the aforementioned norms in the implementation of treaties and conventions to which they are parties;

2. *Calls upon* States to adopt unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures so as to contribute to ensuring the application of scientific and technological progress within the framework of international security, disarmament and other related spheres, without detriment to the environment or to its effective contribution to attaining sustainable development;

3. *Welcomes* the information provided by Member States on the implementation of the measures they have adopted to promote the objectives envisaged in the present resolution;

4. *Invites* all Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General information on the measures they have adopted to promote the objectives envisaged in the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report containing that information to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control".

Effects of depleted uranium

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/30 [YUN 2007, p. 588], the Secretary-General, in a July report with a later addendum [A/63/170 & Add.1], submitted the views of 19 Member States (Andorra, Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Cuba, Finland, Germany, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Mali, the Netherlands, Qatar, Serbia, Spain) and three international organizations (IAEA, United Nations Environment Programme, World Health Organization) on the effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium on human health and the environment.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/389], adopted **resolution 63/54** by recorded vote (141-4-34) [agenda item 89 (p)].

Effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of humanitarian international law,

Recalling its resolution 62/30 of 5 December 2007,

Determined to promote multilateralism as an essential means to carry forward negotiations on arms regulation and disarmament,

Taking note of the opinions expressed by Member States and relevant international organizations on the effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium, as reflected in the report submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 62/30,

Convinced that as humankind is more aware of the need to take immediate measures to protect the environment, any event that could jeopardize such efforts requires urgent attention to implement the required measures,

Taking into consideration the potential harmful effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium on human health and the environment,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Member States and international organizations that submitted their views to the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 62/30;

2. *Invites* Member States and relevant international organizations, particularly those that have not yet done so, to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on the effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to request relevant international organizations to update and complete, as appropriate, their studies and research on the effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium on human health and the environment;

4. *Encourages* Member States, particularly the affected States, as necessary, to facilitate the studies and research referred to in paragraph 3 above;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit an updated report on this subject to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session, reflecting the information presented by Member States and relevant international organizations, including that submitted pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 3 above;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled “Effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium”.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 63/54:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus,

Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: France, Israel, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Micronesia, Moldova, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine.

Science and technology and disarmament

Discussions on science and technology in the context of international security had featured regularly at the United Nations during the past decade. The agenda item “Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament” was included in the sixty-third session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 61/55 [YUN 2006, p. 740].

By **decision 63/518** of 2 December, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/384], included the item in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth (2009) session.

The Assembly took related action on the same day in **resolution 63/37** (see p. 696) on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security, calling on Member States to promote the consideration of existing and potential threats in the field of information security, as well as possible measures to limit them. It requested the Secretary-General to study those threats as well as cooperative measures to address them, with the assistance of a governmental group of experts.

Studies, information and training

Disarmament studies

During the year, the following expert groups on disarmament issues, established by the General Assembly, completed their work: the Group of Governmental Experts towards an arms trade treaty, establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms, mandated by General Assembly resolution 61/89 [YUN 2006, p. 655]; the Group of Governmental Experts on problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus, established in accordance with resolution 61/72 [ibid., p. 661]; and the Group of Governmental Experts on missiles in all its aspects, established pursuant to resolution 59/67 [YUN 2004, p. 537]. Preparations started for a governmental review of the operation and further development of the Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures, mandated by resolution 62/13 [YUN 2007, p. 579]. In December, the Assembly, by **resolutions 63/37** (see p. 696) and **63/89** (see p. 695), called for further studies on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security, and on the UN Register of Conventional Arms, respectively.

The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) was involved in a number of studies. Among others, it began work on a study of the political and legal aspects of multinational approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle and was continuing research on the role of regional bodies in implementing global treaties. Its ongoing multi-year research project entitled “Disarmament as humanitarian action: making multilateral negotiations work” was aimed at rethinking and reframing the ways and means of international arms control and disarmament. The project “Creating a new dynamic for public-private partnerships for peaceful and sustainable development: human security and equitable access to resources” was completed in May. A draft security needs assessment protocol, for use by UN agencies in post-conflict environments, was nearing completion and a report outlining the purposes of the protocol was published in April. Under the project “International assistance for implementing the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects”, a mechanism was being developed to assist in matching needs and resources with respect to implementing the Programme of Action. UNIDIR continued to explore the possibilities for a weapons-of-mass-destruction-free zone in the Middle East.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) in February launched an International Scientific Studies Project with the participation of over 100 scientists from 33 countries, to evaluate through independent studies and assessments the capabilities and level of readiness of the Treaty verification system; findings were to be presented at an international scientific conference in Vienna in June 2009.

Disarmament education

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/73 [YUN 2006, p. 678], the Secretary-General, in a July report [A/63/158 & Add.1], reviewed the results of the implementation of the 34 recommendations of a 2002 UN study [YUN 2002, p. 544] on disarmament and non-proliferation education and possible new opportunities for promoting such education. Seven Member States (Burundi, Cambodia, Italy, Mauritius, the Netherlands, Qatar, Spain) had submitted information, as well as nine UN entities and international organizations and 16 civil society and non-governmental organizations.

The Secretary-General in his conclusions noted that the 34 recommendations were aimed at Governments and international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, encouraging actors to recognize the contribution such education could make to a well-informed citizenry and thus a more secure world. For the two-year review of the implementation of those recommendations, a large quantity of information was received. Several Governments had used the framework of the 2010 Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to promote education and training in nuclear non-proliferation. As in previous reports, most initiatives had been carried out by civil society, which remained the creative and driving force. In order to take advantage of the renewed global interest in the possibilities offered by a world free of nuclear weapons, much work remained to be done. Some of the most effective efforts involved partnerships among Governments and international, regional and civil society organizations that could serve as a model for future activities. The United Nations would continue to seek opportunities to promote and participate in such collaborative work.

Among UN entities, UNODA, in cooperation with the UN Department of Public Information (DPI), had launched an educational disarmament and non-proliferation website that was expanded with additional interactive capacities. UNODA also co-sponsored the World Federation of United Nations Associations educational programme entitled “Students for a nuclear-

weapons-free world”, in preparation for the 2010 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Review Conference. UNIDIR held a seminar on disarmament and non-proliferation education, continued to issue its quarterly journal, and expanded distribution of its material through online social networking. An electronic newsletter was launched in June by CTBTO, whose education activities increasingly focused on electronic dissemination of information to targeted audiences.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/389], adopted **resolution 63/70** without vote [agenda item 89 (d)].

United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/33 E of 20 November 2000, 57/160 of 22 November 2002, 59/93 of 3 December 2004 and 61/73 of 6 December 2006,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on disarmament and non-proliferation education, in which the Secretary-General reported on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education,

Also welcoming the launch of the disarmament and non-proliferation education website, “Disarmament Education: Resources for Learning”, by the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, and the educational disarmament and non-proliferation website on the United Nations CyberSchoolBus site, launched by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and the Office for Disarmament Affairs,

Emphasizing that the Secretary-General concludes in his report that efforts need to be continued to implement the recommendations of the study and follow the good examples of how they are being implemented to stimulate even further long-term results,

Desirous of stressing the urgency of promoting concerted international efforts at disarmament and non-proliferation, in particular in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, with a view to strengthening international security and enhancing sustainable economic and social development,

Conscious of the need to combat the negative effects of cultures of violence and complacency in the face of current dangers in this field through long-term programmes of education and training,

Remaining convinced that the need for disarmament and non-proliferation education has never been greater, not only on the subject of weapons of mass destruction but also in the field of small arms and light weapons, terrorism and other challenges to international security and the process of disarmament, as well as on the relevance of implementing the recommendations contained in the United Nations study,

Recognizing the importance of the role of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in the promotion of disarmament and non-proliferation education,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Member States, the United Nations and other international and regional organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations, which, within their purview, implemented the recommendations made in the United Nations study, as discussed in the report of the Secretary-General reviewing the implementation of the recommendations, and encourages them once again to continue applying those recommendations and reporting to the Secretary-General on steps taken to implement them;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report reviewing the results of the implementation of the recommendations and possible new opportunities for promoting disarmament and non-proliferation education, and to submit it to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session;

3. Reiterates the request to the Secretary-General to utilize electronic means to the fullest extent possible in the dissemination, in as many official languages as feasible, of information related to that report and any other information that the Office for Disarmament Affairs gathers on an ongoing basis in regard to the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study;

4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled “Disarmament and non-proliferation education”.

Disarmament Information Programme

During the year, UNODA continued to raise awareness and understanding of the work of the United Nations on disarmament and related issues. *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook* was distributed worldwide and was also accessible electronically. The quarterly e-publication *UNODA Update* continued to highlight events and activities of the Office and other disarmament forums. On the subject of verification in all its aspects, *Study Series 32* was released in 2008, and two booklets were published, entitled *Small Arms and Light Weapons: Selected United Nations Documents and Disarmament 2007: Critical Disarmament Issues*.

Dedicated websites were designed for major disarmament-related conferences, including the first and second sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 NPT Review Conference and the Third Biennial Meeting of States, as well as in connection with issues such as efforts to achieve an arms trade treaty.

During the four-week session of the General Assembly’s First Committee in October, two exhibits were displayed: one, organized by Mayors for Peace, showing photographs of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bomb project, and another, entitled “The World is Watching”, sponsored by UNODA and organized by Control Arms, highlighting the dangers of the spread of illicit small arms and UN efforts towards an international arms trade treaty.

UNODA also facilitated the participation of civil society organizations in disarmament-related meetings and conferences and collaborated closely with coalitions of NGOs that spearheaded such participation.

Messenger of Peace Michael Douglas, continuing to use his celebrity status to promote disarmament and advocate for peace, conducted radio and television interviews, participated in round-table discussions with policy-makers and journalists and held discussions with senior members of the United States Senate and the House of Representatives.

Report of Secretary-General. In the Secretary-General's July report [A/63/162], priority issues for UNODA's Disarmament Information Programme included WMDs; conventional weapons, particularly small arms and light weapons; and the dissemination of information on disarmament.

In conclusion, the Secretary-General stated that the Disarmament Information Programme was orienting its publications to electronic formats. DPI had highlighted disarmament and arms control issues of topical interest, especially nuclear weapons and small arms and light weapons, using its network of information centres around the world and its outreach capacity.

The Secretary-General appealed for continued support, and expressed appreciation to Governments and private donors for their contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Programme. As at the end of 2007, the Fund balance stood at \$328,216. During the period from 1 January through 30 June 2008, additional contributions totalling \$51,000 were received.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/390], adopted **resolution 63/81** without vote [agenda item 90 (b)].

United Nations Disarmament Information Programme

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision taken in 1982 at its twelfth special session, the second special session devoted to disarmament, by which the World Disarmament Campaign was launched,

Bearing in mind its resolution 47/53 D of 9 December 1992, in which it decided, inter alia, that the World Disarmament Campaign should be known thereafter as the "United Nations Disarmament Information Programme" and the World Disarmament Campaign Voluntary Trust Fund as the "Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme",

Recalling its resolutions 51/46 A of 10 December 1996, 53/78 E of 4 December 1998, 55/34 A of 20 November 2000, 57/90 of 22 November 2002, 59/103 of 3 December 2004 and 61/95 of 6 December 2006,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General,

1. *Welcomes* the launch of the new United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs website, and invites Member States and other users to make use of its expanded content and specialization;

2. *Commends* the Secretary-General for his efforts to make effective use of the limited resources available to him in disseminating as widely as possible, including by electronic means, information on arms control and disarmament to Governments, the media, non-governmental organizations, educational communities and research institutes, and in carrying out a seminar and conference programme;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme as a significant instrument in enabling all Member States to participate fully in the deliberations and negotiations on disarmament in the various United Nations bodies, in assisting them in complying with treaties, as required, and in contributing to agreed mechanisms for transparency;

4. *Commends with satisfaction* the launch of *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook* for 2007, with new format and content, as well as its online edition, by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs;

5. *Notes with appreciation* the cooperation of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and its information centres in pursuit of the objectives of the Programme;

6. *Recommends* that the Programme continue to inform, educate and generate public understanding of the importance of multilateral action and support for it, including action by the United Nations and the Conference on Disarmament, in the field of arms control and disarmament, in a factual, balanced and objective manner, and that it focus its efforts:

(a) To continue to publish in all official languages *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, the flagship publication of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs;

(b) To continue to maintain the disarmament website as a part of the United Nations website and to produce versions of the site in as many official languages as feasible;

(c) To continue to intensify United Nations interaction with the public, principally non-governmental organizations and research institutes, to help further an informed debate on topical issues of arms limitation, disarmament and security;

(d) To continue to organize discussions on topics of interest in the field of arms limitation and disarmament with a view to broadening understanding and facilitating an exchange of views and information among Member States and civil society;

7. *Recognizes* the importance of all support extended to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme, and invites once again all Member States to make further contributions to the Fund with a view to sustaining a strong outreach programme;

8. *Takes note* of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General, which reviews the implementation of the recommendations made in the 2002 study on disarmament and non-proliferation education;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report covering both the implementation of the activities of the Programme by the United Nations system during the previous two years and the activities of the Programme contemplated by the system for the following two years;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled "United Nations Disarmament Information Programme".

Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters

The Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, which advised the Secretary-General and also served as the Board of Trustees of UNIDIR, held its forty-ninth (New York, 20–22 February) and fiftieth (Geneva, 9–11 July) sessions, discussing energy security and the environment in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation; multilateralism and the UN dimension; and, in continuation of discussions from its 2007 session [YUN 2007, p. 590], emerging weapons technologies, including outer space aspects. The Board's deliberations and recommendations were summarized in an August report of the Secretary-General [A/63/279].

The Board encouraged a broader dialogue on the peaceful use of nuclear energy, including the various proposals for establishing national and multilateral nuclear fuel supply arrangements under a multilateral framework. Following an exchange of views on the Nuclear Security Project, or "Hoover Plan", a proposal launched in 2007 by former high-ranking United States officials, the Board recommended that the Secretary-General continue to strengthen his personal role in generating political will in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, seizing the momentum created by the Plan and encouraging wider discussions on its objective, with the United Nations possibly acting as a multilateral forum. With regard to emerging weapons technologies, including outer space issues, the Board suggested that the Secretary-General continue raising awareness of the risks related to those technologies and initiate a dialogue between Governments and the scientific community on emerging technologies with military applications. It also proposed that he consider creating a high-level panel, including eminent scientists, on the issue of emerging weapons technologies, including outer space aspects, and their possible implications for international peace and security.

In its capacity as UNIDIR Board of Trustees (see below), the Board adopted the Institute's 2008 programme of work and budget.

UN Institute for Disarmament Research

The Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the report of the UNIDIR Director [A/63/177] covering the period from August 2007 to July 2008 and the proposed 2008–2009 programme of work and budget, as approved by the Advisory Board in its capacity as UNIDIR's Board of Trustees.

The Institute's work programme remained centred on the three main areas of global security and disarmament, regional security and disarmament, and human security and disarmament, thus addressing the full range of substantive disarmament issues from small arms to weapons in outer space. The period under review was characterized by increased outreach and relations with the UN system, in particular through two research projects on security needs assessment and disarmament as humanitarian action. The Institute engaged in a range of consultations, discussions and seminars pertaining to the work of the Conference on Disarmament. It also increased the number of institutes with which it collaborated on research projects and meetings and organized a range of research meetings, both in Geneva and in different regions. UNIDIR held a series of meetings on creative approaches to the entry into force of CTBT, and in April, it was involved in a seminar on CTBT and the fissile material cut-off treaty. In May, it co-organized a seminar during the 2008 Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the NPT. Under the umbrella project "Working our way to nuclear disarmament", it produced a paper on the role of regional organizations in implementing Security Council resolution 1540(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 544].

The Institute was engaged in a UNODA-executed project on promoting the universalization of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons through regional seminars. UNIDIR was also involved in organizing a series of discussions on cluster munitions and controlling the spread of small arms and light weapons. In preparation for an arms trade treaty, it co-organized seminars and analysed the elements required for such a treaty. It presented to the Third Biennial Meeting of States a draft report assessing implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and developed needs assessments and an inventory of expertise as part of the Coordinating Action on Small Arms mechanism for disseminating information.

UNIDIR continued to update the *Disarmament Insight* website, launched in April 2007, and to publish its bilingual quarterly journal *Disarmament Forum*. In early 2008, it launched a project entitled "The road from Oslo: analysis of negotiations to address the humanitarian effects of cluster munitions" and issued a publication, *The Humanitarian Impact of Cluster Munitions*.

Disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services

In June 2008, 25 fellows participated in the UN disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services programme, which began in Geneva on 25 August and concluded in New York on 24 October. The programme continued to be structured in three segments: a study session in Geneva; study visits to disarmament-related intergovernmental organizations and to Member States; and a study session at UN Headquarters in New York.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 61/91 [YUN 2006, p. 680], the Secretary-General reported in July [A/63/129] on the UN disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services programme, which, since being launched in 1979 [YUN 1979, p. 92], had trained 759 officials from 159 States. He observed that the programme continued to enhance disarmament expertise, particularly in developing countries, and contributed to better understanding Member States' and the international community's concerns in the fields of disarmament and security and to fostering progress in disarmament, arms limitation and non-proliferation.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/390], adopted **resolution 63/79** without vote [agenda item 90 (a)].

United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,

Recalling its decision, contained in paragraph 108 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, to establish a programme of fellowships on disarmament, as well as its decisions contained in annex IV to the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly, the second special session devoted to disarmament, in which it decided, inter alia, to continue the programme,

Noting that the programme continues to contribute significantly to developing greater awareness of the importance and benefits of disarmament and a better understanding of the concerns of the international community in the field of disarmament and security, as well as to enhancing the knowledge and skills of fellows, allowing them to participate more effectively in efforts in the field of disarmament at all levels,

Noting with satisfaction that the programme has trained a large number of officials from Member States throughout its thirty years of existence, many of whom hold positions of responsibility in the field of disarmament within their own Governments,

Recognizing the need for Member States to take into account gender equality when nominating candidates to the programme,

Recalling all the annual resolutions on the matter since the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly, in 1982, including resolution 50/71 A of 12 December 1995,

Believing that the forms of assistance available to Member States, in particular to developing countries, under the programme will enhance the capabilities of their officials to follow ongoing deliberations and negotiations on disarmament, both bilateral and multilateral,

1. *Reaffirms* its decisions contained in annex IV to the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly and the report of the Secretary-General approved by the Assembly in its resolution 33/71 E of 14 December 1978;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to all Member States and organizations that have consistently supported the programme throughout the years, thereby contributing to its success, in particular to the Governments of Germany and Japan for the continuation of extensive and highly educative study visits for the participants in the programme, to the Government of the People's Republic of China for organizing a study visit for the fellows in the area of disarmament in 2007 and to the Government of Switzerland for organizing a study visit in 2008;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies of the Monterey Institute of International Studies for having organized specific study programmes in the field of disarmament in their respective areas of competence, thereby contributing to the objectives of the programme;

4. *Commends* the Secretary-General for the diligence with which the programme has continued to be carried out;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to implement annually the Geneva-based programme within existing resources and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled "United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services".

Regional disarmament

The added value of a regional approach to UN disarmament efforts having been acknowledged for almost three decades, the United Nations over the years sought to enhance, in tangible terms, the role of regional approaches to disarmament and security, including as a complement to global efforts.

In April, the Secretary-General transmitted to the Security Council a report on the relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security [S/2008/186], and noted the growing significance of regional organizations for maintaining international peace and security. Efforts continued to address re-

gional disarmament and non-proliferation issues, such as curbing the spread of WMDs, tackling the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, establishing confidence- and security-building measures, and promoting nuclear-weapon-free zones at the regional and subregional level.

In accordance with the Security Council President's request in his statement S/PRST/2007/7 [YUN 2007, p. 109], the Secretary-General's report included specific proposals on how the United Nations could support arrangements on cooperation and coordination with regional organizations. To support endeavours in non-proliferation and disarmament, the report recommended that cooperation be increased in three areas: counter-terrorism; Security Council resolutions 1540(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 544] and 1673(2006) [YUN 2006, p. 635]; and illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/389], adopted **resolution 63/43** without vote [agenda item 89 (i)].

Regional disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/58 P of 4 December 1990, 46/36 I of 6 December 1991, 47/52 J of 9 December 1992, 48/75 I of 16 December 1993, 49/75 N of 15 December 1994, 50/70 K of 12 December 1995, 51/45 K of 10 December 1996, 52/38 P of 9 December 1997, 53/77 O of 4 December 1998, 54/54 N of 1 December 1999, 55/33 O of 20 November 2000, 56/24 H of 29 November 2001, 57/76 of 22 November 2002, 58/38 of 8 December 2003, 59/89 of 3 December 2004, 60/63 of 8 December 2005, 61/80 of 6 December 2006 and 62/38 of 5 December 2007 on regional disarmament,

Believing that the efforts of the international community to move towards the ideal of general and complete disarmament are guided by the inherent human desire for genuine peace and security, the elimination of the danger of war and the release of economic, intellectual and other resources for peaceful pursuits,

Affirming the abiding commitment of all States to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations in the conduct of their international relations,

Noting that essential guidelines for progress towards general and complete disarmament were adopted at the tenth special session of the General Assembly,

Taking note of the guidelines and recommendations for regional approaches to disarmament within the context of global security adopted by the Disarmament Commission at its 1993 substantive session,

Welcoming the prospects of genuine progress in the field of disarmament engendered in recent years as a result of negotiations between the two super-Powers,

Taking note of the recent proposals for disarmament at the regional and subregional levels,

Recognizing the importance of confidence-building measures for regional and international peace and security,

Convinced that endeavours by countries to promote regional disarmament, taking into account the specific characteristics of each region and in accordance with the principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments, would enhance the security of all States and would thus contribute to international peace and security by reducing the risk of regional conflicts,

1. *Stresses* that sustained efforts are needed, within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament and under the umbrella of the United Nations, to make progress on the entire range of disarmament issues;

2. *Affirms* that global and regional approaches to disarmament complement each other and should therefore be pursued simultaneously to promote regional and international peace and security;

3. *Calls upon* States to conclude agreements, wherever possible, for nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament and confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels;

4. *Welcomes* the initiatives towards disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and security undertaken by some countries at the regional and subregional levels;

5. *Supports and encourages* efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels to ease regional tensions and to further disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation measures at the regional and subregional levels;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Regional disarmament".

Conventional arms control at regional and subregional levels

The Secretary-General, in response to General Assembly resolution 62/44 [YUN 2007, p. 591], submitted a July report [A/63/117 & Add.1] containing the views of nine Member States—Cambodia, Lebanon, Mauritius, Mexico, Panama, Qatar, Serbia, Spain, Ukraine—on conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels. By its 2007 action, the Assembly decided to give urgent consideration to conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels, since threats to peace and security in the post-cold-war era arose mainly among States in the same region or subregion.

Among its activities, UNODA, through regional workshops, helped States build capacity in implementing the International Tracing Instrument. In partnership with the EU, UNODA organized six regional seminars to promote the universality of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed Inhuman or to Have Indiscriminate Effects and its annexed Protocols.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/389], adopted **resolution 63/44** by recorded vote (175-1-2) [agenda item 89 (x)].

**Conventional arms control
at the regional and subregional levels**

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/75 J of 16 December 1993, 49/75 O of 15 December 1994, 50/70 L of 12 December 1995, 51/45 Q of 10 December 1996, 52/38 Q of 9 December 1997, 53/77 P of 4 December 1998, 54/54 M of 1 December 1999, 55/33 P of 20 November 2000, 56/24 I of 29 November 2001, 57/77 of 22 November 2002, 58/39 of 8 December 2003, 59/88 of 3 December 2004, 60/75 of 8 December 2005, 61/82 of 6 December 2006 and 62/44 of 5 December 2007,

Recognizing the crucial role of conventional arms control in promoting regional and international peace and security,

Convinced that conventional arms control needs to be pursued primarily in the regional and subregional contexts since most threats to peace and security in the post-cold-war era arise mainly among States located in the same region or subregion,

Aware that the preservation of a balance in the defence capabilities of States at the lowest level of armaments would contribute to peace and stability and should be a prime objective of conventional arms control,

Desirous of promoting agreements to strengthen regional peace and security at the lowest possible level of armaments and military forces,

Noting with particular interest the initiatives taken in this regard in different regions of the world, in particular the commencement of consultations among a number of Latin American countries and the proposals for conventional arms control made in the context of South Asia, and recognizing, in the context of this subject, the relevance and value of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, which is a cornerstone of European security,

Believing that militarily significant States and States with larger military capabilities have a special responsibility in promoting such agreements for regional security,

Believing also that an important objective of conventional arms control in regions of tension should be to prevent the possibility of military attack launched by surprise and to avoid aggression,

1. *Decides* to give urgent consideration to the issues involved in conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels;

2. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to consider the formulation of principles that can serve as a framework for regional agreements on conventional arms control, and looks forward to a report of the Conference on this subject;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the meantime, to seek the views of Member States on the subject and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 63/44:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: India.

Abstaining: Bhutan, Russian Federation.

**Regional and subregional
confidence-building measures**

In accordance with the General Assembly's request in resolution 62/45 [YUN 2007, p. 592], the Secretary-General presented a July report [A/63/171 & Add.1] containing the views of 10 Member States—Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Cuba, Mexico, Panama, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Spain, Ukraine—on confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/389], adopted **resolution 63/45** without vote [agenda item 89 (y)].

Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 58/43 of 8 December 2003, 59/87 of 3 December 2004, 60/64 of 8 December 2005, 61/81 of 6 December 2006 and 62/45 of 5 December 2007,

Recalling also its resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003 entitled "Prevention of armed conflict", in which it calls upon Member States to settle their disputes by peaceful means, as set out in Chapter VI of the Charter, inter alia, by any procedures adopted by the parties,

Recalling further the resolutions and guidelines adopted by consensus by the General Assembly and the Disarmament Commission relating to confidence-building measures and their implantation at the global, regional and subregional levels,

Considering the importance and effectiveness of confidence-building measures taken at the initiative and with the agreement of all States concerned and taking into account the specific characteristics of each region, since such measures can contribute to regional stability,

Convinced that resources released by disarmament, including regional disarmament, can be devoted to economic and social development and to the protection of the environment for the benefit of all peoples, in particular those of the developing countries,

Recognizing the need for meaningful dialogue among States concerned to avert conflict,

Welcoming the peace processes already initiated by States concerned to resolve their disputes through peaceful means bilaterally or through mediation, inter alia, by third parties, regional organizations or the United Nations,

Recognizing that States in some regions have already taken steps towards confidence-building measures at the bilateral, subregional and regional levels in the political and military fields, including arms control and disarmament, and noting that such confidence-building measures have improved peace and security in those regions and contributed to progress in the socio-economic conditions of their people,

Concerned that the continuation of disputes among States, particularly in the absence of an effective mechanism to resolve them through peaceful means, may contribute to the arms race and endanger the maintenance of international peace and security and the efforts of the international community to promote arms control and disarmament,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to refrain from the use or threat of use of force in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

2. *Reaffirms its commitment* to the peaceful settlement of disputes under Chapter VI of the Charter, in particular Article 33, which provides for a solution by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements or other peaceful means chosen by the parties;

3. *Reaffirms* the ways and means regarding confidence- and security-building measures set out in the report of the Disarmament Commission on its 1993 session;

4. *Calls upon* Member States to pursue these ways and means through sustained consultations and dialogue, while at the same time avoiding actions that may hinder or impair such a dialogue;

5. *Urges* States to comply strictly with all bilateral, regional and international agreements, including arms control and disarmament agreements, to which they are party;

6. *Emphasizes* that the objective of confidence-building measures should be to help to strengthen international peace and security and to be consistent with the principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments;

7. *Encourages* the promotion of bilateral and regional confidence-building measures, with the consent and participation of the parties concerned, to avoid conflict and prevent the unintended and accidental outbreak of hostilities;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session containing the views of Member States on confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context".

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/390], adopted **resolution 63/76** without vote [agenda item 90 (d)].

United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 60/83 of 8 December 2005, 61/90 of 6 December 2006, and 62/50 of 5 December 2007 regarding the maintenance and revitalization of the three United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament,

Recalling also the reports of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Reaffirming its decision, taken in 1982 at its twelfth special session, to establish the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme, the purpose of which is to inform, educate and generate public understanding and support for the objectives of the United Nations in the field of arms control and disarmament,

Bearing in mind its resolutions 40/151 G of 16 December 1985, 41/60 J of 3 December 1986, 42/39 D of 30 November 1987 and 44/117 F of 15 December 1989 on the regional centres for peace and disarmament in Nepal, Peru and Togo,

Recognizing that the changes that have taken place in the world have created new opportunities as well as posed new challenges for the pursuit of disarmament, and, in this regard, bearing in mind that the regional centres for peace and disarmament can contribute substantially to understanding

and cooperation among States in each particular region in the areas of peace, disarmament and development,

Noting that in paragraph 91 of the Final Document of the Fourteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Havana, on 15 and 16 September 2006, the Heads of State or Government emphasized the importance of the United Nations activities at the regional level to increase the stability and security of its Member States, which could be promoted in a substantive manner by the maintenance and revitalization of the three regional centres for peace and disarmament,

1. *Reiterates* the importance of the United Nations activities at the regional level to advancement in disarmament and to increase the stability and security of its Member States, which could be promoted in a substantive manner by the maintenance and revitalization of the three regional centres for peace and disarmament;

2. *Reaffirms* that, in order to achieve positive results, it is useful for the three regional centres to carry out dissemination and educational programmes that promote regional peace and security that are aimed at changing basic attitudes with respect to peace and security and disarmament so as to support the achievement of the purposes and principles of the United Nations;

3. *Appeals* to Member States in each region and those that are able to do so, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions to the regional centres in their respective regions to strengthen their activities and initiatives;

4. *Emphasizes* the importance of the activities of the regional disarmament branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all necessary support, within existing resources, to the regional centres in carrying out their programmes of activities;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament".

Africa

The year was characterized by an increased involvement of the African Union (AU) and other subregional organizations in small arms and light weapons-related matters. The results were noticeable in efforts to coordinate the continent's response to the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons. In particular, following a meeting of regional bodies (Mombasa, Kenya, 9–10 June) the AU set up a Steering Committee comprising all regional and subregional organizations engaged in the issue.

At the subregional level, the members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) moved towards the entry into force of ECOWAS's small arms and light weapons Convention, as seven of the nine States required for its entry into force had ratified the Convention. The ECOWAS Small Arms Control Programme [YUN 2006, p. 685] continued to assist West African States in practical disarmament, specifi-

cally in building the capacity of national small arms commissions and civil society to control illicit flow.

Focusing on States not party to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), UNODA, in partnership with the EU, conducted two regional seminars, one for West and East Africa, and the other for the Horn of Africa, Great Lakes region and Southern Africa, (Lome, Togo, 21–22 April, 24–25 April), to promote CWC's universality.

State members of the Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa, adopted in 2004 [YUN 2004, p. 571] and in force since 2006 [YUN 2006, p. 684], worked to implement the Protocol.

In Central Africa, members of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), with the support of the United Nations and the EU, began drafting a legal instrument to control small arms and light weapons in the region. The members also began drafting a programme to promote cross-border cooperation and enhance the management of border security and trafficking issues. Disarmament programmes were carried out in the member States of the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States (RECISA). The Centre supported the destruction of surplus weapons and commissioned national studies to help develop a regional strategy for a 2009 launch. It conducted regional training courses for police and the military (Mombasa, Kenya, 31 March–4 April; Nairobi, 3 July).

UNDP supported the ECOWAS and RECISA small arms control programmes in strengthening their capacities through training, research and awareness-raising. UNDP also supported countries having obligations under article 4 of the Mine-Ban Convention (calling for the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines), due to be fulfilled in 2008.

Standing Advisory Committee

At its twenty-seventh ministerial meeting (Luanda, Angola, 13–15 May) [A/63/82-S/2008/360], the Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa reviewed the geopolitical and security situation in some of its States members, specifically Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It discussed promotion of disarmament and arms limitation in Central Africa, focusing on a draft code of conduct for armed and security forces known as the "Sao Tome Initiative", and a legally binding instrument, prepared by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, as well as implementation of the UN Programme of Action

on small arms and light weapons and related issues, and on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 544]. The Committee endorsed the principal recommendations of the ECCAS report, which included proceeding with the draft for adoption in 2010, and developing a Small Arms Unit within the ECCAS secretariat that would campaign for ratification of the instrument and focus on small arms and light weapons trade-related issues in the subregion.

In response to General Assembly resolution 62/53 [YUN 2007, p. 594], the Secretary-General, in a July report [A/63/164], described the activities of the Advisory Committee from July 2007 to June 2008, during which period the Committee's twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh ministerial meetings took place. The Memorandum of Understanding between the ECCAS secretariat and UNODA had contributed to strengthening their cooperation, the Secretary-General concluded, particularly with regard to the joint implementation of the Sao Tome Initiative. The ongoing efforts to revitalize the Committee's work illustrated its relevance and adaptability. States members were committed to working together, with the support of the United Nations and its partners, to implement the decisions taken. In that connection, the Committee called on interested States to help it finance the implementation of specific projects through the Committee's Trust Fund.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/390], adopted **resolution 63/78** without vote [agenda item 90 (g)].

Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous relevant resolutions, in particular resolution 62/53 of 5 December 2007,

Recalling also the guidelines for general and complete disarmament adopted at its tenth special session, the first special session devoted to disarmament,

Bearing in mind the establishment by the Secretary-General on 28 May 1992 of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, the purpose of which is to encourage arms limitation, disarmament, non-proliferation and development in the subregion,

Convinced that the resources released by disarmament, including regional disarmament, can be devoted to economic and social development and to the protection of the environment for the benefit of all peoples, in particular those of the developing countries,

Considering the importance and effectiveness of confidence-building measures taken on the initiative and with the participation of all States concerned and taking into account the specific characteristics of each region, since such measures can contribute to regional stability and to international peace and security,

Convinced that development can be achieved only in a climate of peace, security and mutual confidence both within and among States,

Recalling the Brazzaville Declaration on Cooperation for Peace and Security in Central Africa, the Bata Declaration for the Promotion of Lasting Democracy, Peace and Development in Central Africa and the Yaoundé Declaration on Peace, Security and Stability in Central Africa,

Bearing in mind resolutions 1196(1998) and 1197(1998), adopted by the Security Council on 16 and 18 September 1998 respectively, following its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,

Emphasizing the need to strengthen the capacity for conflict prevention and peacekeeping in Africa, and welcoming the partnership established between the United Nations and the Economic Community of Central African States for that purpose,

1. *Reaffirms its support* for efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at the regional and sub-regional levels in order to ease tensions and conflicts in Central Africa and to further peace, stability and sustainable development in the subregion;

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, and encourages the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission to support efforts for the political stabilization and reconstruction of post-conflict countries;

3. *Welcomes* the significant progress made by the States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, under the "Sao Tome Initiative", with respect to the drafting of a legal instrument on the control of small arms and light weapons in Central Africa and of a code of conduct for defence and security forces in Central Africa, in particular the decision by the twenty-seventh ministerial meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee, held in Luanda from 13 to 15 May 2008, to complete the process of drafting the code of conduct with a view to its possible adoption during the twenty-eighth ministerial meeting and the decision to examine during the same meeting a draft text containing elements drawn from relevant legal instruments on small arms and light weapons, and encourages interested countries to provide their financial support for the implementation of these two projects;

4. *Encourages* the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to continue their efforts to promote peace and security in their subregion;

5. *Also encourages* the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to continue their efforts to render the early-warning mechanism for Central Africa fully operational as an instrument for analysing and monitoring the political situation in the subregion within the framework of the prevention of crises and armed conflicts, and requests the Secretary-General to provide the necessary assistance for its smooth functioning;

6. *Emphasizes* the importance of providing the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee with the essential support they need to carry out the full programme of activities which they adopted at their ministerial meetings;

7. *Appeals* to the international community to support the efforts undertaken by the States concerned to implement disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue their assistance to the countries of Central Africa in tackling the problems of refugees and displaced persons in their territories;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide their full assistance for the proper functioning of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa;

10. *Urges* Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to support the activities of the Standing Advisory Committee effectively through voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to support the ongoing efforts of the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee, including through provision of the assistance needed to ensure the success of their regular biannual meetings;

12. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa".

Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

In accordance with the priorities expressed by Member States during the 2007 Consultative Mechanism for the Reorganization of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa [YUN 2007, p. 596], the Centre, established in Lome, Togo, in 1986 [YUN 1986, p. 85], focused on conventional arms, broadening its scope of activities while strengthening relationships with regional and civil sector organizations, as well as on security sector reform. It continued to assist and advise the Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, and provided technical support for regional and subregional workshops and seminars, among them a workshop on the International Tracing Instrument (Lome, 17–18 April 2008) and two regional seminars (Lome, 21–22 April, 24–25 April).

The Centre participated in the subregional meeting on the implementation of the Nairobi Protocol

(Uganda, 17–22 August), organized by the African Centre for Security Studies, and in the first AU Region's Steering Committee for regional and subregional entities (United Republic of Tanzania, 24–26 November). The Centre organized a seminar on a legal framework for interventions of armed forces within a democratic context (Togo, 11–13 March) and in collaboration with the African Security Sector Network, a subregional workshop entitled "Parliamentary oversight of security: an interactive needs assessment of the defence and security commissions of Benin and Togo". A workshop conducted by the United Nations Office for West Africa on linkages between security and elections resulted in a recommendation that the Office develop, in partnership with the Centre and ECOWAS, a regional code of conduct on the use of security and armed forces during an electoral period.

The Centre continued to maintain a small arms register for Africa to promote confidence-building and transparency in arms transfers between the countries participating in the Small Arms Transparency and Control Regime in Africa project [YUN 2003, p. 587].

The Centre's capacity-building programme for civil society was aimed at supporting mostly West African organizations. It published a training manual to assist in delivering courses and conducted training sessions in the region. The first phase of a proposed programme in East Africa was discussed by the Regional Centre on Small Arms and the East African Action Network on Small Arms.

Focusing its outreach and information efforts on its Internet portal, the Centre's new key component was a freely accessible database on peace, security and disarmament in Africa. The Centre organized youth forums with graduate and undergraduate students to discuss the challenges of disarmament in Africa, armed conflict and international human rights law, and the problem of child soldiers.

Report of Secretary-General. The Centre's activities from July 2007 to June 2008 were described in a report of the Secretary-General [A/63/163], submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 62/216 [YUN 2007, p. 596]. In the report, the Secretary-General expressed gratitude to the Assembly for its decision to fund the Centre's operating costs and three new posts from the regular UN budget, and called on all countries, especially the States of the region, to contribute more actively to the Centre's disarmament projects through voluntary contributions.

The Secretary-General reported that during the period under review, the Trust Fund for the Centre had received by 31 December 2007 voluntary contributions totalling \$1,123,990 for the 2006–2007 biennium for the execution of new projects, and the Fund's balance stood at \$1,124,973 at that date.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/390], adopted **resolution 63/80** without vote [agenda item 90 (b)].

**United Nations Regional Centre for Peace
and Disarmament in Africa**

The General Assembly,

Mindful of the provisions of Article 11, paragraph 1, of the Charter of the United Nations stipulating that a function of the General Assembly is to consider the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and arms limitation,

Recalling its resolutions 40/151 G of 16 December 1985, 41/60 D of 3 December 1986, 42/39 J of 30 November 1987 and 43/76 D of 7 December 1988 on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, and its resolutions 46/36 F of 6 December 1991 and 47/52 G of 9 December 1992 on regional disarmament, including confidence-building measures,

Recalling also its resolutions 48/76 E of 16 December 1993, 49/76 D of 15 December 1994, 50/71 C of 12 December 1995, 51/46 E of 10 December 1996, 52/220 of 22 December 1997, 53/78 C of 4 December 1998, 54/55 B of 1 December 1999, 55/34 D of 20 November 2000, 56/25 D of 29 November 2001, 57/91 of 22 November 2002, 58/61 of 8 December 2003, 59/101 of 3 December 2004, 60/86 of 8 December 2005, 61/93 of 6 December 2006 and 62/216 of 22 December 2007,

Aware of the role of the Regional Centre in promoting confidence-building and arms-limitation measures at the regional level,

Taking into account the need to establish close cooperation between the Regional Centre and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, in particular its institutions in the field of peace, disarmament and security, as well as with relevant United Nations bodies and programmes in Africa for greater effectiveness,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, in which he stated that an increase in the Regional Centre's human and operational capacity would enable it to discharge its mandate in full and to respond more effectively to requests for assistance from African States,

Deeply concerned that, as noted in the report of the Secretary-General, despite the decision taken in Khartoum in January 2006 by the Executive Council of the African Union, in which the Council called upon member States to make voluntary contributions to the Regional Centre to maintain its operations, no such funds have been received to ensure its operations,

Recalling that, in its resolution 60/86, it requested the Secretary-General to establish, within existing resources, a consultative mechanism of interested States, in particular African States, for the reorganization of the Regional Centre,

Taking note of the concrete recommendations on the Regional Centre's future work programme, as well as on its staffing and funding, made by the Consultative Mechanism for the Reorganization of the United Nations Re-

gional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa upon the conclusion of its work,

1. *Notes* the implementation of the recommendations of the Consultative Mechanism for the Reorganization of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa to fund the Centre's operating costs and three new posts from the regular budget of the Organization;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of the Regional Centre to align its actions with the priorities identified in the recommendations of the Consultative Mechanism;

3. *Welcomes* the undertaking by the Regional Centre of new initiatives and projects in the fields of security sector reform and practical disarmament measures, as detailed in the report of the Secretary-General;

4. *Urges* all States, as well as international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions to strengthen the programmes and activities of the Regional Centre and facilitate their implementation;

5. *Urges*, in particular, States members of the African Union to make voluntary contributions to the Regional Centre's trust funds in conformity with the decision taken by the Executive Council of the African Union, in Khartoum in January 2006;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to facilitate closer cooperation between the Regional Centre and the African Union, in particular in the areas of peace, security and development;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the necessary support to the Regional Centre for greater achievements and results;

8. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa".

Asia and the Pacific

Three nuclear-related developments were significant for the region in 2008. The ratification of the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone Treaty by Turkmenistan on 19 April, Tajikistan on 12 November and Kazakhstan on 11 December, paved the way for the Treaty to enter into force. As part of the process of the Six-Party Talks to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula, the first informal meeting of the relevant Foreign Ministers was held (Beijing, 8–11 December), with the parties discussing nuclear verification activities and reaffirming the goal of verifiable denuclearization of the Peninsula. Australia and Japan co-chaired the first session of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (Sydney, Australia, 9 July), a global initiative co-sponsored by the two countries with the aim of reinvigorating the global effort against nuclear proliferation and strengthening

NPT during the lead-up to the 2010 Review Conference and beyond.

During the forty-first Ministerial Meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (Singapore, 20–21 July), the Ministers in a joint communiqué welcomed the progress made in implementing the 2007 Plan of Action by the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone. They noted that States parties should resume direct consultations with nuclear-weapon States to resolve outstanding issues regarding the Treaty on the Zone and Protocol. Reaffirming that the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula was necessary for regional peace and security, the Ministers expressed support for the Six-Party Talks. They agreed that the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) should initiate concrete measures on regional security challenges, particularly through cooperation in non-proliferation and disarmament.

At the Fifteenth Meeting of ARF (Singapore, 24 July), the Singapore Declaration was adopted to promote and maintain regional peace and security through strengthening dialogue and cooperation. At the meeting, the Ministers endorsed the establishment of a new working group, the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, to provide a discussion platform and concentrate on Security Council resolution 1540(2004) implementation in the region.

The Council of Heads of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, at its eighth meeting (Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 28 August), adopted the Dushanbe Declaration stating that the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone was an important step in consolidating the NPT regime and would help strengthen regional security and contribute to the fight against international nuclear terrorism. During the meeting, member States (China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan) signed an agreement on cooperation in combating illegal circulation of weapons, ammunition and explosives.

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat worked with its 16 member countries on a range of security and disarmament issues and continued to support the South Pacific Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone. It engaged France, Japan and the United Kingdom on the safety and security of civil nuclear shipments through the Pacific Ocean. In cooperation with the Secretariat, the CTBTO Preparatory Commission provided practical assistance for a regional workshop for Pacific Island States (Apia, Samoa, 8–9 May) on CTBT ratification and implementation. The Secretariat consulted with its members on a new small arms and light weapons project, to be launched in 2009, focusing on police control of ammunition, registration of weapons and holders, weapons safety, and educational material for weapons users. The Secretariat began drafting

a “Regional Model Law Governing the Control of Weapons”. It supported members’ compliance with international counter-terrorism obligations, and in cooperation with New Zealand convened a regional counter-terrorism working group. It worked with members and international partners on other regional priorities, such as enhancing border security capacity and strengthening maritime security.

UNDP, together with Switzerland and Thailand, hosted a regional meeting on armed violence and development (Bangkok, 8–9 May), during which 24 Governments adopted a declaration on armed violence and development.

Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific

The new office for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific opened in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 18 August, following its relocation from New York, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/52 [YUN 2007, p. 598].

The Centre organized several annual conferences. The twentieth UN Conference on Disarmament Issues (Saitama City, Japan, 27–29 August) focused on reinforcing the three pillars of the NPT (safety, security and safeguards), the nuclear renaissance and non-proliferation, arms control and security in East Asia, and cooperation with civil society. The Centre and the Republic of Korea organized the seventh Joint Conference entitled “Nuclear Renaissance and the NPT: Reinforcing the Three Pillars of the NPT” (Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, 24–26 November). With EU support and in collaboration with Kazakhstan, the Centre organized two seminars to promote the universality of the CCW and its Protocols in the region (Almaty, 24–25 September; Kathmandu, 17–18 December).

Report of Secretary-General. In a July report [A/63/178], the Secretary-General gave an account of the activities of the Centre from July 2007 to June 2008. He noted that positive developments had paved the way for its relocation to the region and marked a turning point for its operation and activities. The Centre continued to promote disarmament and security dialogue and cooperation in the region through organizing conferences.

The Secretary-General reiterated his appeal to Member States, in particular those of the region, to increase their financial support of the Centre, in particular its core funding in support of the Centre’s programme and activities. As at 31 December 2007, he noted that the Centre’s trust fund balance stood at \$299,736.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/390], adopted **resolution 63/77** without vote [agenda item 90 (f)].

**United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and
Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific**

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 42/39 D of 30 November 1987 and 44/117 F of 15 December 1989, by which it established the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and renamed it the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, with headquarters in Kathmandu and with the mandate of providing, on request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities mutually agreed upon by the Member States of the Asia-Pacific region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament, through appropriate utilization of available resources,

Welcoming the relocation of the Regional Centre from New York to Kathmandu in accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/52 of 5 December 2007,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, in which he expresses his belief that in cementing its partnership with States in the Asia-Pacific region and other stakeholders, the Centre will be the primary United Nations regional entity advocating the disarmament and non-proliferation agenda,

Expressing its appreciation to the Regional Centre for its important work in promoting confidence-building measures through the organization of meetings, conferences and workshops in the region, including conferences held in Sapporo, Japan, from 27 to 29 August 2007 and in Seoul from 5 to 7 December 2007,

Concerned with the report of the Secretary-General, in which he indicates that the Regional Centre urgently needs more core funding for its staffing and operations to allow it to sustain its work and be in a position to respond to the requests for technical assistance from countries of the region,

Appreciating the timely execution by Nepal of its financial commitments for the relocation of the Regional Centre,

1. *Welcomes* the relocation of the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific from New York to Kathmandu and its coming into operation on 18 August 2008;

2. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of Nepal for its cooperation and financial support, which allowed the new office of the Regional Centre to be opened in Kathmandu;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General and the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat for making the necessary preparations with a view to ensuring the physical operation of the Regional Centre from Kathmandu to enable the Centre to function effectively;

4. *Appeals* to Member States, in particular those within the Asia-Pacific region, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and founda-

tions, to make voluntary contributions, the only resources of the Regional Centre, to strengthen the programme of activities of the Centre and the implementation thereof;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide from the regular budget, starting in the biennium 2010–2011, the necessary support to ensure the sustainability of the core activities and operations of the Regional Centre, in order to enable it to carry out its programme of activities in accordance with its mandate;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the necessary support to the Regional Centre for greater achievements and results, within existing resources, until the regular budget is approved;

7. *Reaffirms its strong support* for the role of the Regional Centre in the promotion of United Nations activities at the regional level to strengthen peace, stability and security among its Member States;

8. *Underlines* the importance of the Kathmandu process for the development of the practice of region-wide security and disarmament dialogues;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled “United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific”.

Europe

During 2008, European intergovernmental organizations continued to promote the implementation of international disarmament instruments and to fund disarmament initiatives throughout Europe and other regions.

Disarmament activities of the EU further expanded within the framework of the European Security Strategy, as well as within the EU strategy on the non-proliferation of WMDs and on combating the illicit accumulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition. The EU supported the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1540(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 544], 1673(2006) [YUN 2006, p. 635] and 1810(2008) (see p. 585), and sponsored workshops to strengthen the capacity of States involved in the export control process. On 14 May, the EU adopted a second Joint Action aimed at strengthening the capacities of non-EU States involved in export control, and on 8 December, the EU Council adopted a Council Common Position defining rules for the control of exports of military technology and equipment that replaced the Code of Conduct. The EU adopted a model article, to be inserted in relevant agreements with non-EU countries, that would constitute the legal basis for enhanced cooperation in combating illicit trade, and co-financed three regional seminars (Lome, Togo; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Seoul, Republic of Korea). Projects in the Western Balkans were carried out in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia

and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to aid those States in establishing legal and institutional control frameworks harmonized with EU policies and practices. The EU provided financial assistance to the UN Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean for activities in that field, ensuring training courses for law enforcement authorities and Members of Parliament.

As part of a Joint Action to promote universalization of the CCW, the EU sponsored regional seminars in the Dominican Republic, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Nepal and Togo on issues concerning anti-personnel landmines and explosive remnants of war. On 23 June, the EU Council adopted a Joint Action in support of the universalization of the Mine-Ban Convention, to enable regional accession seminars. Mine action continued to be part of wider assistance and development programmes in third countries. On 24 November, a set of guidelines on European Community mine action for 2008–2013 was endorsed to steer mine-affected countries towards effective mine action programming. Additionally, European Commission support to mine action continued to be carried out in nine countries, where activities encompassed mine clearance (including cluster bombs), mine risk education, stockpile destruction, and assistance in the safe return, resettlement and establishment of livelihoods of internally displaced persons and refugees. On 8 December, the EU Council adopted new lines of action in combating the proliferation of WMDs and their delivery systems. As a major IAEA donor, the EU continued to support IAEA nuclear terrorism prevention activities and assisted in securing nuclear materials throughout the world. Also in December, the EU adopted a draft international Code of Conduct for outer space activities.

The EU assisted African countries in developing national infrastructures for CTFBT monitoring and verification and supported the International Science and Technology Centre and the Science and Technology Centre of Ukraine in mitigating the risk of WMD proliferation in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) supported work identifying illicit transfers of small arms and light weapons and implementing the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

In the South-East European region, OSCE, the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), the Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre (RACVIAC) and the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons promoted and funded disarmament projects. OSCE States participating in the Forum for Security Cooperation continued to exchange views

on WMD proliferation. They also continued developing a handbook of best practice guides for implementing resolution 1540(2004).

In the field of conventional weapons, OSCE updated its 2004 commitments on small arms export control and initiated a comprehensive review of controls. An initiative was launched that led to best practices to prevent destabilizing transfers through air transport, as well as the adoption of an information-exchange questionnaire on the topic.

Following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between UNDP and the OSCE Secretariat, two joint projects were initiated in Belarus and Montenegro, on joint implementation projects and on conventional ammunition, respectively.

According to their own reports, OSCE participating States destroyed a total of 7,685,424 units of small arms and light weapons from 2001 to 2007. The destruction of approximately 120 tons of mélange (a rocket fuel component) was completed, and in Albania, an OSCE project to destroy 30 tons of mélange was initiated.

On 3 April, the Heads of State and Government of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) reaffirmed in the Bucharest Summit Declaration that arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation would make an important contribution to peace, security and stability and to preventing the spread and use of WMDs and their means of delivery. NATO's main non-proliferation activity in 2008 was the convening of a seminar on proliferation issues (Germany, 13–14 November), with the participation of representatives from the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, the Mediterranean Dialogue, the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative, Asian and Pacific nations (Australia, China, India, Japan, Pakistan), international organizations, academic institutions and think tanks. NATO also organized a regional workshop on the practical implementation of Security Council resolution 1540(2004) (Croatia, 5–6 June), where participants from South-Eastern Europe, allies and international organizations discussed lessons learned and best practices in export controls, including national action plans, information-sharing and cooperation among different agencies and with the private sector and academia.

On 28 March, the North Atlantic Council issued a statement on the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe urging the Russian Federation to end the suspension of its legal obligations and work together to reach agreement on the basis of the parallel action package and preserve the benefits of the regime. Moreover, NATO continued to coordinate conventional arms control through the Verification Coordinating Committee, which held 17 meetings for national delegates and experts in 2008.

On 27 February, RCC was launched as the successor to the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe and focused on developing a strategic and operational framework on security issues for increased regional cooperation and ownership. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between RCC and UNDP, key promoters of regional security cooperation.

RACVIAC fostered cooperation and broader security dialogue among the South-East European countries by enhancing openness, predictability and transparency in the field of military security. Thirty-eight seminars, conferences, workshops and training courses, with a total of 980 participants, were carried out in cooperation with a wide range of partners, such as OPCW, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, NATO, UNDP, UNODA and the International Action Network on Small Arms. The Centre also assisted South-East European countries in fulfilling their arms control commitments and in preparing them for accession to other arms control agreements.

UNDP, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Switzerland hosted a regional meeting (Sarajevo, 13–14 November) on armed violence and development, bringing together Governments from the Caucasus and Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. Fourteen countries subsequently adopted the Sarajevo Declaration on Armed Violence and Development.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Member States of the Organization of American States (OAS) approved on 21 February the Tlatelolco Commitment as the first joint initiative to strengthen border controls, adopt best practices at customs facilities and implement model regulations. In harmony with the 1997 Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA) [YUN 1997, p. 519], the Commitment aimed at improving controls of firearms imports and exports. The Banff Declaration, adopted on 5 September, called for ratification of CIFTA and the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisition and emphasized States' commitment to reduce WMD proliferation and their delivery vehicles. As at 31 December, 29 OAS members had ratified CIFTA, and during the year, member States approved two new model legislations. An OAS programme was initiated in Central America to strengthen national capacities to prevent and eliminate illicit firearms trafficking by training national authorities in stockpile management techniques, modernizing stockpile facilities and destroying obsolete or surplus firearms and ammunitions.

The Commitment to Public Security in the Americas, adopted on 8 October in Mexico City by the OAS

Public Security Ministers, constituted the first joint policy coordination effort in the hemisphere at the ministerial level. Building on the Tlatelolco Commitment and the Banff Declaration, it further engaged States to strengthen their border security, conduct public security training and create observatories of crime and violence, thereby setting the direction to combat collectively armed violence.

On 23 May, the South American Community of Nations was created as a regional forum to foster dialogue on a number of issues, including peace and security. On 16 December, it formed an additional coordination entity, the South American Defense Council, to promote a common vision of defence, reinforce confidence-building and cooperation, preserve South America as a nuclear and other WMD-free zone, as well as to promote disarmament and a culture of peace.

Throughout the year, members of the Caribbean Community and Common Market accelerated small arms and light weapons initiatives and tasked its Implementation Agency for Crime and Security to coordinate a more effective regional approach. Two main initiatives were undertaken, encouraging member States to sign and ratify all relevant conventions and protocols, and targeting increased compliance with the UN Programme of Action. In that connection, a capacity-building project was developed to share information through a "Regional Integrated Ballistic Information Network", and expanding a ballistics database.

UNODA, in partnership with the EU, organized a regional seminar promoting national accession to ccw and its Protocols (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 11–12 March). UNDP, the UN Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Spanish Government co-hosted a meeting on armed violence prevention and small arms control in Latin America (Antigua, Guatemala, 28–30 April). UNDP also supported the Central America Small Arms control initiative to strengthen subregional cooperation in preventing proliferation.

Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development

Throughout 2008, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, in Lima, Peru [YUN 1987, p. 88], conducted major multi-year projects in assisting States to address illicit firearm trafficking, while fostering national ownership of disarmament activities. Specifically, it helped train law-enforcement officials in both populated and border areas, as well as to consolidate capacity-building in Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Paraguay.

The Centre continued to collaborate with the Brazilian Ministry of the Interior and UNDP-Brazil to maintain a network of relevant entities in the field, such as the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), the World Customs Organization and UN agencies. In 2008, that network was reinforced by the participation of the newly created American Police Community and the Latin American and Caribbean Community for Police Intelligence. Supported by the Centre's online resource platform, it boosted networking and exchanges between representatives from several countries in the region, as well as from Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, the Dutch Antilles, France, Italy, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States.

In cooperation with UNDP and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Centre worked with parliamentary representatives, NGOs, community groups and the media to make recommendations on harmonizing national firearms legislations with international firearms instruments. In cooperation with UNDP, the Centre facilitated a regional debate on armed violence and appropriate public responses.

In the context of peacekeeping operations, the Centre engaged in greater coordination with NGOs, research institutions and the media on disarmament and weapons destruction training of Brazilian and Peruvian peacekeepers.

The Centre also worked with the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission to promote Treaty adhesion. Further to the ratifications by Barbados and Colombia in January, the Centre and the Preparatory Commission, with the support of the CTBT Article XIV Conference Co-Chairs Austria and Costa Rica, undertook coordinated missions to Dominica, Guatemala, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago for consultations. Those dialogues led to advances in the national adhesion process of the four States.

Report of Secretary-General. In a July report [A/63/157] submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 62/49 [YUN 2007, p. 601], the Secretary-General described the Centre's activities from July 2007 to June 2008. The Centre celebrated its twentieth anniversary in 2007.

During the reporting period, it undertook an extensive review of its past and current programme of activities with a view to reaffirming its identity as a specialized regional centre for the promotion and execution of disarmament activities, in accordance with its mandate and in compliance with requests from Member States throughout the region. To meet the priorities of the United Nations and address the requirements of both donors and re-

gional Member States, the Centre adjusted its organizational structure and operational approach. In that connection, it organized its practical disarmament activities and the promotion of disarmament and confidence-building measures under four thematic programmes: disarmament instruments and policy-making; public security; regional security and confidence-building measures; and disarmament advocacy.

The Secretary-General reported that the Centre concluded three of its most significant donor agreements to date and delivered technical assistance on issues related to illicit firearms trafficking, which was identified by regional Member States as their most pressing security concern. The Centre strengthened cooperation within the regional law enforcement community, as evidenced by the increase in information-sharing activities, the adoption of standardized best practices and the establishment of permanent coordination entities.

The Secretary-General stressed that, in the absence of assessed contributions from the UN regular budget, voluntary financial contributions, in particular for core funding, were of crucial importance for Centre operation and activities; that situation continued to have an impact on the sustainability and quality of services provided. As at 31 December 2007, the balance of the Trust Fund for the Centre stood at \$1,250,946.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 61, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/63/390], adopted **resolution 63/74** without vote [agenda item 90 (c)].

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 41/60 J of 3 December 1986, 42/39 K of 30 November 1987 and 43/76 H of 7 December 1988 on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, with headquarters in Lima,

Recalling also its resolutions 46/37 F of 9 December 1991, 48/76 E of 16 December 1993, 49/76 D of 15 December 1994, 50/71 C of 12 December 1995, 52/220 of 22 December 1997, 53/78 F of 4 December 1998, 54/55 F of 1 December 1999, 55/34 E of 20 November 2000, 56/25 E of 29 November 2001, 57/89 of 22 November 2002, 58/60 of 8 December 2003, 59/99 of 3 December 2004, 60/84 of 8 December 2005, 61/92 of 6 December 2006 and 62/49 of 5 December 2007,

Recognizing that the Regional Centre has continued to provide substantive support for the implementation of

regional and subregional initiatives and has intensified its contribution to the coordination of United Nations efforts towards peace and disarmament and for the promotion of economic and social development,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General, which states, inter alia, that during the period under consideration, the Regional Centre undertook an extensive review of its past and present programme of activities which reaffirmed its identity as a specialized regional centre for the promotion and execution of peace, disarmament and development activities, in accordance with its mandate and in compliance with requests from Member States throughout the Latin American and Caribbean region,

Deeply concerned that, as mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General, in the absence of assessed contributions from the United Nations regular budget, the provision of voluntary financial contributions is of crucial importance for the operation and activities of the Regional Centre, in particular core funding, the lack of which could seriously hinder the Centre's ability to efficiently carry out its mandate and respond to the increasingly diversified and numerous requests from States,

Taking note with interest of the suggestion of the Secretary-General that Member States may wish to consider alternative means of ensuring stable core funding for the Centre,

Recalling the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the relationship between disarmament and development, referred to in General Assembly resolution 59/78 of 3 December 2004, which is of utmost interest with regard to the role that the Regional Centre plays in promoting the issue in the region in pursuit of its mandate to promote economic and social development related to peace and disarmament,

Noting that security and disarmament issues have always been recognized as significant topics in Latin America and the Caribbean, the first inhabited region in the world to be declared a nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Welcoming the support provided by the Regional Centre to strengthening the nuclear-weapon-free zone established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), as well as to promoting and assisting the ratification and implementation of existing multilateral agreements related to weapons of mass destruction and to promoting peace and disarmament education projects during the period under review,

Bearing in mind the important role of the Regional Centre in promoting confidence-building measures, arms control and limitation, disarmament and development at the regional level,

Bearing in mind also the importance of information, research, education and training for peace, disarmament and development in order to achieve understanding and cooperation among States,

Recognizing the need to provide the three United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament with sufficient financial resources and cooperation for the planning and implementation of their programmes of activities,

1. *Reiterates its strong support* for the role of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in the promotion of United Nations activities at the regional level to strengthen peace, stability, security and development among its member States;

2. *Expresses its satisfaction* for the activities carried out in the last year by the Regional Centre in the areas of peace, disarmament and development, and requests the Centre to take into account the proposals to be submitted by the countries of the region in promoting confidence-building measures, arms control and limitation, transparency, disarmament and development at the regional level;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide from the regular budget, starting in the biennium 2010–2011, the necessary support to ensure the sustainability of the core activities and operations of the Regional Centre, in order to enable it to carry out its programme of activities in accordance with its mandate;

4. *Expresses its appreciation* for the political support and financial contributions to the Regional Centre, which are essential for its continued operation;

5. *Appeals* to Member States, in particular those within the Latin American and Caribbean region, and to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations to make and to increase voluntary contributions to strengthen the Regional Centre, its programme of activities and the implementation thereof;

6. *Invites* all States of the region to continue to take part in the activities of the Regional Centre, proposing items for inclusion in its programme of activities and making greater and better use of the potential of the Centre to meet the current challenges facing the international community with a view to fulfilling the aims of the Charter of the United Nations in the areas of peace, disarmament and development;

7. *Recognizes* that the Regional Centre has an important role in the promotion and development of regional initiatives agreed upon by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the field of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, and conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons, as well as in the relationship between disarmament and development;

8. *Encourages* the Regional Centre to further develop activities in all countries of the region in the important area of disarmament and development;

9. *Highlights* the conclusion contained in the report of the Secretary-General to the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, that, through its activities, the Regional Centre has demonstrated its role as a viable regional actor in assisting States in the region to advance the cause of peace, disarmament and development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean".

Middle East

In the Middle East, the League of Arab States (LAS) continued to promote a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region, as well as proceed with work on disarmament issues. Disarmament and international humanitarian law were also examined in relation to the UN-facilitated Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and to cluster munitions.

A LAS Council resolution to draft a treaty for a WMDs free-zone in the Middle East continued to be suspended until further assessment. The League hosted the twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth meetings of the “Follow-up Committee on Israeli nuclear activities”, which coordinated Arab positions on various nuclear disarmament issues. Also, the LAS Summit Council adopted two new resolutions on peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

In connection with conventional arms activities, the Second Annual Meeting of Arab National Points of Contact was held in Cairo, Egypt, from 20 to 21 May.

Supported by the EU and in collaboration with Morocco, UNODA organized a seminar on promoting the universality of CCW and its annexed Protocols in the Middle East and the Mediterranean (19–20 November). The seminar succeeded in fulfilling a need for clarification about the Convention among non-State parties from the region, many of which were affected by regulated weapons, particularly landmines and explosive remnants of war.

The General Assembly, in resolution 63/84 (see p. 597), dealt with the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East, and in resolution 63/38 (see p. 602), it urged all concerned parties to take steps for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free Zone in that region.