Fifty-eighth session
First Committee
Agenda item 73 (ty)
General and complete disarmament: follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons

Algeria, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cambodia, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, * Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Tonga, Viet Nam, Yemen and Zambia: draft resolution

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,


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

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.
the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to pursue negotiations to 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; and

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; and

Recalling the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in its resolution 56/245 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, Bangabandhu and Pelindaba 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, 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 single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, and regretting the lack of progress in disarmament negotiations, particularly nuclear disarmament, in the Conference during its 2003 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 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; and

Sincerely hoping that the Conference on Disarmament will respond to this call with concrete proposals, the Conference on Disarmament should be encouraged to proceed with the negotiations for a comprehensive test-ban treaty with a legally binding instrument to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the threat or use of nuclear weapons;
Nuclear Weapons agreed to at the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.9

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 1996,10

Taking note of the relevant portions of the note by the Secretary-General relating to the implementation of resolution 57/85;11

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 fifty-ninth session;

4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth 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".

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11 A/57/95 and Add.1 and 2.