
Mr. Chairman,

Cuba reiterates that the search for negotiated solutions in the multilateral arena and the need to reach collective agreements are the only way to safeguard international peace and security.

Therefore, Cuba strongly supports the draft resolution presented before the First Committee by NAM, in relation to Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

Practice has shown that the objectives of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction will not be achieved by means of the application of unilateral measures; let alone by negotiated agreements outside the internationally recognized multilateral frameworks, or the use or threat of use of force.

Mr. Chairman,

In relation to disarmament and development, Cuba reiterates that both aspects constitute two of the main challenges humankind must face, especially in the face of the global character of the deep economic, social, food, energy, and environmental crisis affecting us.

Whereas economies, particularly of developing countries, bleed to death, military expenditures during 2009 rose by 6% as compared to the previous year, amounting to 1.531 trillion dollars. This dangerous tendency is translated into an increase of over 50% in expenditures on weapons worldwide in the last ten years.

In parallel, budget cuts in social, education, or healthcare programs all over the world take place.

Cuba ratifies its proposal that a UN-managed Fund be established, where at least half of the current military expenditures would go to, with a view to meeting the economic and social development requirements of countries in need.

Likewise, we reaffirm our support to the Programme of Action adopted in the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, which includes the international commitment to allocate part of the resources released through disarmament for socioeconomic development.
We hope the resolution on *Disarmament and Development*, presented by NAM before this Committee, have the support of the delegations.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation wishes to highlight the significance of the *Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control*.

The existence of weapons of mass destruction and its constant improvement is one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, the fragile environmental balance of our planet, and sustainable development for all without distinction. An international treaty on nuclear disarmament must necessarily include measures for the protection of the environment.

So far, the Chemical Weapons Convention continues to be the only international agreement including the verifiable destruction of those weapons and the facilities producing them, as well as measures to protect the people and the environment. In that regard, great importance is given to the “principles and methods for the destruction of Chemical Weapons”, which must be taken into account by States owning this type of arms when destroying them.

Strengthening the Biological Weapons Convention will be essential to protect the environment and preserve the biodiversity in our planet. The draft Protocol aimed at strengthening the Convention, which was the target of negotiations some years ago, included measures proposed to protect the environment in the implementation of the Convention. The international community should not give up the achievement of this goal.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, allow me to make reference to the resolution on *Effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium*. The draft resolution presented on this matter by the Non-Aligned Movement addresses an item of legitimate concern by the international community.

At the international level, numerous countries and organizations have expressed their concerns with the effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium. Preliminary studies conducted by international agencies, namely the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the World Health Organization make clear the need to continue with the research in order to determine the long-term effects on health and the environment of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium.

We hope that the resolution enabling the follow-up to this matter in the framework of the United Nations receive the support of Member States.

Thank you.