Statement by Ambassador Gustavo Albin, Head of the Mexican Delegation in the General Debate of the 2nd Session of the Preparatory Committee of the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty

Geneva, 28 April 2003
Mister Chairman,

First of all, allow me to congratulate you upon your election to chair the work of this Committee, and to express our recognition to Ambassador Salander for the manner in which he conducted the work of the first session of the Preparatory Committee.

My delegation fully endorses the statement made by the Minister for Disarmament of New Zealand, Ms. Marian Hobbs, on behalf of the States members of the New Agenda Coalition. I would like to make some comments on some aspects of particular interest to my Government.

Mister Chairman,

The current session of the Preparatory Committee is being held in a complex international scenario, some of the elements of which have had a negative impact on the nuclear non-proliferation regime, including the IAEA safeguard system and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty.

In this respect, there is an increasingly imperious need to advance in a real, effective and complete manner in ensuring compliance with all the provisions of the Treaty, as well as the commitments enshrined in the decisions and resolution adopted in 1995 and in the Final Document of the 2000 Conference.

In 1995, the nuclear-weapon States expressed their will to undertake systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons worldwide. In 2000, they committed themselves in an unequivocal manner to destroy their nuclear arsenals and to conduct a series of practical measures to advance in the process of nuclear disarmament. However, as is evident, these measures have not been fulfilled, thus generating disappointment and frustration and furthermore provoking mistrust in the regime.

Despite this disheartening situation, Mexico reaffirms its full commitment to the Treaty and to its review process, which, once strengthened, should encourage the full compliance with the obligations of the Treaty, and contribute to the objective of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

We are particularly alarmed by the signs that point towards the development of a new generation of nuclear weapons.

Mexico reiterates that the indefinite possession of nuclear weapons is incompatible with the integrity of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime, and with the broader objective of the maintenance of peace and international security.
As has been expressed by the Minister of New Zealand, it is of vital importance to Mexico to encourage education for disarmament, involving all national sectors of each country in this endeavor. To that end the recent United Nations Study on Education for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation is a central reference.

Mister Chairman,

To conclude allow me to express some of the objectives that Mexico hopes to reach during the Treaty review process:

1. The consideration of principles, objectives and means directed to promoting the full implementation of the Treaty and its universality, in order to translate them into specific recommendations to the 2005 Conference.

2. The definition of ways to ensure substantive progress in the elimination of nuclear arsenals and the implementation, especially by the nuclear-weapon States, of the 13 steps agreed in 2000.

3. The reduction of non-strategic nuclear weapons in the framework of multilateral nuclear disarmament and, on the other hand, the conversion into legally binding agreements of existing bilateral agreements on the subject between the United States and the Russian Federation.

4. The beginning of negotiations of a legally binding instrument on security assurances for non-nuclear-weapon States.

5. The promotion of the commitment of nuclear-weapon States to present regular reports on Article VI of the Treaty, taking also into account the 13 steps on nuclear disarmament agreed in 2000. In this regard, Mexico considers that following the mandate established in paragraph 5 of Decision 1 on the strengthening of the Treaty review process adopted by the Conference in 1995, the possibility of creating a subsidiary body of the Committee, that could work during the intersessional period with the aim of presenting recommendations on the format of the national reports related with the application of Article VI could be explored.

Mister Chairman,

Finally, allow me to reiterate the full support of my delegation, and our trust that the summary you will present under your own responsibility will serve to establish a framework for the beginning of negotiations in 2004.