Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Second session
Geneva, 28 April-9 May 2003

Implementation of article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and of paragraph 4 (c) of the principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament adopted in 1995

Report submitted by Mexico

1. In its Final Document, the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) agreed that all States parties should submit regular reports within the framework of the strengthened review process on the implementation of article VI.

2. The Government of Mexico restates its conviction that compliance with article VI of the NPT is an essential element of accountability, transparency and confidence-building in the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation process.

3. Mexico provides below its report on activities which it has conducted, as a non-nuclear-weapon State, in compliance with article VI, based on the relevant measures adopted by the 2000 Review Conference.

   I. COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY


6. Pursuant to paragraph 12 (g) of the final declaration of that Conference, Mexico was elected as coordinator of the informal consultations to promote cooperation among all States to facilitate the early entry in force of the Treaty.

7. The work coordinated by Mexico, with the support of a group of friends, comprising the five deputy chairs of the conference - Austria, Peru, Republic of Korea, Slovakia and South Africa - and Japan, as chair of the first Conference, resulted in the adoption of a programme of action and an agreement by the States parties to convene a third international conference on measures to facilitate the entry into force of the Treaty, which will be held in Vienna, Austria, from 3 to 5 September 2003.

8. At the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, Mexico, together with Australia and New Zealand, submitted a draft resolution on the CTBT, which was adopted by plenary by 164 votes to 1, with 5 abstentions.

9. In the margins of the First Committee of the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session, Mexico held an informal meeting to report on its activities to promote the entry into force of the CTBT, with the support of staff from the provisional technical secretariat of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization.

II. NEGOTIATIONS IN THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT ON A TREATY BANNING THE PRODUCTION OF FISSILE MATERIAL FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS OR OTHER EXPLOSIVE NUCLEAR DEVICES

10. Mexico is continuing its efforts in the Conference on Disarmament to give effect to the decision by the Conference in August 1998 to establish an ad hoc committee entrusted with negotiating a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, which should also consider the issue of existing stockpiles, with a view to their destruction.

11. It continues to urge the nuclear-weapon States to take measures to ensure that the fissile material which they no longer require for military purposes should be made available for the international verification procedures of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) or any other appropriate international body. It also urges them to ensure that this material is used for peaceful purposes.

III. ESTABLISHMENT IN THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT OF A SUBSIDIARY BODY WITH A MANDATE TO DEAL WITH NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

12. Mexico is endeavouring to ensure that the Conference on Disarmament succeeds in adopting a programme of work which includes the establishment of a subsidiary body with a mandate to deal with issues relating to nuclear disarmament. For Mexico, any programme of work which fails to include this issue will be unacceptable.
IV. PRINCIPLE OF IRREVERSIBILITY IN APPLICATION TO NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, NUCLEAR AND OTHER RELATED ARMS CONTROL AND REDUCTION MEASURES

13. Mexico advocates the principle of the irreversibility of nuclear disarmament and nuclear arms control, including arms reduction measures. It has actively upheld this position in negotiations on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, both in its own right and as a member of the New Agenda Coalition.

V. UNEQUIVOCAL UNDERTAKING BY THE NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATES TO ACCOMPLISH THE TOTAL ELIMINATION OF THEIR NUCLEAR ARSENALS LEADING TO NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, TO WHICH ALL STATES PARTIES ARE COMMITTED UNDER ARTICLE VI

14. Since 1998, Mexico has, together with the other New Agenda countries, actively promoted the initiative of working towards a nuclear-weapon-free world and the need for a new agenda.

15. At the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, the New Agenda countries issued a ministerial declaration in which they voiced their dissatisfaction at the lack of progress in implementing the undertakings made by States parties at the 2000 Review Conference of the NPT.

16. Ministers from the New Agenda countries reaffirmed their view that the indefinite possession of nuclear weapons by the nuclear-weapon States was incompatible with the nuclear non-proliferation regime and with the broader goal of promoting international peace and security. They also acknowledge that reductions in the numbers of deployed strategic nuclear warheads envisaged by the Moscow Treaty represented a positive step by the United States and the Russian Federation.

17. They also expressed their concern at new approaches to the broader role of nuclear weapons as part of security strategies, including the development of new types of weapons. They called on the international community to intensify its efforts to achieve universal adhesion to the NPT. India, Pakistan and Israel were urged to accede to the Treaty as non-nuclear-weapon States and to place their facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards.

18. They stressed that the current NPT review cycle would need to take stock of the implementation of the commitments of the 1995 and 2000 review conferences. They noted the position paper submitted by the New Agenda Coalition to the Preparatory Conference for the 2005 NPT Review Conference at its first session and looked forward to developing the ideas contained in that paper.

19. At the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, the New Agenda countries submitted two resolutions designed to promote the objectives of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.
20. The first, which was adopted as resolution 57/59, entitled “Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: the need for a new agenda”, called in its paragraph 21, for the implementation of the trilateral initiative between the United States, the Russian Federation and IAEA and for consideration to be given to the possible inclusion in the initiative of other nuclear-weapon States.

21. The second, which was adopted as resolution 57/58, on non-strategic weapons, called upon the United States and the Russian Federation to formalize their presidential nuclear initiatives into legal instruments and to initiate negotiations on further effectively verifiable reductions of their non-strategic nuclear weapons.

22. Mexico considers the reduction of non-strategic nuclear weapons as an integral part of the process of reducing nuclear weapons and disarmament.

VII. SUBMISSION OF REGULAR REPORTS

23. Mexico firmly believes that the submission of regular reports will make it possible to monitor the activities and commitments undertaken by States relating to nuclear disarmament. Mexico believes that primary responsibility in this process rests with the five nuclear-weapon States to provide reliable information on measures to reduce their arsenals in a transparent, verifiable and irreversible manner.

VIII. DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERIFICATION CAPABILITIES THAT WILL BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE WITH NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AGREEMENTS FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE WORLD

24. When participating in disarmament meetings, Mexico always reaffirms its position that verification performs a crucial role in the negotiation and implementation of agreements on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as in all efforts designed to bring about general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

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