

MÉXICO



Statement by the Permanent Representative
of Mexico, Ambassador Enrique Berruga
Filloy, in the general debate of the First
Committee in the fifty-ninth session of the
United Nations General Assembly

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(Check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

The relationship between disarmament and the international strategy to combat terrorism, as well as the paralysis of the multilateral disarmament machinery are the most salient aspects of the current international context with a direct and substantive impact on our deliberations during the present session of the First Committee.

It is clear that the war on terrorism and the disarmament agenda, arms control and non-proliferation, in particular in the area of weapons of mass destruction and more specifically in the nuclear field have been linked in an unprecedented manner over the last three years. This is a dynamic process which should not prompt us to make an artificial choice among the objectives which we are attempting to pursue in each of these areas, as was just pointed out by the Under-Secretary General.

During the public meetings of the Security Council prior to the adoption of resolution 1540, while sharing the need of concerted and determined action by the international community to avoid the access by non-state actors to weapons of mass destruction, Mexico stated that the most effective and lasting manner to face the danger of those weapons would be to proceed to their total elimination, through multilaterally negotiated disarmament agreements.

However, the international strategy to combat terrorism tends to emphasize non-proliferation in detriment of disarmament objectives and in particular the obligations of nuclear States in the disarmament field.

Moreover, we note an increase in the number of initiatives and instruments which in fact are declarations, without a binding value, that have been negotiated by a limited number of States, and then offered for accession to the international community, without providing for the possibility for their enrichment.

In this respect Mexico believes that the advancement of a genuine and non-discriminatory non-proliferation regime requires more global and inclusive formulas, which by providing universality in the objectives pursued, will enable us to achieve better results.

In the view of Mexico, the success of the strategy in combating terrorism, in particular on the dangerous front of weapons of mass destruction, necessarily hinges on the implementation of the disarmament objectives, only in that way can the objectives in both areas be truly complimentary.

An important point of contact for these two fields, which is becoming ever more relevant, is to foster a culture of peace and non-violence through education on disarmament and non-proliferation, to promote deeper awareness of the costs of an armed world and the risks presented by nuclear weapons among today's citizens and future generations.

In the meantime, the multilateral disarmament machinery is paralyzed at least on four fronts:

1. The Conference on Disarmament, unable to begin its substantive work, has now seven years of stagnation. During its Presidency of the Disarmament Conference, Mexico promoted informal plenary meetings in order to try to find shared points of agreement, but up to now we have not been able to break the stalemate due to the lack of such agreement. Likewise, the Disarmament Commission was unable to adopt its programme of work for 2004.

2. The Preparatory Committee was unable to make substantive recommendations to the 2005 Review Conference of Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty for nuclear weapons. The CTBT has not yet entered into force, and nuclear weapons continue to be produced and improved despite the numerous appeals made to halt any kind of new development of nuclear weapons.
3. The repeal of the ABM Treaty and the antimissile defense programs, both national and of theater of operations, as well as the open search for new technologies and new weapons which can be used in outer space, make even further remote the potential for implementing agreements in this field and eliminate prospects for additional reductions of strategic and tactical nuclear weapons.
4. On the other hand, the Convention on the Prohibition of Biological Weapons continues to lack a verification regime to ensure its compliance, which in the present context means a dangerous omission.

Mr. Chairman,

In this context, my delegation considers it is necessary to reaffirm that disarmament plays a central role in the system of collective security, under which compliance with the obligations undertaken multilaterally become the best available way to avert the development of doctrines which allegedly endorse unilateral decisions and the so called preemptive actions.

For this reason, Mexico calls all Parties to the NPT, particularly Nuclear-Weapon States, to honor their commitments and participate with a constructive spirit in the Review Conference which will be held next May, reaffirming that the objective of achieving the elimination of nuclear weapons will be the best guaranty against the dangers of proliferation.

Moreover, with the support of the States Parties of the Tlatelolco Treaty, which established the first nuclear-weapon-free zone in a densely populated area, and as a contribution to the 2005 Conference, it is my pleasure to announce that Mexico is offering to host a Conference of States Parties and signatories of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones Treaties, with the aim of fostering a better coordination among those zones and to ensure scrupulous respect for legal regimes created by those zones, as well as to support the establishment of other nuclear-weapon-free zones in other areas of the world.

Our societies are increasingly demanding a safer international environment, which requires immediate action by the multilateral diplomacy. Problems and commitments to achieve these goals are clear: We must recognize that disarmament is the most effective antidote to proliferation. With the same clarity, we should debate ideas to ensure the implementation of obligations undertaken.

Mr. Chairman,

Before concluding this first participation from the delegation of Mexico, I wish to encourage you to create an atmosphere more conducive to dialogue and concerted action in the sensitive areas of disarmament and international security. It should be pointed out that our effort during this session must seek to revitalize the role of the General Assembly in the maintenance of international peace and security.

I thank you.