

MÉXICO



Statement by Ambassador Luis Alfonso de Alba,
on behalf of the New Agenda Coalition, in the general
debate of the First Committee in the sixtieth two of
the United Nations General Assembly

New York, October 8, 2007

(Check against delivery)

NEW AGENDA COALITION GENERAL STATEMENT TO THE FIRST COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of the New Agenda Coalition (NAC), composed of Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden and my own country, Mexico. Please accept our congratulations on your assumption of the Chair of this year's First Committee and the assurance of the Coalition's support for your efforts that, we are certain, will guide us towards success in our work.

Mr. Chairman,

2. Instead of being discouraged by serious developments currently affecting the nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation regime, the New Agenda Coalition feels motivated, to invest all possible efforts to achieve the goal of full and universal implementation of and adherence to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The Coalition reiterates its firm belief that the NPT, despite the challenges it faces, remains the cornerstone of global nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation regime. Its three pillars, nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy constitute an important foundation in maintaining international peace and security.

3. At a time when we observe attempts to justify new investments in military nuclear technology, as well as the development of new military doctrines emphasizing the importance of nuclear weapons, the NAC nevertheless sees some modest signs that might positively evolve to create the conditions for the adoption of specific measures leading to the elimination of the threat of nuclear weapons and to the strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

4. In this respect, and after the constructive discussions on substantive issues held during the First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT, held last May in Vienna, the NAC is hopeful that in three years from now, we will all be able to ensure a productive and successful outcome of the Review Conference, consisting of the adoption of specific measures aimed at strengthening the NPT in all its aspects and, ultimately, to meet the objective of a nuclear weapon free world. We call upon all State Parties to make every effort not only to guarantee that the agreements resulting from the Review Conference constitute a further step towards complete nuclear disarmament but to transform them into effective and irreversible actions.

5. The NAC firmly believes that for the 2010 Review Conference and its preparatory process to be successful, we must build upon past successful Review Conferences, particularly those held in 1995 and 2000. In this respect, the Coalition stresses the importance of full respect for and implementation

of all commitments made at the 1995 and 2000 Review Conferences. The 1995 Review Extension Conference adopted in particular the decision on Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament and a resolution on the Middle East which need to be realized. In the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference, States Parties committed themselves to 13 practical steps to ensure the successful completion of the Treaty's objectives, including the nuclear weapon states' unequivocal undertaking to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.

6. Unfortunately, this objective has not been realized and, even more worryingly, there have even been attempts to disregard the unequivocal commitment given. The NAC strongly urges the nuclear-weapon States to accelerate the implementation of outcomes reached in 1995 and 2000, which provided for the total elimination of nuclear weapons through systematic and progressive efforts.

Mr. Chairman,

7. The NAC firmly believes that there is an urgent need to achieve the universality of the NPT. Achieving the universal adherence of the NPT would not only strengthen the nuclear disarmament and non proliferation regime, but would also represent a constructive step in promoting overall international peace and security. Therefore, we call upon the international community to exert all possible efforts to achieve this objective and we again urge India, Israel and Pakistan to accede to it as non-nuclear-weapon States promptly and without any conditions.

Mr. Chairman,

8. Nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing processes requiring urgent irreversible progress on both fronts. It is therefore imperative to move towards the full and effective implementation of all the provisions of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. All States Parties should be held equally accountable with respect to strict compliance with their obligations under the Treaty.

9. Moreover, States must refrain from developing nuclear weapons with new military capabilities and must not adopt doctrines or systems that blur the distinction between nuclear and conventional weapons, or lower the nuclear threshold. Such action would directly contradict the disarmament and non-proliferation provisions of the NPT.

10. We reiterate our conviction that genuine implementation of irreversible, verifiable and transparent nuclear weapon reductions will increase the confidence of the international community and will lead to their total elimination, so we will continue calling upon States to take firm steps in this direction.

11. As long as nuclear weapons exist, it is imperative that the nuclear-weapon States reaffirm and respect fully their existing commitments with regard to security assurances, pending the conclusion of multilaterally negotiated legally

binding security assurances for all non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the NPT. The Coalition expresses its hope that the constructive spirit of the current review cycle will create the momentum to initiate negotiations on this important issue. The NAC stands ready to actively contribute to this process.

Mr. Chairman,

12. The cessation of all nuclear weapon test explosions and all nuclear explosions constitutes an effective measure for nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects. The NAC remains totally opposed to nuclear weapon test explosions and all other nuclear explosions. We have repeatedly underlined the importance and urgency of signatures and ratifications to achieve the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty without delay and without conditions. Further progress in this direction will strengthen the norm against all nuclear weapons tests established by the Treaty. Pending the entry into force of the Treaty, the Coalition calls upon all States to uphold and maintain a moratorium on nuclear-weapon test explosions and any other nuclear explosions.

13. The New Agenda Coalition underlines the need for a peaceful solution of the nuclear issues on the Korean Peninsula through successful implementation of the Joint Statement and the Initial Actions to implement it, agreed upon in the framework of the Six-Party Talks. The NAC urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to rescind its announced withdrawal from the NPT.

Mr. Chairman,

14. The NAC recognizes that there has been progress on the further development of nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZ) in some regions and notably in the southern hemisphere and in Central Asia. In this context, the ratification of the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok, Pelindaba and Semipalatinsk by all States of the region, and all concerned States is of great importance. The particular regime established by Mongolia as a nuclear-weapon-free State is also relevant in this regard. States Parties to those treaties should be encouraged to promote their common objectives with a view to enhancing cooperation and communication among nuclear-weapon-free zones as a means to strengthen the nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation regime.

15. The New Agenda Coalition notes that, despite the adoption of the resolution on the Middle East as an integral part of the outcome of the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference, no progress has been achieved in the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in that region. The Coalition renews its support for the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons as well as other weapons of mass destruction, and in this regard, deems it urgent to take concrete steps to achieve this objective.

Mr. Chairman,

16. The NAC recalls that the 2000 Review Conference agreed on the necessity of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. The 2000 Review Conference also urged the Conference on Disarmament to agree on a programme of work which includes the immediate commencement of negotiations on such a treaty with a view to their conclusion within five years, a timetable that unfortunately has not been met.

17. Nevertheless, the NAC would like to recognize the work done during the 2007 Session of the Conference on Disarmament and the commitment shown by Member States, to move the CD out of its longstanding impasse.

18. The NAC urges CD Member States to seize the momentum created in the CD and build on the substantive discussions held under all agenda items, as well as on the Presidential Proposal that will enable the Conference to commence substantive work and start negotiations during its 2008 Session.

Mr. Chairman,

19. Further progress on nuclear disarmament is a major determinant in achieving and sustaining international peace and stability. The NAC reaffirms that any presumption of the indefinite possession of nuclear weapons by the nuclear-weapon States is incompatible with the integrity and sustainability of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and with the broader goal of the maintenance of international peace and security. International security is a collective concern requiring collective engagement and responsibility.

20. The New Agenda Coalition is of the view that the very existence of nuclear weapons and the possibility of their use constitute a threat to international peace and security. The need to eliminate nuclear weapons remains as urgent as ever. For this reason, the New Agenda Coalition will submit a draft resolution on the agenda item. The NAC hopes that all States could support this draft resolution.

Thank you.