

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Exchange of views

Nuclear-weapon-free zones

1. **Mr. Alimov** (Tajikistan), speaking on behalf of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, said that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones made a major contribution to the consolidation of peace and security at the global and the regional levels. That idea had been supported in a number of international documents and agreements, including the Final Document of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

2. In order to strengthen the NPT regime and to increase regional security, the five republics of Central Asia had decided to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone. Regional political support for the creation of such a zone had been expressed after high-level meetings in Almaty, Tashkent and Bishkek. The States of Central Asia had taken specific steps towards the establishment of the zone, and he was pleased to report that they had prepared a working document which reflected the substantial progress achieved on the draft treaty to establish the nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia. The States of Central Asia hoped that the working document would receive support from the participants in the Conference and that it would be reflected in the report of Main Committee II and the final document of the Conference.

3. **Mr. Kerma** (Algeria) said that the NPT, by explicitly recognizing in its article VII the right of groups of States "to conclude regional treaties in order to assure the total absence of nuclear weapons in their respective territories", had confirmed the importance and complementary nature of treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones. New developments in international affairs and disarmament, and non-proliferation in particular, had led to intensified efforts in that direction since the 1995 Review and Extension Conference. The Treaties of Bangkok and Pelindaba, concluded for the purpose of creating nuclear-weapon-free zones in South-East Asia and Africa, respectively, represented a new stage in attempts to codify the status of such zones. Currently, over 100 countries on four continents were members of a nuclear-weapon-free zone. The efforts to establish such a zone in Central

Asia and the desire of Mongolia to declare itself a non-nuclear-weapon State illustrated the growing commitment to work towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons from the world.

4. The Treaty of Pelindaba expressed the collective political will of African States in that regard, but in order for it to be effective the nuclear Powers must honour their commitments as contained in its second Additional Protocol. His Government believed that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa would enhance collective security, the international non-proliferation regime and world peace. Regional denuclearization was an essential complement to global disarmament. However, because of the close ties between Africa and the Middle East and their geographical proximity, Algeria was deeply concerned at the lack of progress in creating a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the latter region, where Israel alone persisted in refusing to join the NPT and to submit its nuclear installations to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. A greater commitment was needed, therefore, in the effort to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in that region, which the United Nations General Assembly had already supported by consensus.

5. **Mr. Bompadre** (Argentina) said that, as a member of the first nuclear-weapon-free zone, established by the Treaty of Tlatelolco, Argentina was convinced of the benefits of such zones. Indeed, that area of the non-proliferation regime had seen the greatest progress since the 1995 Conference, with the adoption of the Treaties of Bangkok and Pelindaba and the negotiations under way in Central Asia.

6. In order for a zone to be effective, all the States of the region must accede to the treaty establishing the zone and the nuclear Powers must accede to the relevant protocol. The exchange of information on non-proliferation between the various zones should also be encouraged. The resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on the nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas (resolution 53/77 Q) was clearly in the spirit of article VII of the NPT. The results obtained in Latin America and the Caribbean, the South Pacific, South-East Asia and Africa should encourage the Conference to promote the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in other regions, especially those where sources of tension were located.

7. **Mr. Thamrin** (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, said that its members which were States parties to the Treaty expressed their support for measures taken to conclude nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties and proposals to establish such zones in other parts of the world where they did not exist, such as the Middle East and South Asia, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned as a measure towards the strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and realizing the objectives of nuclear disarmament. They welcomed the initiative taken by the States in Central Asia, freely arrived at among themselves, to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in that region, and supported the recent adoption by the Mongolian parliament of legislation as a concrete contribution to the international efforts to strengthen the non-proliferation regime.
8. The States parties which were signatories of the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba reaffirmed their commitment to promote the common goals envisaged in those treaties, explore and implement further ways and means of cooperation, including the consolidation of the status of the nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas. They reaffirmed their determination to extend their fullest cooperation and to exert their utmost efforts with a view to ensuring the early establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of nuclear as well as other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems.
9. **Mr. Zahran** (Egypt) said that his delegation supported the statement by the previous speaker. Egypt had actively participated in the process leading to the adoption of the Treaty of Pelindaba, which sent a clear message about its resolve to avoid the horrors of nuclear weapons. Fifty States had signed the Treaty, while 12 had ratified it and deposited their instruments of ratification with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity.
10. The security of Africa was organically connected to security in the Middle East because of the geographical and political overlap between the two regions. He drew attention to United Nations General Assembly resolution 54/48 and urged that the interaction between those two regions should be taken into consideration in the Committee's deliberations. The 1995 Principles and Objectives had addressed the Middle East specifically as well. Israel should accede to the NPT and place its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards in implementation of the Treaty of Pelindaba.
11. His delegation welcomed the establishment of other nuclear-weapon-free zones, all of which would contribute to the goals of the NPT. Making the southern hemisphere free of nuclear weapons would show respect for the most fundamental human right: the right to life.
12. **Mr. Tucknott** (United Kingdom) said that the positive developments in the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones were heartening. His Government had ratified the protocol to the Treaty of Rarotonga, and had supported General Assembly resolution 53/77 D on Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status.
13. His delegation welcomed the establishment of two new nuclear-weapon-free zones since the 1995 Conference. However, its ratification of the protocol to the Treaty of Pelindaba was only part of the picture, as only 12 out of the 28 necessary States had ratified the Treaty thus far. His delegation urged the completion of the ratification process as soon as possible.
14. The United Kingdom would work with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to facilitate the implementation of the Treaty of Bangkok and would also work with the States of Central Asia in their efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in their region.
15. **Mr. Cordeiro** (Brazil) reaffirmed the statement delivered by his delegation on 24 April 2000 and expressed support for the statements made by Argentina and by Indonesia on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. In that regard, his delegation particularly wished to stress paragraph 37 of the document introduced by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (NPT/CONF.2000/MC.II/CRP.6). Moreover, in preparing his report, the Chairman should take into account the proposal made by Brazil at the third session of the Preparatory Committee (NPT/CONF.2000/PC.III/35).
16. **Mr. Fu Zhigang** (China) said that China had always believed that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones helped to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to promote nuclear disarmament, while helping to preserve regional peace