Implementation of article VI of the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament

National report of Mexico

I. Submission of regular reports

1. Mexico is convinced that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) continues to be the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime and is crucial to achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament. It also believes that the agreements adopted at the 1995 and 2000 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty remain fully valid. With this understanding, Mexico stresses that accountability is an essential element for assessing the level of compliance with the Treaty and the commitments made within that framework, and for promoting transparency and trust between the Parties.

2. In this context, Mexico stresses that, given the commitment undertaken by the nuclear-weapon States to destroy their nuclear arsenals, those States have a greater responsibility for submitting information about steps taken to comply with the obligation to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures for nuclear disarmament, in accordance with article VI of the Treaty, and with the nuclear disarmament measures agreed upon in 2000.

3. On this occasion, Mexico is submitting its report on the steps it has taken as a non-nuclear-weapon State to comply with article VI, with a view to encouraging greater efforts towards this end, and to promote the reporting of such information by the nuclear-weapon States.

4. Mexico submitted three reports in the framework of the preparatory process for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty. From 2005 onwards it has reported on national measures and actions undertaken with a view to achieving nuclear disarmament.
II. Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

5. Mexico actively promotes international activities and initiatives designed to achieve the full implementation of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. In that spirit, it participated in the fourth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in New York from 22 to 24 September 2005, and will participate in the fifth Conference, to be held in Vienna, Austria, on 17 and 18 September 2007, as another means of promoting the adoption of concrete measures designed to achieve the universality, implementation and entry into force of the Treaty.

6. In the framework of the tenth anniversary of the Treaty’s opening for signature (24 September 1996), Mexico participated in the ministerial meeting on the Treaty, which took place in New York during the third week of September 2006, in order to promote the signature and ratification of the Treaty and thus achieve its prompt entry into force. As a result of the meeting, the foreign ministers of several countries issued a joint statement in which they reaffirmed their belief that the entry into force of the Treaty would contribute to systematic and progressive reduction of nuclear weapons and the prevention of nuclear proliferation.

7. From 11 to 13 October 2006, the Mexican Foreign Ministry hosted a seminar for the promotion of the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in the Caribbean Region, organized by Mexico in coordination with the Government of Canada and with the assistance of the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization.

8. The purpose of the event was to promote the signing and ratification of the Treaty in Central America and the Caribbean and to encourage cooperation in the region, in view of the need to conclude a subregional agreement on technical cooperation for Central America, the Caribbean, Canada, Colombia, Mexico and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, with a view to building national capacities to comply fully with the Treaty and to increase cooperation between the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the region.

9. The seminar was attended by representatives of 19 States of Central America and the Caribbean, Canada, Colombia, Mexico and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the General Secretariat of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), and by academics and specialists.

10. The Seminar fostered an exchange of experience concerning the processes of signature and ratification of the Treaty and concerning the entry into operation of the National Data Centres and the installation of the stations comprising the Treaty’s international monitoring system. At the political level it also provided for more outreach to the countries of Central America and the Caribbean.

11. At the sixty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly, Australia, Mexico and New Zealand submitted a resolution entitled “Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty”, with a view to promoting its entry into force, which was adopted
by a large majority of Member States as resolution 61/104 on 6 December 2006. Mexico will continue to promote this issue in the context of the General Assembly.

12. With regard to the entry into operation of the international monitoring system, it should be noted that four of the five Mexican monitoring stations are certified and operating, sending data to the International Data Centre in Vienna. The radionuclide station is being equipped and will shortly conduct the testing phase leading to certification.

III. Negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices

13. Mexico reiterates its support for efforts within 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.

14. This year, Mexico has supported the initiative of the six presidents of the Conference on Disarmament to appoint four coordinators for specific issues, including fissile material, with a mandate to negotiate, believing that conditions are conducive to beginning negotiations on this issue.

IV. Principle of irreversibility to apply to nuclear disarmament, nuclear and other related arms control and reduction measures

15. Both individually and as part of the New Agenda Coalition (Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa and Sweden), Mexico will continue to promote nuclear disarmament in all relevant forums in which it participates, and in its bilateral meetings, placing particular emphasis on the need to apply the principle of irreversibility, transparency and verification, including measures for nuclear arms reduction and elimination. Thus it submitted, together with the New Agenda Coalition, a resolution on the total elimination of nuclear weapons in the context of the work of the First Committee of the General Assembly, and will continue supporting that approach.

V. Unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament to which all States Parties are committed under article VI

16. During the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, Mexico, together with other New Agenda countries, promoted the adoption of resolution 61/65, "Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament
commitments”, in paragraph 3 of which the General Assembly reiterates its call upon the nuclear-weapon States to accelerate the implementation of the practical steps towards nuclear disarmament that were agreed upon at the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty, thereby contributing to a safer world for all.

17. The resolution also calls upon all States to comply fully with all commitments made regarding nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation and not to act in any way that may compromise that objective or that may lead to a new nuclear arms race. It also calls upon all States parties to spare no effort to achieve universal accession to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Mexico has stressed that the obligation to conclude a treaty on nuclear disarmament was recognized by the International Court of Justice in its Advisory Opinion of 8 July 1996, concerning the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons.

VI. 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

18. Mexico has continued to participate in meetings on disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation, maintaining a firm position that international verification and therefore accountability perform 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.

19. As a sign of its commitment to this goal, Mexico participates actively in efforts to establish the international monitoring system of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and complies with and supports the strengthening of the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards regime. On 29 March 2004, Mexico signed the Additional Protocol to its Safeguards Agreement with the Agency, and is progressing towards its goal of providing the legislation, administrative structure and nomenclature to comply fully with the Protocol and ratify it promptly.

20. Mexico has formally expressed interest in joining the Nuclear Suppliers Group as a means of promoting the adoption of additional measures, to complement existing international legal instruments with a view to avoiding nuclear proliferation and promoting the safe transfer of nuclear and related sensitive material.