United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination
New York, 27-31 March and 15 June-7 July 2017
Agenda item 8 (b)
General exchange of views on all matters

Topic 1: Principles and Objectives and Preambular Elements
Submitted by Colombia

PREAMBLE

Recalling the Declaration of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, in which it is stated, inter alia, that all the peoples of the world have a vital interest in the success of disarmament negotiations, and that all States have the right to participate in disarmament negotiations, (Preambulatory clause, Res. 71/258)

Reaffirming the role and functions of the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission, as set out in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, (Preambulatory clause, Res. 71/258)

Welcoming the efforts by Member States to secure progress in multilateral disarmament and the support of the Secretary-General for such efforts, and recalling in this regard the Secretary-General’s five-point proposal on nuclear disarmament, (Preambulatory clause, Res. 71/258)

Recalling that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which serves as the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime, was negotiated considering the devastation that would be visited upon all mankind by a nuclear war and the consequent need to make every effort to avert the danger of such a war and to take measures to safeguard the security of peoples, (Preambulatory clause, Res. 71/258)

Recalling also the obligations of States parties to the Treaty and their commitments as reflected in the outcome documents of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and of the 2000 and the 2010 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, (Preambulatory clause, Res. 71/258)
Reaffirming the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy in the field of
disarmament and non-proliferation, and determined to promote multilateralism as an
essential way to develop arms regulation and disarmament negotiations, (Preambulatory
clause, Res. 71/258)

Recognizing that the current international climate makes increased political
attention to disarmament and non-proliferation issues, the promotion of multilateral
disarmament and the achievement of a world without nuclear weapons all the more
urgent, (Preambulatory clause, Res. 71/258)

Deeply concerned about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use
of nuclear weapons, (Preambulatory clause, Res. 71/258)

Cognisant of the fact that the risk of nuclear weapons use with their
unacceptable consequences can only be avoided when all nuclear weapons have been
eliminated, (Excerpt from the Humanitarian Pledge)

Emphasizing that the consequences of a nuclear weapon explosion and the risks
associated with nuclear weapons concern the security of all humanity and that all States
share the responsibility to prevent any use of nuclear weapons, (Excerpt from the
Humanitarian Pledge)

Welcoming the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear
disarmament, held on 26 September 2013 pursuant to its resolution 67/39 of 3 December
2012, which highlighted the wish of the international community for progress in this
field, and noting its resolution 68/32 of 5 December 2013 as a follow-up to this meeting,
(Preambulatory clause, Res. 71/258)

Welcoming also the report on the work of the Open-ended Working Group to
develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the
achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons, submitted pursuant to
its resolution 67/56 and referenced in its resolution 68/46, and noting with appreciation
the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to its resolution 68/46, containing
the views of Member States on how to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament
negotiations, including the steps that Member States have already taken to that end,
(Preambulatory clause, Res. 71/258)

Welcoming further the efforts by all Member States, international organizations
and civil society to continue to enrich the discussions on how to take forward multilateral
nuclear disarmament negotiations in the United Nations bodies in which disarmament
and peace and security are addressed, (Preambulatory clause, Res. 71/258)

Bearing in mind that a legally binding instrument prohibiting nuclear weapons
would be an important contribution towards comprehensive nuclear disarmament,
(Preambulatory clause, Res. 71/258)

Bearing in mind also that additional measures, both practical and legally
binding, for the irreversible, verifiable and transparent destruction of nuclear weapons
would be needed in order to achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons,
(Preambulatory clause, Res. 71/258)
Stressing the importance of inclusiveness, and welcoming the participation of all Member States in the efforts to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world, (Preambulatory clause, Res. 71/258)

Emphasizing the importance and urgency of securing substantive progress on priority nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation issues, (Preambulatory clause, Res. 71/258)

Determined for the sake of all mankind, to exclude completely the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons, through the implementation of the provisions of this Convention, (based upon Preambulatory clause, Chemical Weapons Convention)

Bearing in mind that under operative clause 8 of Resolution 71/258 the General Assembly decided to convene in 2017 a United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination, (Based upon operative clause 8, Res. 71/258)

Recalling that under operative clause 12 of Resolution 71/258 the General Assembly called upon States participating in the conference to make their best endeavours to conclude as soon as possible a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination, (Based upon operative clause 12, Res. 71/258)

Emphasizing the desirability of achieving universal adherence to this Treaty, (Preambulatory clause, Arms Trade Treaty)

Determined to act in accordance with the following principles, (Preambulatory clause, Arms Trade Treaty)

**PRINCIPLES**

- The settlement of international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered in accordance with Article 2 (3) of the Charter of the United Nations; (Principles section, Arms Trade Treaty)

- Respecting and ensuring respect for international humanitarian law in accordance with, inter alia, the Geneva Conventions of 1949, and respecting and ensuring respect for human rights in accordance with, inter alia, the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; (Principles section, Arms Trade Treaty)

- The obligation of pursuing nuclear disarmament in accordance with the provisions in Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the commitments made therein; (Based upon NPT article VI)

- Strengthening the disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation regime, including the three pillars of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Under no circumstance shall the integrity of the NPT be directly or indirectly affected;

- The importance of addressing issues related to nuclear weapons in a comprehensive, inclusive, interactive and constructive manner; (Based upon operative clause 4, Res. 71/258)
OBJECTIVES

- Contributing to international and regional peace, security and stability; (Objectives section, Arms Trade Treaty)

- Achieving and maintaining a world without nuclear weapons; (Based upon operative clause 4, Res. 71/258)

- Promoting confidence-building measures among States as a means for creating conditions that facilitate the total elimination of nuclear weapons