

Unofficial transcript

**His Excellency Mr. Felipe Calderón Hinojosa,
President of the United Mexican States**
(spoke in Spanish)

Mexico enthusiastically welcomes the convening by the United States of this very special meeting of the Security Council on nuclear disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Mexico is convinced that global peace and security cannot be built on the accumulation of nuclear arsenals. It is very encouraging that the United States and Russia, as we have heard, are negotiating a new strategic arms reduction treaty, precisely because the United States and Russia control some 90 per cent of the approximately 25,000 nuclear warheads in existence. We believe that the ultimate aim should be the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

My country also welcomes the decision of the United States to resume the legislative process for the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty because that decision and the willingness to review deterrence models proposed in the recent past serve as an example that should inspire other countries to follow suit. We also appreciate the decision to reconsider projects that only generate fear and doubt in humankind.

We cannot accept the paralysis of the multilateral negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament. The time has come to act. The resolution that was negotiated in recent days in the Council and adopted at this meeting should be the first step of a new movement in favour of disarmament.

A growing number of States have developed nuclear weapons or have the capacity to produce them, ignoring the desires of humankind and of those countries that have established vast nuclear-weaponfree zones, such as that in Latin America and the Caribbean. The security of the entire planet is weakened to the extent that the number of possessors of such weapons is growing.

Mexico supports the right of every State to avail itself of nuclear energy for peaceful uses under the full supervision of the relevant international entities, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is

represented here today. Given both the gradual exhaustion of fossil fuels and their effect on global warming, nuclear energy represents an opportunity for sustainable development. However, only the exclusively peaceful use of nuclear energy can allow us to hope that those who covet nuclear arms will abandon their intentions to acquire and use them.

There is the danger that terrorist groups could acquire the equipment and technology to manufacture a nuclear device. If we are to avoid that, it is of fundamental importance that all States comply with resolution 1540 (2004). To demonstrate its commitment, Mexico has taken steps to join some of the international export control regimes, beginning with the Nuclear Suppliers Group. States should step up their efforts in favour of disarmament and nonproliferation without ceasing to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Although nuclear disarmament is the central topic of this meeting of the Security Council, Mexico should also like to draw attention to the proliferation of conventional weapons. Every day, the traffic in small arms and light weapons causes approximately 1,000 deaths and 3,000 injuries worldwide. Mexico urges the members of the Security Council to seek ways to curb this illicit trade without prejudice to the right of each State to buy the weaponry necessary for its legitimate defence and the protection of its citizens. My country considers the negotiation within the United Nations of an arms trade treaty to be of great urgency.

The Mexican Alfonso García Robles was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his work as architect and promoter of the world's first nuclear-weapon-free zone - that of Latin America and the Caribbean - through the Treaty of Tlatelolco. He held that our children have the right to demand that their parents leave them a world free of nuclear threats. Sixty-four years later, we cannot burden the coming generation with that responsibility. It is time to move ahead not only towards non-proliferation but towards general and complete nuclear disarmament. There is no other way; that is the path we must take.