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General and complete disarmament

Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum**

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* [A/68/150](#).

** The information in the present report was received after the issuance of the main report.



II. Replies received from Governments

Ecuador

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The Constitution of Ecuador declares peace and universal disarmament to be principles of international law, establishes the concept of living well and grants rights to nature. This domestic legislation, as well as the State obligations emanating from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), have made Ecuador a country with an eminently pacifist and humanitarian mission, which envisions a world in which weapons of mass destruction have no place.

Ecuador believes that the issues affecting international peace and security, in particular matters relating to nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, must be discussed and addressed by all States, and not merely a few States.

In its resolution [67/53](#), the General Assembly provides that, in 2014 and 2015, the group of governmental experts will make recommendations on possible aspects that could contribute to but not negotiate a treaty banning the production of fissile material, taking into account the views and requirements of Member States. Ecuador considers that those recommendations should be based on document CD/1299 and the mandate contained therein (the Shannon mandate).

Ecuador believes that nuclear disarmament remains the outstanding task: more than 40 years since they entered into force, the provisions of article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons have yet to be implemented. Therefore, for Ecuador, as well as for the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, progress in the area of nuclear disarmament is the priority, as affirmed in article VI of the Treaty and in the agreements resulting from the 2000 and 2010 review conferences of the parties to the Treaty. In that regard, Ecuador has respected and will continue to respect its commitments in the area of nuclear non-proliferation.

For the above reasons, Ecuador believes it is critical that a treaty banning the production of fissile material should approach the issue from the perspectives of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. This implies that negotiations on the treaty should address both existing stocks and future production. A treaty whose scope only covered future production and excluded stocks would be incomplete.

Ecuador would be willing to support a “cut-off treaty”, as it fully subscribes to the principles that underpin nuclear non-proliferation. However, it should be noted that a treaty of this kind would not cover existing stocks of fissile material. In view of the foregoing, Ecuador considers that, from the beginning, this treaty should not be called a “cut-off treaty”, as this title would immediately limit the scope and content of the treaty.

As stipulated in resolution [67/53](#), the group of governmental experts will not negotiate, but instead will formulate recommendations. It follows that the Conference on Disarmament, as the only negotiating forum on nuclear disarmament, is still the only forum for negotiation of a treaty banning the production of fissile

material. Such negotiation should therefore be conducted at the Conference. However, the existence and continuation of the Conference cannot and should not depend on negotiations on this treaty.

As is clear from document CD/1864, the question of a treaty banning the production of fissile material is just one of various pending matters for the Conference and the nuclear disarmament agenda. The urgent need to initiate negotiations on negative security assurances, a nuclear weapons convention and the peaceful use of outer space must also be considered. For States that do not have nuclear weapons, those issues are as important or more important than a treaty banning the production of fissile material.

The inalienable right of States to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, which constitutes the third pillar of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, must be fully considered and respected during any discussion and negotiation process on a treaty banning the production of fissile material.
