



REPÚBLICA BOLIVARIANA DE VENEZUELA

MISIÓN PERMANENTE ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

DEBATE GENERAL

*SESIÓN SUBSTANTIVA DE LA
COMISIÓN DE DESARME 2016*

Favor cotejar palabras del orador

NUEVA YORK, 05 DE ABRIL DE 2016

Mr. President,

My delegation endorses the statements of Indonesia, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), and the Dominican Republic, on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

Previous sessions of the Disarmament Commission achieved important results, among which we can note; for instance, the 1988 principles of verification, the 1996 international arms transfer guidelines, and the 1999 guidelines on the establishment of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZ). If the Commission has not reached new agreements, it is only for the lack of disposition of a group of member States.

Everything suggests that countries possessing nuclear weapons are not genuinely considering a total elimination of nuclear weapons in the long term. This is evidenced in the significant resources dedicated to the modernization of their nuclear programs and stockpiles. Another indication is reflected in the non-compliance of the commitments agreed pursuant to Article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty of immediately implementing 13 practical measures adopted in the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as well as in the Plan of Action adopted in the 2010 Review Conference.

There is little use in storing hundreds or even thousands of nuclear weapons from the 50s and 60s, when some other thousands, more modern, are ready to be used at any moment. Human survival and that of the planet will be at risk while countries possessing nuclear weapons continue to see these weapons as legitimate guarantees of their safety and stability. It is not possible that nuclear weapons remain the only mass destruction weapons that have not been banned yet.

During the 2014 CELAC Summit, our region was declared zone of peace, free from armed conflicts. We are honored to be part of the first densely populated area in the world to be declared Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone on the Treaty of Tlatelolco. We

reiterate, in this regard, that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, based on the agreements of countries in the region, represents a fundamental step towards the strengthening of international peace and security; it contributes, as well, to non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. To this end, we reaffirm our commitment with the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, in compliance with the agreement of member States of the 1995, 2000, and 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaties. Therefore, we regret that there was no consensus on the adoption of the Final Document of the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, given the refusal to make progress for the establishment of such zone.

My delegation believes that practical confidence-building measures in the context of conventional arms play an important role since these contribute to the promotion of understanding, transparency, and cooperation among States, and to the increase of stability and security, in strict compliance of the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, respecting the voluntary nature, specific concerns and security situations of the States.

In this regard, our country reiterates the need for the prohibition of supply and trade of small arms and light weapons to non-State armed groups. These kinds of weapons in the hands of such groups, closely connected to extremist and terrorist groups, destroy the peoples of Africa and the Middle East.

Venezuela has been working with other countries part of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), in order to promote confidence-building measures that include the transparency and exchange of information related to defense expenditures and military activities, security measures, guarantees, compliance and verification. It is a promising process for international and regional peace and security, while it reaffirms our commitment to solve any controversy by political means, and to have more resources

available to respond to social commitments in our region. We extend an invitation to the major military powers to follow this example.

Finally, Venezuela conveys its support to the efforts of the Disarmament Commission, and reiterates its commitment and disposition to work constructively with all member States to fulfill the complex goals set. In this regard, we call for the intensification of efforts for significant results that allow us to move forward in a decisive way towards disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in order to overcome the current stalemate.