

Secondly, we must make the best use of the United Nations disarmament machinery. I hope, for example, that the Conference on Disarmament can advance the programme of work it adopted this year, including negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty. For its part, the Council could promote universal membership in key treaties, work to improve compliance, and assess the need for new agreements, including a nuclear weapons convention. It could also strongly reaffirm the need for early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Thirdly, disarmament and non-proliferation must proceed together. I encourage nuclear-weapon States here to consider additional measures to enhance security as a way of leading to total elimination. These could include, for example, ways to achieve the effective verification of the disarmament process. At the same time, we must ensure that the International Atomic Energy Agency has the resources and support it needs to implement its growing safeguards responsibilities.

For too long, a divided international community has lacked the will, vision and confidence to move ahead. Together, we have dreamed about a nuclear-free world. Now we must act to achieve it. That starts now.

I congratulate the Council on convening this summit. I welcome the adoption of today's resolution, and again salute the leadership of President Obama. I pledge my continued support and look forward to future meetings on these vital issues here in this Council and beyond, including the crucial 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. This summit truly adds a new page to the history of this Council. Let us now write a new chapter of peace, security and safety for all.

**The President:** I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

I now invite His Excellency Mr. Óscar Arias Sánchez, President of the Republic of Costa Rica, to take the floor.

**President Arias Sánchez** (*spoke in Spanish*): I am grateful for the opportunity to say a few words in a place so emblematic of international order in the nuclear age. The Security Council is the product of a mixture of stupor and hope, the harvest of an atrocious fear that led to faith in a peaceful destiny for the

human race. This institution was founded on the promise that we would be able to sleep peacefully following the most abominable of wars — a promise, reflected in Article 26 of the United Nations Charter, that the Security Council would promote “the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources”.

That promise has yet to be fulfilled. While we sleep, death is awake. Death keeps watch from the warehouses that store more than 23,000 nuclear warheads, like 23,000 eyes open and waiting for a moment of carelessness. Death is incited and spurred on by those who perfect weapons of mass destruction instead of destroying them, and by those who each year allocate tens of billions of dollars to vertical proliferation. Death is courted by fundamentalists and megalomaniacs, radicals and populists, who sustain their power with gunpowder.

I thank President Barack Obama for the opportunity to discuss the reduction of nuclear weapons in the world. A large group of Nobel peace laureates has gone even farther. For years, we have lobbied for the total abolition of nuclear weapons, because we believe that they run counter to the survival instinct of every species. However, it does not seem plausible to discuss disarmament so long as not even existing agreements are being honoured; so long as there are countries that resist ratifying the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty; so long as some hide data, store fissile material and reject international verification mechanisms, shielded behind their sovereign status; so long as nuclear tests continue to take place; and so long as this Security Council maintains its silence before widely known secrets, such as the clandestine network of proliferation of nuclear supplies, led with impunity from Pakistan by Abdul Qadeer Khan in open mockery of the logic underlying resolution 1540 (2004).

It does not seem plausible to speak of a safer world so long as the proliferation of other types of weapons remains in its perennial second-place position on our international agenda. This Council fails in its historic mission every day that it turns a blind eye to the rampant arms race. The world spends \$3.5 billion every day on weapons and soldiers. Each year, more than \$42 billion in conventional arms are sold to developing nations, where weak or non-existent

democracies are incapable of satisfying the most basic needs of their peoples. Even in Latin America, which has never been more peaceful or more democratic, this year nearly \$60 billion will be allocated to military spending — this in a region with an average of seven years of schooling for its population, and poverty that affects more than 200 million inhabitants.

That is why I ask that we approve the arms trade treaty that my Government has presented to this Organization. If it is legitimate for us to worry about the possibility that terrorist networks may gain access to a nuclear weapon, it is also legitimate for us to worry about the rifles, grenades and machine guns that are given into their hands. Who said that killing thousands in one blow is worse than killing thousands every day?

Twenty years ago, I visited the United Nations during my first presidential term. In those days, we talked about a world without nuclear warheads, a world in which we would finally control the weapons that fuelled wars between brothers. I have come back again as a modern-day Rip Van Winkle, to find that everything has changed — everything except that. Peace remains just out of reach. Nuclear and conventional weapons continue to exist, despite all the promises. It is up to us to ensure that 20 years from now we do not awaken to the same terrors we suffer today.

I am not unaware of the fact that the world's biggest arms sellers are represented here. But today I speak not to the makers of arms, but to the leaders of humanity, who have the responsibility to put principles before utilitarian considerations, and make good on the promise of a future where — finally — we can sleep in peace.

**The President:** I now invite His Excellency Mr. Stjepan Mesić, President of the Republic of Croatia, to take the floor.

**President Mesić** (*spoke in Croatian; English text provided by the delegation*): It is a great honour for me to present, on behalf of the Republic of Croatia, our views on the issue that has been put on the agenda of today's meeting.

I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the United States and to you personally, President Obama, for the initiative to discuss in the Security Council the very delicate issue of nuclear non-proliferation.

If this meeting brings us just one step forward on the path towards a world free of nuclear weapons — a world that you, President Obama, have in a visionary manner set as the objective to which we should aspire — then we will have succeeded. I emphasize that even if we get only one single step closer to this objective we will indeed have succeeded, because the journey towards a world free of nuclear weapons is not, cannot be and will not be easy, simple or short. This, however, does not mean that we should give up or allow despondency to rule our thoughts and deeds — quite the contrary.

The world was faced with nuclear weapons 54 years ago. The horrendous effects of their use imposed the need to start almost immediately to reflect on how to limit their proliferation, which was also the objective of a set of international treaties. However, in spite of all those efforts, today we live in a world where there are 10 or so nuclear Powers, recognized or unrecognized. I deliberately use the term “Powers”, because possession of a single nuclear bomb makes the country that possesses it a Power, if one considers the consequences of its potential use — to say nothing of the fact that the present-day world is burdened with the evil of international terrorism, or what it would mean if a terrorist group were to get hold of nuclear weapons.

What we should do here today, as my country sees it, is to reinforce the role of the United Nations, without the least intention of replacing any institution or forum dealing with non-proliferation, and, unanimously and jointly, and taking into consideration earlier documents of the Security Council and the General Assembly, to state the following: On the one hand, great efforts are needed to attain, first, non-proliferation of nuclear weapons followed by nuclear disarmament. On the other hand, at the same time, every country must be guaranteed its right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy — if necessary with even more stringent measures of universally accepted international control.

Let me be more precise: we have to work together to affirm or establish principles that will help us to head towards a world free of nuclear weapons without necessarily entering into debate over this or that concrete issue.

There are other things that we have to do. First, we must unreservedly support a multilateral contractual system related to nuclear arms control and