

**INTERVENTION OF COUNSELLOR JULIAN JUAREZ, FROM THE EMBASSY OF MEXICO TO CANADA, IN THE SEMINAR
"TOWARD A NUCLEAR WEAPONS CONVENTION: A ROLE FOR CANADA".
OTTAWA, APRIL 11, 2001, 7 P.M.**

His Excellency Mr. Sergio Duarte
United Nations High Representative for Disarmament,

Distinguished Representatives of the Government of Canada,
Distinguished members of the Parliament,
Distinguished members of the diplomatic community in Ottawa,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening. The Embassy of Mexico is very honoured to have been invited to participate in this opening event of the seminar "Toward a Nuclear Weapons Convention: a role for Canada". Mexico is happy to support the work of civil society and nongovernmental organizations, like the ones that have organized this important seminar.

Mexico is a firm promoter of nuclear disarmament and non proliferation. My country considers that these two elements are complementary and have to be seen together.

Mexico is of the opinion that international verification, transparency and accountability have a fundamental importance for the implementation and strengthening of international agreements on disarmament.

Mexico has insisted on the need to carry out concrete actions on disarmament and destruction of stocks of weapons of mass destructions.

In spite of the paralysis of the Conference on Disarmament, Mexico is convinced that today we have a propitious moment to get important achievements on nuclear disarmament and non proliferation, through an alliance among civil society, states and international organizations.

In the recent times, we have witnessed the convening of a Security Council Summit on Disarmament; the Nuclear Security Summit of April 2010; the signing and ratification of the Strategic Arm Reductions Treaty, between the United States and Russia; the successful outcome of the NPT Review Conference, the consolidation of the Nuclear Weapons Free Zones in Latin America, Southeast Asia, the Pacific, Africa and Central Asia, as seen through the second conference of nuclear weapons free zones held in April 2010; the important awareness work of the International Commission on Nuclear Non Proliferation and Disarmament, promoted by the governments of Australia and Japan; and the tireless efforts of many ngo's, like the Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Project Ploughshares, Physicians for Global Survival, World Federalist Movement-Canada, Canadian Pugwash Group and the Middle Powers Initiative, among others,

The call of most States, international organizations and civil society to get rid of nuclear weapons must be heard by all, particularly for those who possess such arms and those who would like to have them. The world is not safe while nuclear weapons exist. Instead of protecting the world, nuclear weapons represent a permanent danger for the international community.

Mexico supports the start of negotiations of a universal, transparent, verifiable and irreversible instrument that eliminates and prohibits nuclear weapons. Mexico welcomes the proposal presented by Costa Rica and Malaysia as a part of the efforts towards to the objective of nuclear disarmament and non proliferation, since it includes the implementation of the different actions for the eradication of nuclear weapons, such as:

- Promotion of the effective implementation of the NPT.
- Avoiding proliferation of nuclear weapons in other States.
- Reducing the increased potential of black markets.
- Promotion of export controls, particularly the effective implementation of Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004), and
- Promotion of the establishment of new nuclear weapons free zones in the world, particularly in geographical regions that face permanent conflict.

For more than 40 years, most of States, those which do not have nuclear weapons, have fulfilled their obligation contained in the NPT, which is, not trying to have nuclear weapons. However, nuclear weapon States have failed to do their part. After more than four decades of acquired an obligation, those states not only have not destroyed their arms, but they have increased their stocks and upgrade their weapons.

For this reason, Mexico supports the UN Secretary General's Five Point Proposal for Nuclear Disarmament. Mexico will continue working in favour of the entry into force of the CTBT; in encouraging the follow up, at Ministerial Level of the Security Council Summit on disarmament; the implementation of the NPT outcomes, and the adoption of complementary measures on disarmament.

We cannot wait any longer. States, international organizations and civil society, together, must create the conditions that allow the start of negotiations of a Nuclear Weapons Convention. This seminar for sure is in the right direction. Mexico will remain as an ally in this common cause.

Thank you very much.