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EXCERPT

<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/1com/FCM10/week3.html#NWFZ>

Nuclear weapon free zones

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Despite transitioning away from nuclear weapons-related topics at the First Committee, a limited number of delegations still discussed the issue of nuclear weapon free zones (NWFZs) during the debate on regional security. [Cuba's](#) delegation highlighted the efficacy of NWFZs in strengthening regional and international peace and security. [Iraq's](#) delegation supported this view and reaffirmed the need for a NWFZ in the Middle East, asserting that an arms race escalation would have a negative impact on security worldwide. [Iraq's](#) representative argued that the ambiguity surrounding Israeli nuclear installations has stalled this process, and called for the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 487, urging Israel to place its nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. Kuwait and Iran's delegations endorsed this sentiment, arguing that Israel needs to adhere to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

In addition to the draft resolutions reported on [last week](#) pertaining to NWFZs in the Middle East and Central Asia, four further draft resolutions were introduced this week. Brazil and New Zealand sponsored [A/C.1/65/L.24](#), "Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas," Mongolia introduced [A/C.1/65/L.41](#), "Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status," Nigeria, on behalf of the Group of Africa States, tabled draft resolution [A/C.1/65/L.54](#), on the "African-Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty," and several Latin American countries tabled [A/C.1/65/L.52](#), "Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)".

The resolution tabled by Brazil and New Zealand was last adopted by the General Assembly in 2009 as resolution 64/44 with a vote of 170-3-6. The United Kingdom, United States, and France voted against the text, citing concern over the resolution's "ambiguity". In a joint statement, they argued it is "contradictory to propose simultaneously the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone that would be composed largely of the high seas and yet to say that it would be fully consistent with applicable principles and rules of international law relating to the freedom of the high seas and the right of passage through maritime space."

[L.24](#) welcomes "the progress made on increased collaboration within and between zones at the second Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia," at which states expressed their "intention to foster cooperation among the nuclear weapon-free zones to fully implement the principles and objectives of the treaties and to exchange relevant ideas and best practices in areas of mutual interest." The co-sponsors also noted "the positive announcement of the United States of America of its intention to begin the process of ratification of the protocols to the treaties of Pelindaba and Rarotonga," and reported "that the Russian Federation has initiated internal procedures to ratify the appropriate protocols to the Treaty of Pelindaba."

The updated draft again congratulates states party and signatory to the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok, and Pelindaba, and commends the countries of Central Asia on “their efforts to pursue the common goals envisaged in those treaties and to promote the nuclear-weapon-free status of the southern hemisphere and adjacent areas.”

Similar to the 2009 version of the resolution, the text calls upon “all States concerned to continue to work together in order to facilitate adherence to the protocols to nuclear-weapon-free-zone treaties by all relevant States that have not yet done so.” The updated draft resolution, however, notes the “positive announcement of the United States of America to conduct consultations with the parties to the nuclear-weapon-free zones in Central and South-East Asia in an effort to sign and ratify the relevant protocols.”

[L.41](#) is largely identical to resolution 63/56, “Mongolia’s international security and nuclear-weapon-free status,” adopted by the General Assembly in 2008. The current draft resolution does, however, welcome “the declaration by Mongolia for its nuclear-weapon-free status, and supports the measures taken by Mongolia to consolidate and strengthen this status.”

The draft resolution also acknowledges the support for Mongolia’s nuclear weapon free status at the Second Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia, held in New York on 30 April 2010. The conference, established by [A/RES/64/52](#), aimed at enhancing cooperation between participating and interested states and agencies in order to improve and facilitate the implementation of the treaties and strengthen the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

[A/C.1/65/L.52](#) on the consolidation of the NWFZ regime includes several changes from last year’s version. The text reflects technical updates and recent developments in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, namely the Treaties of Rarotonga, Bangkok, and Central Asia, as well as the Antarctic Treaty. It also welcomes relevant UN resolutions and the outcome documents of the second Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia and the 2010 NPT Review Conference for their contribution towards achieving a nuclear weapon free world. It adds a preambular paragraph stressing the importance of establishing NWFZs and “commending the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean for its leadership in this area.” Finally, this year’s draft resolution adds an operative paragraph calling “upon the nuclear-weapon States that formulated unilateral interpretive declarations at the moment of signature or ratification of the relevant Protocols to the Treaty of Tlatelolco to withdraw those declarations that affect the denuclearized status established by the Treaty.” The First Committee will next address this issue in its sixty-eighth session. Last year, the resolution was adopted without a vote, with [India](#) conveying “its unambiguous assurance that it will respect the status of the African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone.” [France and the United Kingdom](#) issued a similar joint explanation.

[A/C.1/65/L.54](#), on the “African-Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty,” or Treaty of Pelindaba, remains unchanged from when it was adopted without a vote last year. The resolution calls on relevant states to sign, ratify, and fulfill commitments towards sustaining a nuclear-weapon-free-zone in the region.

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