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G. Disarmament

UN MISSION IN COLOMBIA EXTRACTS WEAPONS CACHES
Boyajá, Colombia

On 24 May, I announced my agenda for disarmament, which sets out concrete actions in three areas. The first, disarmament to save humanity, includes returning to a common vision for the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction. As nuclear disarmament is vital for national, regional and international security, I will work to facilitate dialogue on further negotiations to reduce and eliminate nuclear weapons. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. I will work with all States parties to ensure the Treaty's continuing health and vitality, especially in the lead-up to the 2020 Review Conference, the fiftieth anniversary of its entry into force. I also welcome the historic adoption on 7 July 2017 of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which demonstrated the strong and legitimate international support that exists for a permanent end to the threat posed by nuclear arms.

I am concerned about the uncertain future of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, through which robust verification measures ensured the peaceful nature of the nuclear programme of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Every effort should be made to preserve these verification gains. I am encouraged by recent developments in the Korean peninsula, including the announced moratoriums by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on its longer-range ballistic missile launches and the reported closure of its nuclear test site. I welcome the historic summits between the two Koreas and between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States. I encourage the parties to continue their dialogue towards complete and verifiable denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

The continuing use of chemical weapons is deeply troubling. The repeated breach of this taboo is exacerbated by the environment of impunity, following the termination of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism in November 2017. I have repeatedly advocated for the establishment of an independent, impartial and professional attribution mechanism. Those who use chemical weapons must be held accountable and the damage inflicted on the non-proliferation architecture must be repaired.

The second area of my agenda, **disarmament that saves lives**, places humans at the centre of our collective efforts to control arms and seeks to mobilize new partnerships, generating momentum for sustainable security by addressing the devastating impact of explosive weapons and small arms on civilians. As a practical step, the United Nations will promote the collection of data on civilian casualties and the exchange of policies and practice by armed forces and United Nations peacekeeping operations. I support efforts of Member States to develop a political declaration, as well as limitations relating to the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. The United Nations will also establish a dedicated funding facility to enable coordinated and sustainable small arms control measures in countries most affected by armed violence.

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The third agenda area is **disarmament for future generations**. Developments in science and technology bring clear benefits but we also see the risks and challenges posed by autonomous weapons, artificial intelligence and cyberthreats. At the seventy-third session of the General Assembly, I will report on current developments in science and technology and their potential impact on international security and disarmament efforts. I foresee a spectrum of responses and multi-stakeholder coalitions being required to meet these potential challenges. Regarding cybersecurity, considerable progress has been made on the issue by several groups of governmental experts with respect to the application of international law, cybernorms, rules and principles of responsible State behaviour, and confidence-building and capacity-building measures. To enhance understanding of frontier technology issues, the Office for Disarmament Affairs has been developing an online training course for diplomats and all interested stakeholders which will be released in October 2018.

Longstanding divisions in the Conference on Disarmament have impeded its mandate as the world's negotiating forum for multilateral disarmament. Nonetheless, after 22 years of stymied action, some encouraging signs were seen when, in February 2018, the Conference established five subsidiary bodies to deepen technical discussions and broaden areas of agreement in all disarmament fields. I am also encouraged by signs of revival in the Disarmament Commission, which after nearly two decades took up a new agenda item: transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities to prevent an arms race in outer space, an essential global security initiative.