

Transcript of Joint Statement in support of a Preambular Clause on General and Complete Disarmament

June 2017

Dear Ms Chair,

I am taking the floor on behalf of the following Member States: Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Jamaica, Indonesia, Philippines, Uruguay, Venezuela, Guatemala, Peru, and my own country Chile.

General and Complete Disarmament, commonly referred to as GCD, and Humanitarian Disarmament share a common and rich history. Humanitarian motives were at the core of campaigns for general disarmament arising from the indiscriminate slaughter of WWI and WWII. Since then GCD has been placed at the heart of the system for collective maintenance of international peace and security embodied in the United Nations Charter.

It is thus no surprise that major multilateral disarmament Treaties describe themselves in their preamble as steps towards the ultimate goal of GCD. Indeed, GCD is embedded in half a dozen treaties including the Bangkok Treaty; the Biological Weapons Convention; the Chemical Weapons Convention; the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty; the Pelindaba Treaty; the Sea Bed Treaty; the Treaty of Tlatelolco; and the Treaty on Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in Central Asia.

The nuclear ban treaty will contribute to making significant progress towards nuclear disarmament. It will also considerably reinforce the existing broader disarmament architecture. As such, the ban Treaty should not be viewed as an end in itself but as a critical piece of a wider web of Treaties that jointly advance humanitarian disarmament and GCD.

We therefore welcome the inclusion of a preambular clause on GCD in the draft treaty which reads “Determined also to act with a view to achieving effective progress towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control” and we call for it to remain as it is.