

Country : Ecuador

Committee : DISEC ( Disarmament and International Security Committee )

Agenda Item : Preventing non-State actors from acquiring weapons of mass destruction

A weapon of mass destruction is a nuclear, radiological, chemical, biological, or other device that is intended to harm a large number of people. Weapons of mass destructions (WMDs) deter invasion and in some cases end the war at hand. They establish dominance over other countries and defends against major threats. Some WMDs have the capacity to remove a threat without disturbing the environment. Weapons of mass destruction prevent war from occurring. Since the first session of the General Assembly, Ecuador, in accordance with its constitution, has been a strong advocate of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. It recognizes the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as the cornerstone of that regime. Ecuador signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty on 9 July 1968, just days after its opening for signature, and ratified it on 7 March 1969. Since then, it has participated actively in the review conferences and preparatory sessions.

Ecuador, as a member of the Conference on Disarmament, has supported the efforts made to ensure that this important mechanism can adopt a comprehensive and balanced programme of work that includes, inter alia, the negotiation of a legally binding instrument providing security assurances against the use and the threat of use of nuclear weapons to non-nuclear-weapon States, and also the negotiation of an instrument on fissile materials, which should not only ban the production of fissile materials but also take into account existing stockpiles. Ecuador is part of the nuclear-weapon-free zone in Latin America and the Caribbean established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), which was adopted in 1967. The Treaty was preceded by a joint letter signed in 1963 by the Presidents of five Latin American States, including Ecuador. Ecuador has, in various forums, called on all States that are not parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to accede or return to it, without conditions and as non-nuclear-weapon States. Ecuador promotes peace and universal disarmament; it condemns the development and use of weapons of mass destruction and the imposition of bases or facilities for military purposes by certain States on the territory of others.

It is generally recognized that weapons of mass destruction can cause catastrophic consequences, threatening human lives, and destabilizing global political situations. Therefore, many countries and international organizations have made efforts to prevent their spread and reduce their number. The global community has made several treaties, such as the NonProliferation Treaty (NPT), the Chemical Weapons Convention, and the Biological Weapons Convention, to regulate the use and development of these weapons. It is important to prevent the production and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to ensure global security and protect human lives.

