

Miguel Marín Bosch, *Six Decades of Multilateral Disarmament Negotiations*

In this essay Marín Bosch makes an in-depth analysis of the history of multilateral disarmament forums and their present status, the achievements that have been made in this field over the last six decades and what remains to be done. He concentrates on the disarmament agreements negotiated from 1946 to date, dividing them into: years of optimism at the United Nations; the cold war and the security structures that appeared on the sidelines of the UN; the advent of more effective disarmament forums; a temporary standstill in multilateral disarmament efforts; years of encouraging results, and the crisis experienced by multilateralism. The author provides a detailed overview of the creation and background of the three multilateral forums at which disarmament issues are currently discussed: the First Committee of the UN General Assembly, the UN Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament. He then goes on to mention other promising events in the area of disarmament, such as the START treaties signed by the United States and the Russian Federation. A complete paragraph is devoted to the makeup of the Conference on Disarmament and how it has transformed over the years. The author queries whether or not the countries that possess nuclear arms are truly committed to disarmament, a question that leads him to examine the origin of certain treaties. His conclusion is that nuclear disarmament is only likely to occur when the US government so decides. According to Marín Bosch, it is the responsibility of Washington and Moscow to point us in the direction of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Pablo Macedo Riba, *The Enforcement of the Chemical Weapons Convention*

In this article Macedo Riba takes a look at aspects related to the enforcement of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction, beginning with a detailed, historic account of the use of these types of weapons and leading up to the signing of international agreements to ban them, such as the Geneva Protocol. Of particular relevance is the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which promotes a culture in favor of the pacific use of chemistry and which was created by the Convention to ensure compliance with its regulations. The author examines these regulations from three angles: the obligations of Member States vis-à-vis the non-production and transfer of chemical weapons and their use; the obligation of States that possess such weapons to totally destroy their stockpiles, and aspects relating to participation and cooperation, which are of special interest to developing countries. In Mexico, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SRE) has been appointed by the government as the National Authority to represent the country at the OPCW. As such, the SRE is responsible for coordinating the activities of the Chemical and Biological Weapons Committee of the Inter-ministerial Commission on International Disarmament, Terrorism and Security. In this context, the author feels it is important to adapt our legislation to the regulations of the Convention. In Macedo Riba's view, the main achievement of the Chemical Weapons Convention has been to provide a basic, universal legal framework for the production and use of these types of weapons.

Perla Carvalho, *The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty*

In this essay, the author discusses the complex issue of nuclear disarmament. By way of introduction, she refers to the various efforts and

agreements that culminated in the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), an agreement that has not yet come into effect, but that has already been signed by 176 States and ratified by 125. Some of the most important international treaties that paved the way for the CTBT include the Partial Test Ban Treaty, the Treaty of Tlatelolco and the drawing up of the Final Document of the United Nations General Assembly's first Special Session on Disarmament (1978). Carvalho underlines the main factors that contributed to the adoption of the CTBT, such as the work of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Conference on Disarmament and the important contribution Mexico has made to all these initiatives. According to the author, Mexico should view the successful conclusion of the CTBT as part and parcel of an effective nuclear disarmament process, with all the commitments this implies. Finally, she points out that although the CTBT does not prevent the manufacture of nuclear weapons or their development, it could act as a useful deterrent in the arms race. The author goes on to discuss the work of the conferences convened by the United Nations, at which the importance of the CTBT and the need to ratify it have been reaffirmed. She concludes by calling on all States who have not yet done so to sign and ratify the treaty.

María Angélica Arce Mora, *Negotiations on Small Arms: An Historic Perspective*

This article deals with the stockpiling of small arms and light weapons worldwide and the negotiations that have taken place since the mid-nineties on an international, regional and sub-regional level to address the problem. One of these rounds of negotiations resulted in the adoption of the OAS Inter-American Convention Against the Manufacture and Illicit Trafficking of Firearms, Munitions, Explosives and Related Materials, which came into effect on the first of July, 1998, while the first and second Intergovernmental Groups of Experts on

Small Arms came up with measures to prevent the use of these types of weapons and reduce stockpiles. Similarly, the author highlights the most relevant aspects of the Program of Action, adopted by the UN Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects, which drew the world's attention to the problem and which proposes measures to combat it on a national, regional and international level. According to Arce Mora, Mexico has actively participated in all these efforts and in parallel negotiations, and we can hope to see the delegations to the UN, including that of Mexico, assume a more active position with regard to this issue. The report that is to be put to the consideration of the UN General Assembly in 2007 will also be of great significance. The author concludes by acknowledging the participation of NGOs and civil society in efforts to prevent the use and stockpiling of small arms and light weapons.

Luis Alfonso de Alba Góngora, *Negotiations on Small Arms and Light Weapons: A Multidimensional Perspective*

The phenomenon of small arms and light weapons, and the problems and impact these cause are the subject of this article. According to the author, some consider these to be weapons of mass destruction because of the number of victims they have claimed. The use and abuse of such weapons, he says, not only have repercussions on security but on development and human rights, which confers a more complex, multidimensional character to international negotiations on this issue. De Alba Góngora believes that small arms and light weapons are strongly linked to criminal activities and drug trafficking, making these a real problem for national security. In the specific case of Mexico, the government has been promoting an ambitious agenda that attempts to offset the effects of the proliferation of small arms both on a regional and international level, although a solution to the problem does not lie in the hands of one single country. Negotia-

tions are progressing at a relatively modest pace due to the diverse approaches being taken and the variety of interests involved. As De Alba so rightly points out, on an international level, legally binding agreements intended to address the problem are somewhat limited and the only agreement of a broader nature is not binding, which makes it all the more important for Mexico to continue promoting a multidimensional approach that brings the international community closer to solving the problems created by these types of weapons.

Socorro Rovirosa, *Anti-personnel Mines*

This essay provides a general overview of the efforts undertaken to ensure the effective enforcement of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction. The author stresses the important role humanitarian organizations, such as the International Red Cross, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and NGOs, have played at helping raise public awareness of this problem on an international scale. Among these efforts, of particular relevance is the role played by Mexico as a participant and active promoter of the negotiations. The Convention was signed in Ottawa in 1997 and came into effect in March of 1999. Rovirosa discusses the most significant aspects of its Preamble and articles, in addition to Mexico's contribution to the document and the various mechanisms for its enforcement. According to the author, a follow-up of the Convention poses many challenges that will have to be addressed at meetings of the Member States and through intersessional work, together with the organized participation of civil society. She concludes by saying that, as one of the main authors of the Ottawa Convention, it is Mexico's duty to continue promoting its precepts.