



thus compromising UN decisions or agreements reached within the framework of efforts aimed at achieving an armistice.

It is high time to renew the principles and mechanisms of peacekeeping operations on the basis of UN Charter. We feel that it is necessary to accelerate the creation of UN rapid deployment forces which would recruit volunteers and have an extra-territorial nature. Ukraine has already declared its readiness to take part in this process.

An extremely important issue is the enhancement of the role of international law within the system of international relations and establishment of such a climate between States, which would fully exclude the dictate, interference in internal affairs, proclamation of so-called "zones of particular interests", etc. The UN also makes its valuable contribution to the strengthening of international rule of law. In this context Ukraine advocates further enhancement of rules and principles of international law and first of all such basic ones as the respect for the sovereignty of States, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders, protection of individual human rights, including national minorities' rights. Our State is committed to cooperate with other countries in this field.

Ukraine is also ready to make its contribution to the solution of other urgent problems. It is necessary to examine thoroughly and comprehensively the issue of implementing economic sanctions against those who threaten peace and security. Previous UN experience in this field gives ground to a justified criticism of the effectiveness of such sanctions. It is time to think over the creation of machinery for the implementation of Article 50 of the UN Charter, which would protect economic interests of third countries, suffering losses as a result of strict implementation of sanctions. Thus, Ukraine has already lost more than 4 billion US dollars because of the implementation of sanctions against Yugoslavia, and, unfortunately, international structures did not extend appropriate assistance to our State to overcome economic difficulties caused by the embargo. Obviously, collective actions aimed at implementing coercive measures can not be carried out on such an unfair basis. This increases the danger of losing confidence in the institute of sanctions.

Generally, the necessity of substantial reformation of the UN with a view to enhancing effectiveness of the Organization while reducing expenditures for its functioning is a very serious problem. I am confident that this problem ceased to be merely an

administrative and budgetary one and is moving to the foreground as one of the major political problems. Many countries, including Ukraine, today encounter great difficulties in convincing their citizens that it is necessary to make excessively large contributions to the budget of international organizations.

Mr. President,

There are still many outstanding problems in the field of arms control and disarmament, which traditionally occupy an important place in the foreign policy of Ukraine.

We support efforts aimed at putting in force the Convention on chemical weapons, we take active part in the elaboration of effective mechanisms of international control with regard to the implementation of Inhumane Weapons Convention, Convention on the Prohibition of Biological Weapons, implementation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and other international instruments to which Ukraine is a Party. We attach great importance to the preparation of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which is under way within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament. These activities prove that Ukraine pursues a consistent policy in the field of the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction and they demonstrate its openness and readiness to cooperate, its commitment to respect assumed obligations. Ukraine stands for the equality of all States-Parties to international treaties and supports their universality and non-discrimination.

Exactly from such a position Ukraine approaches nuclear disarmament, which is, at the present stage, its most complicated problem. It should be emphasized that Ukraine is the first State in the world which voluntarily and unilaterally assumed the obligation to eliminate nuclear weapons located in its territory - the third nuclear potential in the world - and which intends to achieve the status of a non-nuclear State.

The decision on non-nuclear status was approved by the Parliament of Ukraine both for the benefit of the highest interests of our State and the mankind as a whole. This decision is based on the profound conviction of our people in the morality of the non-nuclear option and it was not a result of any pressure from outside.

At the same time, Ukraine, as a State which of its own free will, is giving up nuclear weapons - this most effective means of deterrence, obviously, has the right to obtain reliable security guarantees from other nuclear States and adequate economic and technical assistance from the international community for

the elimination of these weapons.

Unfortunately, our partners did not immediately comprehend these just demands and we lost a lot of time. Conditions for Ukrainian Parliament to revoke its reservations at the time of ratification of START Treaty and Lisbon Protocol and to proceed with the practical withdrawal of nuclear warheads from Ukraine with a view of their further elimination, were created only after the Trilateral Statement by Presidents of Ukraine, the USA and the Russian Federation was signed and pertinent implementation agreements were concluded.

Shortly, the Parliament of Ukraine intends to consider the accession of our State to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation (NPT).

Today, the settlement of this issue depends mainly on the finalization of an acceptable text of the document, concerning the provision of guarantees for national security of Ukraine by the nuclear States.

Ukraine stands for corresponding guarantees to be multilateral and addressed directly to Ukraine as the State which for the first time in the history, on its own, is getting rid of nuclear weapons; these guarantees should provide a mechanism of consultations, which could be involved should the security of Ukraine be threatened. In this process, we attach great importance to the UN as the most authoritative international organization.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I would like to express optimism as to the future development of the UN and international co-operation. Current international life is greatly complicated and contradictory: there are alarming moments and frustration but there are also truly historical shifts which resulted in the end of the "cold war" and transition to constructive co-operation. It is highly symbolic that this is happening on the eve of 50th anniversary of the UN, which emerged on the ruins of World War II. On behalf of Ukraine, which suffered very heavy losses in that war, I would like to support the proposal to proclaim 1995 the universal year of commemoration of the victims of this, the most bloody war.

Present day realities lay a sound foundation for global co-operation, stability and peace. So, let us make every effort not to lose this historical chance.