

Delegation from

Represented by

São Tomé and Príncipe

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Position Paper for the Disarmament and International Security Committee

On the first topic, São Tomé and Príncipe suggests creating an international Unmanned Aerial Vehicle programs for non-military purposes. On the second one, we encourage a meeting amongst Middle Eastern states in a country outside the region to dialogue about the creation of a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone.

I. Concerns of the Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

Introduction

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) are the new focus of worldwide development concerning several areas of interest. Nowadays the main employment for UAVs is the military one, especially in Middle East and Africa. However, UAVs are used for non-military purposes, for instance some company of e-commerce (namely Amazon) have already started to employ UAVs to deliver merchandise all over the world.

The main concern of the International Community is about their military use, since there are not any international documents that regulate their use, as UAVs are a new and developing technology. Therefore, arguments are rising about both ethics and country's sovereignty in states affected by their usage.

Policy of São Tomé and Príncipe

São Tomé and Príncipe has no kind of UAV and it has never been involved in any conflicts where

armed UAVs have been used. However, we are part of the African Union (AU) and some countries in this Organization are subjected to the use of UAVs by foreign states, for peacekeeping operations. We share the AU's opinion about the UVAs: we require more transparency about the reasons and the purposes of armed foreign UAVs' presence on African soil.

Additionally a member of the AU takes advantage of unarmed UAVs for non-military reasons: the United Nations (UN) through the Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) helps DRC with some of them to protect civilians through the surveillance of the movements of the terroristic group M23. They also control problems like deforestation and drug trafficking. This solution has proved to be really effective.

Description of the issue

Since UAVs are a new technology, there are several concerns regarding them. One of the main ones is about national sovereignty: it is not clear if a foreign drone within a country's boundary represents a threat to its sovereignty. Additionally, many countries possessing a UAVs program are not clear about it: they do not reveal actual amount of their stockpile and they lack of transparency when utilizing them.

Another important matter at hand is that, when UAVs are used in conflicts, they present serious flaws in terms of accuracy: their strikes usually kill not only the target, but also a great amount of innocent people, civilians.

However, UAVs are employed also for non-military purposes. In Japan, for instance, they are employed in farmers' property, since they can move faster and more efficiently than other agricultural machineries and they make possible to know the current state of the field and so whether there is the need for any intervention, and then, in a few minutes, they can fertilize and irrigate the soil.

Solutions

We believe that when used as weapons, UAVs, both armed and unarmed, have to be considered

part of a country's army. Article 5 of the Montevideo Convention on the Rights and Duties of States declares: "The fundamental rights of states are not susceptible of being affected in any manner whatsoever" and Article 8: "No state has the right to intervene in the internal or external affairs of another". Therefore we believe that their presence within another state's boundaries without permission and during peaceful times is to be considered an act that undermines the territorial integrity and political independence of a State, which is a clear breach of Article 2 paragraph 4 of the UN Charter. On the other hand, if there is a deal between two or more states, the use of this technology within each other's territory is to be considered legal, both in military and non-military contexts. However, if a UAV flies in a route not included in any deal, before counterattacking, the affected country should establish whether it is actually an act of force or if the drone has been forced to fly out of the flight path because of outer elements.

Concerning the aforementioned problem of UAVs accuracy, we think that the UN should establish international unbreakable standards for precision and destructiveness of armed UAVs.

Furthermore, in order to show more transparency regarding UAVs, we believe that every Member of the UN should disclose the amount and the kind, armed and unarmed, of drones that it possesses. Moreover UAVs should be equipped with an identification system that provides information about their nature and belonging.

We believe that many uses for civil purposes of UAVs should be improved. For instance, an international UAV program could be created for searching and rescuing in the aftermath of natural disasters, like earthquakes and tsunamis. UAVs can be used to control damaged places that are not reachable by humans and, in addition to that, they can provide medical aid by transporting medicines and little first aid machinery like defibrillators. Moreover they can help delivering cures in places afflicted by infective diseases, such as Malaria and Ebola, which affect nowadays many countries in the world, especially poor and less developed areas like. By actualizing an international aid program with UAVs many poor countries could benefit of them, when they need them, even if

they cannot afford them.

Another way to employ UAVs for the international welfare is in agriculture. As explained before, they could be useful in case of lack of rainfalls or if there is an infestation to protect and preserve some species of plants.

II. Establishing a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in the Middle East

Introduction

Nuclear technology is one of the main concerns of the international community, since nuclear weapons are Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) and their effects on population and environment are devastating, as clearly shown by the facts of World War II.

In order to curb this threat, the United Nations (UN) started to establish Nuclear Weapon Free Zones (NWFZ) in the most sensitive areas. A NWFZ is a specific area that cannot house or create nuclear weapons. This kind of action has been one of the most successful in the fight against nuclear proliferation.

The establishment of NWFZs was permitted by several multilateral treaties that have been established by the international community, among them the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which Secretary-General of the UN, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, defined as “one of the most important multilateral accords in history, [...] the cornerstone of the world's nuclear non-proliferation regime” (“Address to the 2010 NPT Review Conference”).

The current goal of the UN is to establish a NWFZ in the Middle East, due to the current situation in that region. Despite of this, some countries there have not signed or ratified some of the aforementioned treaties and they oppose the NWFZ.

Policy of São Tomé and Príncipe

São Tomé and Príncipe does not possess and has never produced nuclear technology, in fact we

have accessed the NPT and we have signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the Treaty of Pelindaba, which establishes a NWFZ in Africa and which entered into force on 15 July 2009. In creating the latter, the main problem was that some states at first refused to ratify the treaty unless the situation in the Middle East was solved.

We are also a party of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) which seeks to give member States more independence in world politics in order to avoid becoming pawns under the major powers. Therefore we share the NAM's position and our top priority is the nuclear disarmament, because of the perilous danger posed by the existence of nuclear weapons, as stated by Mr. Natalegawa at the General Debate of the 2014 NPT Preparatory Committee.

Description of the issue

The first proposal of a NWFZ in the Middle East occurred in 1974 due to Iran and Egypt, but the issue has been discussed for long time, and nowadays it is still unresolved.

The main problem is that in the Middle East not every country is a party of the Non-Proliferation Treaty or the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and so it is not legally bound to non-proliferation. These countries have not expressed their opinion about nuclear disarmament in the area.

However most of the countries in this area and the UN have been working to overcome this obstacle and they have tried to find a common ground of negotiation. Following the Arab Spring, between 2011 and 2013, several States in the Middle East faced armed revolutions which caused in some cases the fall of the government and political situation in the area is still uncertain. Due to that negotiations were forced to stop and there was no positive development of the situation.

Solutions

One of the main obstacles in establishing a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in the Middle East is the lack of transparency showed by some countries about their nuclear programs. Therefore São Tomé and Príncipe encourages the states that have not signed any non-proliferation treaty yet to take it

into consideration or to make an agreement with the UN to clarify their position and in this way to better support international peace and security, which are the first purposes of this Organization.

In addition, we wish to draw the attention of this Committee to another great obstacle in achieving nuclear disarmament in the Middle East: the lack of dialogue between the involved countries. In its sixty-seventh session on 3 December 2012, the General Assembly noted “ the importance of the on-going bilateral Middle East peace negotiations and the activities of the multilateral Working Group on Arms Control and Regional Security in promoting mutual confidence and security in the Middle East, including the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone” (A/RES/67/28 2). Therefore we firmly believe that a meeting among these states should take place, and they should meet in a country not directly involved. We think that the most befitting place for the meeting would be one of the five nuclear weapon states or a state that has completely dismantled its nuclear program. Particularly we encourage a meeting in South Africa, which relinquished completely its nuclear stockpiles around the 1990s.

We firmly believe this situation should be solved as soon as possible since a nuclear disarmament in the Middle East would be a huge step toward achieving international peace and security, which is a goal every country should be interested in.

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