



**CHAIR OF
THE COORDINATING BUREAU
OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT**



**STATEMENT BY THE CHAIR OF THE COORDINATING
BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT**

**at the General Assembly Informal Meeting on the occasion of the
International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons**

New York, 26 September 2016

Mr President,

At the outset, I would like to thank you for convening this meeting to commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. I also extend my gratitude to Mr. Secretary General for his participation in this meeting an opening statement.

Excellencies, distinguished Delegated,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

The annual observance of this International Day is one of the effective ways to focus international public attention on the dangers of nuclear weapons and the advantages of nuclear disarmament for development as well as for international peace and security. In this regard, we reaffirmed the Movement's principled positions on nuclear disarmament, which remains its highest priority in the field of disarmament and international security.

We express our concern because of the greatest threat to humanity face: the continued existence of nuclear weapons and its possible use or threat of use. The Movement is deeply concern over the slow pace of progress towards nuclear



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disarmament and the Nuclear-Weapon States (NWS) lack of accomplishment with the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals.

Indeed, as long as nuclear weapons exist, the risk of their uses, threat of use and proliferation persist. Any use of nuclear weapons is a violation of the UN Charter and a crime against humanity. It is an established fact that any use of nuclear weapons would produce catastrophic humanitarian consequences. The only absolute guarantee against the use of nuclear weapons is their total elimination.

NAM reaffirms the need for urgent concrete and oriented actions by the NWS to achieve this goal in accordance with their nuclear disarmament legal obligations and commitments. NWS have the primary responsibility for nuclear disarmament.

We also reiterate with concern, that improvements in existing nuclear weapons and the development of new types of nuclear weapons as provided for in the military doctrines of some NWS violate their legal obligations on nuclear disarmament, as well as the commitments made to diminish the role of nuclear weapons in their military and security policies and contravene the negative security assurances provided by the NWS. We stress once again that these improvements as well as the development of new types of such weapons violate also the commitments undertaken at the time of the conclusion of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and at the NPT Review Conferences by the NWS.

NAM member States, pursuant to United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/34, supports the urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament for the early conclusion of a comprehensive Convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use and to provide for their destruction. In this regard, NAM also supports the General Assembly's decision to convene, no later than 2018, a United Nations High- Level International Conference on nuclear disarmament to review progress made in the field of nuclear disarmament.

The international community is waiting for the realization of the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons. There is urgent need to make concrete and systematic progress towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons. It is time to take a new and comprehensive approach on nuclear disarmament.



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To conclude, NAM would like to welcome UN meetings and activities for the commemoration of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September, and we appreciate the participation of all delegations in this important meeting. We invite Member States, the UN system and the civil society, including non-governmental organizations, academia, parliamentarians, the mass media and individuals, to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons through all means of educational and public awareness-raising activities. We also express our commitment to work together with the objective that the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons becomes one of the effective ways to focus international public attention on the dangers of nuclear weapons and the advantages of nuclear disarmament for development as well as for international peace and security.

I thank you Mr. President.

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