



BRAZIL

Meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

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Statement by

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(check against delivery)

Mr. President,

I thank you for convening this meeting. I would also like to recall the efforts that made the establishment of this International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons possible, in which the Non-Aligned Movement performed the leading role.

Brazil aligns itself with the statement delivered by Ecuador on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Mr. President,

The risks and consequences of nuclear weapons have been highlighted in an extensive and scientific way by the Conferences on the Humanitarian Impacts of Nuclear Weapons. We note with satisfaction that this process brought about a renewed awareness of the long-lasting, devastating and indiscriminate effects of nuclear arms and of the need to eliminate them as the only guarantee against their use.

One is baffled as to how the nuclear status quo can be so resilient in the face of so much evidence against it.

Mr. President,

The mentality that drove two world powers to threaten the future of civilization is based on doctrines of nuclear deterrence and strategic "stability". The Cold War is over for more than twenty years, but nuclear competition between a few powers continues to create resistance to nuclear disarmament in the name of alleged security needs.

Taking a different path, several countries have consistently demonstrated that a State's security must not be achieved to the detriment of others'. The establishment of Nuclear Weapons Free Zones demonstrate that it is possible to renounce nuclear weapons and, in doing so, increase, rather than diminish, collective security. This lesson is yet to be learned by countries that, while mindful of the disastrous effects of any use of nuclear weapons, continue to trumpet the virtues of those weapons and of nuclear deterrence. Those countries remain indifferent to the fact that, if others were to follow their reasoning, proliferation and increased instability would ensue.

It is distressing to acknowledge the procrastination of negotiations, whereby sound aspirations are turned down by alleged lack of conditions to realize them. This was demonstrated in the last NPT Review Conference, where the refusal of nuclear-weapon States to fulfill their disarmament commitments has frustrated the vast majority of the membership and further strained the Treaty's credibility. The failure to adopt an outcome document of the Conference, even after compromises on the part of non-nuclear-weapon States, is yet another sign of this worrying state of things, which weakens the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

In this context, Brazil hopes that the upcoming session of the First Committee will fulfill its task of promoting international peace and security, picking up where both the NPT and the Humanitarian Process left off and taking concrete steps towards developing the effective measures necessary for nuclear disarmament – especially a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons to oversee the transparent, verifiable and irreversible elimination of all nuclear arsenals. The 2018 UN High-Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament, called for by the same UN Resolution that established this International Day, would be the most appropriate venue to follow through with such measures.

Brazil echoes the words of His Holiness Pope Francis, delivered some days ago at this plenary: "An ethics and a law based on the threat of mutual destruction – and possibly the destruction of all mankind – are self-contradictory and an affront to the entire framework of the United Nations, which would end up as 'nations united by fear and distrust'". The nuclear status-quo may seem comfortable to some, but it is increasingly clear to the majority of the world that, given the risks involved, the price of inaction cannot be afforded.

Thank you.