



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



Statement by

H.E. Dr. Javad Zarif

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran

on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement

**at the General Assembly Meeting to Promote the International Day
for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons**

New York, 30 September 2015

In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

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

Mr. President,

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 and opening statement.

We in the Non-Aligned Movement regard nuclear disarmament as the highest priority in the field of disarmament and international security. The reason is clear. Nuclear weapons pose the greatest threat to humanity. We are deeply concerned over their continued existence and the lack of progress by the nuclear-weapon States to fulfill their multilateral legal obligations on nuclear disarmament. We strongly urge the nuclear-weapon States to comply with this long overdue legal obligation.

Nuclear-weapon States have the primary responsibility for nuclear disarmament. Moreover, modernization of nuclear weapons as provided for in the military doctrines of some

nuclear-weapon States violates their legal obligation on nuclear disarmament. These should therefore be stopped.

Indeed, as long as nuclear weapons exist, the risk of their use, 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.

The international community has waited too long for the realization of the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons. The limitations of the step-by-step approach are more apparent than before, and there is urgent need for the international community to make concrete and systematic progress towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Forward movement on nuclear disarmament cannot be held hostage to progress on non-proliferation or the perceived notions of strategic stability. It is time to take a new and comprehensive approach on nuclear disarmament.

At the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, which was held at the initiative of the Non-Aligned Movement, strong support was expressed for taking urgent and effective measures towards nuclear disarmament including through a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons. In this context, we call for the urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons.

Mr. President,

A major purpose of the designation of 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons is to focus international attention on the dangers of nuclear weapons and the utmost importance of nuclear disarmament as a global imperative. This day also provides an occasion for member States to reaffirm their commitment to achieving nuclear disarmament. In conclusion, Non-Aligned Movement registers its appreciation to all delegations for their participation in this important meeting of the General Assembly.

I thank you, Mr. President.