

# ARGENTINA



## Debate General

*Intervención del Embajador Eduardo ZUAIN*

*Viceministro de Relaciones Exteriores de la República Argentina*

***“Día Internacional para la Eliminación Total de las Armas Nucleares”***

Nueva York, 30 de septiembre de 2015  
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## General Debate

*Statement by Ambassador Eduardo Zuain,*

*Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Argentine Republic*

***“International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons”***

New York, 30 September 2015  
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Misión Permanente de la  
**República Argentina**  
Naciones Unidas

Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto

Versión en inglés

My Delegation fully subscribed to the Statement made by Ecuador, on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). However, I would like to point out some concepts from the national perspective.

Argentina has traditionally assigned a high priority to the issue of nuclear disarmament and has made important efforts in this matter, as reflection of a clear and sustained compromise with a world free of nuclear weapons.

In our country's view, Weapons of mass destruction constitute one of the main sources of threats to global stability and in this framework that Argentina has ratified the Treaty on the Non Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which we consider the cornerstone of the disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

As we refer to the NPT, we must keep in mind that it is a security Treaty, and that security must be provided equally to every State of the international community. As long as nuclear weapons exist, that becomes impossible

In this sense, we regret the lack of consensus in the last Review Conference of the NPT which took place this year, making impossible the adoption of a final document.

My country considers that it is necessary and urgent to advance towards the objective of nuclear disarmament, achieving the total and general elimination of nuclear

weapons. As the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) has pointed out, the continued existence of nuclear weapons and their possible use, represent a threat against humanity. The complete elimination of nuclear weapons constitutes the only guarantee against weapons whose potential use by any State, within or outside the Non Proliferation Treaty, would have irreparable humanitarian consequences.

Facing this scenario, the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), whose ratification of key actors is necessary, cannot be postponed. As an expression of our compromise with the CTBT and its implementation, Argentina takes part through its Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Hector Timerman of the Group of Eminent Personalities, whose main purpose is to contribute with Dr. Zerbo, the Provisional Secretary of the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO, to promote its entry into force.

We deeply regret the stagnation of the Conference of Disarmament and firmly believe that the necessary political will must be demonstrated in order to leave behind the existing situation in this body.

Argentina also calls the attention regarding the absence of guarantees by the Nuclear Weapons States that they are not going to use those weapons against countries that renounced to possess them. In the case of the Latin-American and Caribbean region, we have to recall that nuclear weapons keep their interpretative declarations to Protocols I and II of Tlatelolco Treaty, declarations that dilute the legal scope

obligations regarding military denuclearized zone, and constitute in practice real reservations, which are forbidden by the Treaty.

My country has a long record and experience in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Argentina has re-launched its civilian nuclear program in 2006, based on the recognition of the production of nuclear energy as a key factor for inclusive development. This vision is not only sustained by the application of nuclear energy for industrial growth, but also, for example, by its application in the field of public health. In this way, a pacific, social and solidarity-based vision of the uses of nuclear energy is assured.

We believe that only on the basis of the total elimination of nuclear weapons that we will be able to achieve a safer world for all. The total elimination of these weapons of mass destruction must be the central priority of the international community, due to the fact that its consequences exceed the field of disarmament in itself and have a severe impact in the field of international peace and security, as well as in people's development.

The only guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is their total elimination.

Thank you very much.