
Conference on Disarmament

12 October 2015
English
Original: Spanish

Note verbale, dated 12 October 2015, to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament from the Permanent Mission of Cuba, transmitting a declaration of the People's National Assembly of the Republic of Cuba regarding the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cuba to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to Mr. Michael Møller, Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament, and has the honour to attach herewith the Declaration of the People's National Assembly of the Republic of Cuba relating to the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

The Permanent Mission of Cuba requests that the above-mentioned Declaration be published as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.



Declaration calling for the prohibition and total elimination of nuclear weapons

In the light of the commemoration, on 26 September 2015, of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and of the seventieth anniversary of the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we, the members of the International Relations Committee of the People's National Assembly of the Republic of Cuba, once again urgently call for the prohibition of nuclear weapons and their total elimination from the face of the earth.

We call on all parliaments throughout the world to promote and support actions designed to achieve this important objective.

There are currently nearly 16,000 nuclear weapons on our planet, over 4,000 of which are ready for immediate use. The use or threat of use of these armaments, under any circumstances, constitutes a violation of international law and of the Charter of the United Nations, and a crime against humanity.

We recall that, in 1996, the International Court of Justice unanimously concluded that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

We support the immediate launch of multilateral negotiations for the swift conclusion of a convention to prohibit the possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer and use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and to provide for their destruction.

Such a convention could be adopted at a high-level international conference of the United Nations on nuclear disarmament, to be held in 2018, at the very latest.

We, as Cuban parliamentarians, are proud to live in a nuclear-weapon-free region, which formally proclaimed itself as a zone of peace during the Second Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, held in Havana on 29 January 2014.

We recall that the historic leader of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro Ruz, has championed the struggle for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass extermination.

When reflecting on the need for a better world, free of nuclear weapons, he wisely stated that:

“People have the duty to demand of political leaders the right to live. When the lives of humankind, one's people and one's loved ones are in such danger, no one can afford the luxury of remaining indifferent nor of wasting one minute of time in demanding respect for that right. Tomorrow will be too late.”

**International Relations Committee of the
People's National Assembly of the Republic of Cuba**

22 September 2015