



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



**STATEMENT ON BEHALF
OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT**

**THE HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
TO COMMEMORATE AND PROMOTE
THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE TOTAL ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

New York, 28 September 2021

Mr. President,

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of 120 Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement at the high-level meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.
2. At the outset, we would like to express our appreciation to the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid for convening this meeting and to the Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. António Guterres for his participation.

Mr. President,

3. The Non-Aligned Movement welcomes the commemoration of 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, designated through the United Nations General Assembly resolution 68/32. The Movement considers the annual observance of this International Day as one of the effective ways to draw the attention of the international public on dangers of nuclear weapons, the necessity for their total elimination and the advantages of nuclear disarmament for development, as well as for international peace and security.
4. Nuclear disarmament historically has been the highest priority for the Movement, and we reiterate our concern over the threat to humanity posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and their possible use or threat of use.
5. In this regard, we emphasize that the convening of the United Nations High-level International Conference on Nuclear Disarmament, as mandated by the General Assembly resolutions, would provide an important opportunity to review progress made in nuclear disarmament and to further promote this noble objective.

Mr. President,

6. During the XVIII Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in October 2019, in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, the Heads of State and Government of the Movement stressed that progress in nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects is essential to strengthening international peace and security. They also stressed the importance of ensuring that efforts aimed at nuclear non-proliferation are parallel to the efforts aimed at nuclear disarmament.



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Mr. President,

7. As long as nuclear weapons exist, the risk of their use or threat of use, as well as their proliferation persists. Any use of nuclear weapons is a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and considering the catastrophic humanitarian consequences, the only and absolute guarantee against the use of nuclear weapons is their total elimination.
8. The slow progress towards nuclear disarmament and the Nuclear-Weapon States' lack of progress to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, in accordance with their relevant multilateral legal obligations, remain to be issues of deep concern to the Non-Aligned Movement. We reaffirm the need for the Nuclear-Weapon States that bear the primary responsibility for nuclear disarmament, to take urgent and concrete actions aimed at achieving this goal.
9. The Non-Aligned Movement further reiterates 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, including the United States Nuclear Posture Review, 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. The Movement stresses 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 Conference by the NWS.

Mr. President,

10. It is time to take a new and comprehensive approach on nuclear disarmament. The international community is waiting for the realization of the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons. There is an urgent need to make concrete and systematic progress towards this end.
11. The Non-Aligned Movement welcomes the convening of the First Session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction according to the General Assembly Decision 73/546, held from 18 November to 22 November 2019 at United Nations Headquarters in New York and adoption of a Political Declaration and its Final Report. Member States of the Movement look forward to the Second Session of the Conference and continue to call upon all States of the region, without exception, to actively participate in this Conference and negotiate in good faith and bring to a conclusion a legally-binding Treaty on the establishment of the Zone. The Movement also stresses that the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the NPT, as well as other relevant decisions on the subject, adopted within the context of the Review Conferences, remain valid until the objective of the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East is achieved and that the implementation of decision 73/546 is without prejudice to the validity of aforesaid resolution and decisions and shall not also be construed as their replacement.
12. At the same time, the Non-Aligned Movement States Parties to the NPT continue to express deep



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concern over long delay in the implementation of the Resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension conference calling for establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and strongly urge the UN Secretary-General and three co-sponsors of this resolution to fully implement it, without further delay, considering that the indefinite extension of the NPT is inextricably linked to the implementation of this resolution.

Mr. President,

13. Being a staunch proponent of multilateral diplomacy, the Non-Aligned Movement reiterate its determination to promote multilateralism as the core principle of negotiations in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. The Movement takes note of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 22 January 2021. It is hoped that the Treaty would contribute to furthering the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.
14. The Member States of the Movement reaffirm the importance of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral negotiating body on disarmament and call for the urgent commencement of negotiations therein on further effective nuclear disarmament measures to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons, including, in particular, on a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons. We further call for urgent compliance with legal obligations and the fulfillment of the commitments undertaken on nuclear disarmament.

Mr. President

15. To conclude, the Non-Aligned Movement welcomes the 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 event. 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.

I thank you, Mr. President.