



MISIÓN PERMANENTE DE MÉXICO

Remarks by the Secretary of Foreign Relations of Mexico, Dr. Luis Videgaray Caso, at the High-Level Meeting to promote and commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly

New York, 26 September 2018

Mr. President

Mexico has been a strong and committed promoter of multilateralism, as one of the 51 founding members of the UN, we have actively participated in each of its organs. In particular, we have especially advanced the nuclear disarmament agenda, by eradicating the threat derived from the existence of nuclear weapons is a fundamental priority from the very creation of this Organization. In this matter, the first resolution passed by the General Assembly dealt precisely with this issue.

Since then, México has raised its voice in favor of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons to achieve a safer and peaceful world. More than 50 years ago, after witnessing the threat of a nuclear confrontation in our region, Mexico promoted the landmark Treaty of Tlatelolco, which established the first nuclear weapon free zone in the world.

Mr. President

Commemorating the “International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons” reminds us of the importance of promoting a greater conscience within the international community. We cannot squander any efforts to eliminate this type of weapons. An intentional or accidental detonation would bring catastrophic consequences to all humanity, just as history has shown.

The adoption, in 2017, of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, has been an extraordinary step forward that contributes to the completion and strengthening of the existing nonproliferation and disarmament regime. Mexico promoted and signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which the Mexican Senate approved expeditiously. We were the fourth country to ratify and deposit the instrument of ratification at the UN.

In acknowledgement of our leadership, Mexico was invited to the ceremony to award the Nobel Peace Prize to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). We are mindful of the importance of prohibiting, in a definite manner, these weapons. We call on all States, without exception, to adhere to this treaty, in order to achieve its early entry into force.

Notwithstanding such progress, there are many reasons for concern: there are existing and emerging calls that justify and even promote the possession and use of nuclear weapons. The existence of nuclear weapon not only threatens international peace and security, but it also undermines great multilateral achievements, such as the 2030 Agenda. We cannot allow for the Sustainable Development Goals to be permanently threatened by:

- The possibility of the detonation of nuclear weapons.
- The arms race.
- The diversion of resources towards the modernization of weapons, in detriment of those used for investigation and development.

Mexico reiterates that a global security system that is robust, equitable, and that serves the interests of the international community, must be grounded on the basis of negotiation and dialogue, on international law, and on cooperation among States, not on the possession of weapons of mass destruction. The use or threat of use of these weapons runs contrary to international law. It is a war crime that could create a devastating humanitarian impact.

All States must fulfill our commitments and obligations on nuclear disarmament, without any conditionality, to prevent these devastating consequences and undermine the nonproliferation and disarmament regime, upheld by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Mexico underlines the importance that States parties to the NPT, especially nuclear-weapon States, fulfill the obligations and commitments established the Treaty.

Regarding the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, Mexico extends its ample acknowledgment to those countries that advanced its negotiation, with a clear purpose to prohibit the development, testing, production, acquisition, possession, transference, and use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. The support of civil society was fundamental to achieve this Treaty. The NPT and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons are complementary and aim to achieve the same objective: a world free of nuclear weapons.

Mr. President

For Mexico, the only way to ensure the common future envisioned by the Secretary General is the proactive prevention of the threats posed by nuclear weapons. Their prohibition and elimination is the only guarantee that nuclear weapons will not be used, and will not be used as a threat, under strict international control.

Mexico has welcomed the initiative of the Secretary General to present the “Securing our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament”. We trust that it will contribute to promote a greater involvement and commitment of the international community in favor of disarmament, particularly in light of the risk of going backwards on the global efforts on this matter. We encourage the rest of the membership to envision disarmament as a prerequisite and a vehicle for peace, and that the actions under nuclear disarmament serve to save humanity, as proposed by the Secretary General.

Thank you.