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STATEMENT BY COLOMBIA VIRTUAL INFORMAL HIGH LEVEL MEETING TO COMMEMORATE AND PROMOTE THE INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST NUCLEAR TEST

Delivered by
Ambassador Andrés Rugeles Pineda
Deputy Permanent Representative

New York, August 26, 2020

Madam President,

Colombia welcomes the commemoration of this International Day against Nuclear Tests.

History has shown its catastrophic effects.

The basic principles of humanity and the delicate balance of our environment cannot, and never should, endure a nuclear weapons test explosions and any other nuclear explosions.

We are convinced of the need of combined efforts by the international community to promote and enhance public awareness and education of the current and future generations about the devastating and harmful consequences posed by them.

Madam President,

Disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons are constitutional mandates in Colombia and principles of our foreign policy.

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Therefore, my country advocates for general and complete disarmament.

Furthermore, I would like to highlight that Latin America became the world's first nuclear-weapons-free-zone in a densely populated region.

We are proud that our Zone of Peace remains a model for regional nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

We are convinced of the need for the cessation of nuclear tests as one of the key means of achieving the goal of a nuclear-weapons-free world.

Therefore, every effort should be made by the international community to promote the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty and its universalization.

Madam President,

2020 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the twenty-fifth of its indefinite extension.

Putting an end to nuclear explosions contributes to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects, as well as to advancing in the process of nuclear disarmament.

It helps to protect the environment from the catastrophic effects of nuclear testing, and to release resources that could be devoted to the economic and social development.

My country believes that this International Day is a valuable testimony of our shared objective of a general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

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It illustrates our determination of fulfilling the promise to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.

To conclude, Colombia would like to reiterate its unwavering commitment with the three main pillars of the UN.

We need to preserve international peace and security, to enhance sustainable development, and to promote human rights. All of them are interlinked.

As humankind we should always learn from our history and mistakes.

If we do not remember the past, we are inexorably condemned to repeat it.

Thank you.