



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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STATEMENT BY

MS. CHARLENE ROOPNARINE
FIRST SECRETARY

ON

THEMATIC CLUSTER: NUCLEAR WEAPONS

FIRST COMMITTEE
SEVENTIETH SESSION
OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK
OCTOBER 21, 2015.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Trinidad and Tobago aligns itself with the statement delivered by Jamaica on behalf of the Caribbean Community and Ecuador on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States. We also associate with the statement delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

This year, we observe seven decades of the founding of this institution, but this historic juncture has met the international community still unable to realize a founding goal of this organization - that of the maintenance of international peace and security, and to that end, to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to peace.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation advances that the threat of use of nuclear weapons is not only a threat to peace, and is therefore, incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, but the threat of use of nuclear weapons constitutes a crime against humanity and a violation of international law, including international humanitarian law.

Trinidad and Tobago remains convinced that it is only through the total elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction that international peace and security can be guaranteed.

We join others in advancing that the utilization of the nuclear option would have more severe humanitarian and other consequences for peoples of the world, than what was observed in 1945. We therefore call for the denuclearization of all regions of the world and are proud to belong to a region which established the first Nuclear Weapons Free Zone pursuant to the Treaty of Tlateloco, which established the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Additionally Mr. Chairman, as a firm believer in the rule of law, Trinidad and Tobago reiterates that Treaty obligations are sacred and must be carried out fully and effectively. Consequently, we request all States Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty ("NPT") to honour their obligations which flow from this Instrument.

Additionally, Mr. Chairman, my country views the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty ("CTBT") as a complementary instrument to the NPT as it provides the last and most visible barrier against nuclear weapons testing. We continue to urge ratification by the remaining Annex II countries to enable its early entry into force.

Mr. Chairman,

Trinidad and Tobago considers the outcome of the 2015 NPT RevCon to be the Humanitarian Pledge, which represents a commitment of more than 100 States to work for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons.

In another display of unity and charting a clear vision on nuclear disarmament, the Heads of States of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean State issued a declaration fully supporting the outcomes of the Third International Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons in Vienna last December and formally endorsed the Humanitarian Pledge.

For this, Trinidad and Tobago is well-pleased.

As a Small Island State, we view the possibility of a nuclear detonation, whether by design or by accident, as an existential horror. We are extremely concerned about the humanitarian impact and the long term consequences of a possible nuclear detonation on public health, food security, social services, infrastructure, environmental assets and the psychological well-being of citizens.

Trinidad and Tobago reiterates the urgency voiced by CARICOM for the negotiation and adoption of a universally and legally binding instrument prohibiting the possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons.

In this Committee, my delegation supports proposals and resolutions for negotiations of a treaty banning nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

While we recognize the right of States to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, Trinidad and Tobago continues to be gravely concerned by the use of the Caribbean Sea as a route for the transportation of nuclear and hazardous waste which could prove catastrophic to the sustainable development of our region if an accident occurs as a result of transportation of such materials. We, therefore, call upon the States involved in this practice to enhance dialogue on this through relevant agencies, including the IAEA.

Finally Mr. Chairman,

After four decades of the entry into force of the NPT, the moment is upon us to make critical decisions about the place of nuclear power in the world. We recognize that any decisions we take now, or decisions we fail to implement, will shape our future for generations to come. It is critical that the line between prohibited and permitted nuclear activities is finally drawn, clearly and irrevocably.

I thank you.