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United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination

New York, 27-31 March and 15 June-7 July 2017

Agenda item 8 (b)

General exchange of views: general exchange of views on all matters

Note verbale dated 20 June 2017 from the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination, and has the honour to attach herewith the text of the statement adopted by the United Nations Association of Cuba, reflecting the position of 105 Cuban civil society organizations with respect to the conference (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations kindly requests that the present note and its annex be circulated as a document of the conference.



Annex to the note verbale dated 20 June 2017 from the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination

Statement by the United Nations Association of Cuba on the occasion of the second session of the United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination

The United Nations Association of Cuba and the 105 civil society organizations that belong to it support negotiations, within the framework of the United Nations, on an international legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination.

The conclusion of such a legally binding agreement would demonstrate the political will of States to build a world of peace, consistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

The dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the United States of America in August 1945 showed the destructive and devastating power of nuclear weapons as well as their terrible consequences for the environment and human health in subsequent years. However, there are still 15,000 nuclear weapons, despite the humanitarian, economic, environmental and legal reasons against using nuclear energy for military purposes.

The persistence of nuclear weapons, the development of new technologies and the increase in their destructive capacity are among the major threats to international peace and security and to the well-being of future generations.

We recall that the first General Assembly resolution in 1946 sought to limit the use of atomic energy to peaceful purposes. Seventy-one years later, there is still an urgent need to achieve nuclear disarmament in order to save future generations from the threat of the use of these weapons.

Cuban civil society organizations support the right of States to use atomic energy for peaceful purposes and the sustainable development of peoples.

The considerable economic resources channelled into the production, modernization, preservation and security of nuclear arsenals could be used to help solve the problems currently facing humankind, and would promote international cooperation and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

All nuclear arsenals must be irreversibly destroyed in a transparent manner, and in compliance with all existing security standards, in order to guarantee the preservation of the environment and human health.

We urge all States to heed the voices of their people calling for the prohibition and total elimination of nuclear weapons through a legally binding instrument, and to participate constructively in these negotiations.

Cuban civil society organizations hope for a successful outcome of these negotiations with the early adoption of a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination.