Over the past seventy years, nuclear weapons have been tested on more than 2,000 occasions—in the atmosphere, underground and underwater. The toll on human life, and consequent death and destruction, as well as environmental contamination through radiation has been staggering. Decades after nuclear tests, many affected territories around the world remain hazardous and unfit for human habitation, agriculture or economic development.

Convinced that every effort should be made to end nuclear tests, the United Nations General Assembly, in its 64th session, declared 29 August as the International Day against Nuclear Tests through the unanimous adoption of its resolution 64/35 on 2 December 2009.

In keeping with this commitment, the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Peter Thomson, will convene a half-day meeting to mark the observance of this International Day, on 30 August at UN Headquarters, New York.

The President of the General Assembly will deliver opening remarks and the Secretary-General will provide a message, followed by a plenary debate. Member States are expected to speak for no more than three minutes. There will be no predetermined speakers list and delegations will speak from the floor. Member States are invited to participate at the highest possible level. The meeting is also open to UN agencies, international organizations, the private sector, civil society and the media.

Those without a UN Grounds Pass interested in this event should contact: kemburi@un.org by Friday, 25 August.