

POINTS FOR UNODA REMARKS AT THE OBSERVANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE TOTAL ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

- The total elimination of nuclear weapons from the face of the Earth is not just a noble goal but an ultimate obligation for guaranteeing meaningful international peace and security.
- Used only twice in the history of humanity, nuclear weapons have proven to be the most dangerous and the only category of weapons of mass destruction that the international community has not yet succeeded in outlawing.
- Although the NWS have made efforts in reducing their nuclear arsenals from over 80,000 at the peak of the Cold War down to some 22,000 recently, everyone agrees that as long as this category of weapons exists, international peace and security will continue to be threatened.
- No single country possessing nuclear weapons can boast that such weapons are securely stored since we know that accidents can occur, and the risk for nuclear weapons to fall in the hands of terrorists are also a high possibility.
- Security doctrines based on nuclear weapons have also proven to be untenable as such doctrines fail to take into account the fact that in our modern civilization warfare should not be equated to the annihilation of generations of the human species -- which a nuclear detonation is capable of orchestrating.
- The United Nations, from its inception in 1945, has been grappling with nuclear disarmament: in addition to the multitude of resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, the Secretary-General has deployed efforts in various forms including reports and statements calling for nuclear disarmament and proposing possible ways and means of achieving it. This has included most recently in 2009, his Five-point Plan to rid the world of nuclear Bombs.
- Devoting an International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons is the right path to greater mobilization of the international community for nuclear disarmament. It is a collective responsibility that involves all generations in every society.
- UNODA is pleased to support not just the efforts of Member States but also the contribution of the civil society organizations to accelerate efforts for the achievement of nuclear disarmament. Partners such as UNFOLD ZERO and the Basel

Peace Mission must be commended in the organization of the festivities for this important Day.