

Remarks by
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Costa Rica has spearheaded the issue of disarmament since the abolishment of the army in 1948. Since then, we have been a peaceful country that believes in the negotiation between states and the international law as our defense doctrines and has promoted disarmament in all areas, including the recent Arms Trade Treaty.

Costa Rica and Malasia were the first countries to propose a Model Convention on nuclear weapons in 2007, for the elimination of nuclear weapons and its verification. For many years, it was a Costa Rican, Gioconda Ubeda, who as the Secretary General of OPANAL, a Latin American and Caribbean entity that promotes nuclear disarmament and governs the Treaties of Tlatelolco, strongly promoted the objectives of the nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZ).

About that, I want to underscore that next year it will be the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Tlateloco, which it shows, to all international community, that living without nuclear weapon is possible and a right.

On January 2015, Chiefs of State and Government of Latinamerica and the Caribbean expressed their commitment with the beginning of a diplomatic multilateral process in order to negotiate a legally binding instrument for the prohibition of nuclear weapons, leading towards their future elimination. Costa Rica also signed the “Humanitarian Pledge” along with other 126 countries.

On August 19 the UN Open-Ended Working Group on nuclear disarmament adopted a report. This Working Group recommended, with widespread support, the commencement of negotiations on a legally binding instrument for the prohibition of nuclear weapons, leading towards their future elimination, at the conference in the UN General Assembly in 2017. It also recommended various measures that may contribute to taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, and the elaboration of effective legal measures, legal provisions and norm to maintain a nuclear-weapon-free world.

In Costa Rica 56 out of 57 Parliamentarians have signed to become members of PNND and 3 motions have been approved in the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica:

1) September 25th 2014

We welcomed the decision of the United Nations to set September 26 as the International Day for the total elimination of nuclear weapons and encouraged parliaments and parliamentarians worldwide to join with civil society, the United Nations and governments to observe this day annually and act to achieve a world without nuclear weapons.

2) August 6th 2015

For the plenary to observe a minute of silence in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the launch of the atomic bomb on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

3) August 8th 2016

To support the Government of Costa Rica, in the call that it has done with other Governments at the United Nations to support the holding of a conference in 2017, in order to negotiate a legally binding instrument to ban nuclear weapons, leading towards their future elimination.

My country is in the otherside of the world and is very small if I compare to it to Kazakhstan. But both countries understood that the road to a nuclear weapon free world means safety and security for our population, environment and the preservation of our culture.