



Disarmament and International Security Committee/ First Committee, 80th Session, United Nations

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Chair, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy and the UN office for the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms, I thank you for this opportunity.

The **International Court of Justice** in its **1996 Advisory Opinion**, affirmed that the threat or use of nuclear weapons would *generally* be contrary to the principles and rules of international humanitarian law — in particular the principles of distinction, proportionality, and unnecessary suffering.

The Court also affirmed that **there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiation leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control**. This obligation, restated in **Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty** is not aspirational — it is legally binding.

Yet, instead of progress, we see new generations of warheads, delivery systems, and doctrines that expand the role of nuclear weapons in national security strategies. Such actions not only breach the spirit and letter of Article VI, they erode the very foundation of collective security that the UN Charter demands.

Nuclear risk today is being reshaped by technological acceleration and emerging technologies. Developments in **artificial intelligence, cyber warfare, quantum computing, hypersonic delivery systems, and autonomous weapons** are eroding human oversight and compressing decision timelines. These unregulated risks heighten the probability of nuclear use by accident or miscalculation.

It is, therefore, imperative that human judgment and control is preserved at every step.

Excellencies, the 80th anniversary of the United Nations coincides with the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Events that testify that no use of nuclear weapons could ever comply with international humanitarian law given their indiscriminate effects and catastrophic humanitarian consequences.

With each passing year, the message of the *Hibakushas* or the atomic bomb survivors only becomes louder and clearer that **humanity & nuclear weapons cannot co-exist**.

Yet, compassion and courage can. Therefore, Civil Society, around the world cooperated for collaborative action to commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons with a Joint Appeal that I present to you today. This Appeal, endorsed by over **1700 organizations and individuals** can be found on nuclearabolitionday.org, calls on member States to:

1. **Affirm** that the threat or use of nuclear weapons is inadmissible;
2. **Stand down** nuclear forces and adopt policies never to initiate a nuclear war;
3. **Commit** to eliminating nuclear weapons no later than the United Nation's 100th anniversary in 2045;
4. **Redirect** the billions spent on nuclear weapons to urgent global needs—peace, protection, and sustainable development—as envisioned in Article 26 of the UN Charter.

As the First Committee convenes its 80th session, we are reminded, **law, not force, must be the foundation of security.**

Excellencies, as I conclude, I humbly submit, the **choice** between elimination *of* nuclear weapons *over* annihilation *by* nuclear weapons is not a difficult one.

Let this 80th session be remembered not for hesitation or delay, but as **the moment** when humanity chose hope over fear, and disarmament over destruction—for our planet, our life, and future generations, yet to come.