

**STATEMENT OF THE DEPUTY JANETTE GUERRERO MAYA,
PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY
FOR THE TOTAL ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

September 26th, 2019.

Welcome to Jaqueline Cabasso, coordinator for North America of Majors for Peace with whom we have collaborated closely to strengthen the promotion of denuclearization from Mexico City. I am grateful for your presence in this venue on such an important day for world society towards this issue.

Companions:

Today, the world is immersed in a stage of tension like never before. While the nuclear threat has remained since the creation of the first weapon of its kind, the current international circumstances and dynamics require more attention and dialogue to contain the danger of their use.

Since its founding, the total elimination of nuclear weapons is one of the main objectives of the UN. It is not a coincidence that the first resolution adopted by the General Assembly in 1946, establishes the creation of a Commission to address atomic energy and to ensure its use only for peaceful purposes.

In addition, disarmament is at the heart of the collective security system established in the UN Charter and, for decades, its promotion had also been an important pillar of Mexican diplomacy which has positioned our country as one of the world's leading countries in the field.

Undoubtedly, this conviction of the Mexican State abroad must be reinforced and supported inland by both local governments and society in general.

To do so, we must begin by understanding that threats against the very existence of humanity that go even beyond the risks posed by climate change or internal conflicts remain in the world. The United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres has indicated in its disarmament agenda: "We are on the brink of a new Cold War", which implies an imminent danger against life on planet.

This treaty meant the creation of the first nuclear weapons free zone in a densely populated territory, with the prohibition in all Latin America and the Caribbean, the development, production, storage, possession, transfer, transit and use of such

weapons. This is with not doubt, a legacy from this region, from Mexico and Mexico City to the world, in the peace building efforts.

We must not forget, in addition, that the SDG 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development considers in its specific goals the disarmament and the prohibition of certain kinds of weapons. According to the UN, today there are still around fourteen thousand nuclear weapons in the world ready to be used, besides, the possessing countries continue financing programmes to modernize their arsenals.

For the aforementioned, we can not remain oblivious, much less uninformed about the nuclear threat. Further, as Mexicans, but also as Mexico City inhabitants, we must recognize and feel proud as this was the land where, signed by its States parties in 1967, an Agreement of global relevance in the matter was concreated, and that bears the name of one of the most emblematic places of this city: the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

In addition, Mexico City's role as a global actor promoting denuclearization and culture of peace has been active in recent years. In 2009, Mexico City joined the international organization Mayors For Peace: the largest network of local governments committed to this cause. Also, it was the first city in Latin America and the Caribbean occupying a Vice Presidency of the organization.

This pacifist vocation of our country and of Mexico City -already embodied in our local Political Constitution- must be promoted from civil society, academia, the media and, of course, from the legislative branch.

It is important for Mexicans to assume our homeland's world leadership and to recognize today and every day the need to totally eliminate nuclear weapons to guarantee peace and permanence of humanity.