REMARKS

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY DR. GEORGE MANNEH WEAH
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

ON THE OCCASION
OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE TOTAL ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2020
MR. PRESIDENT,

Liberia is honored to partake in this High-Level Plenary of the General Assembly on the occasion of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, especially at a time when the United Nations has invested so much in global security and continues to have the responsibility to protect our world against nuclear disaster.

In this context, I would like to express my appreciation for the inspiring leadership of the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary General.

Liberia fully agrees with the positions of the African Group and the Non-Aligned Movement and wishes to emphasize the following perspectives.

MR. PRESIDENT,

Nuclear weapons remain the most destructive weapons ever created and the only weapons with devastating consequences. Nuclear weapons capabilities continue to be modernized and developed with deep implications for human survival. The achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals can be rendered useless by even a single nuclear incident. It is therefore necessary that we work towards the elimination of any possibility of this nature.

This is why Liberia was proud to join other countries in signing the Humanitarian Pledge against the use of nuclear weapons. We hope the realization remains strong that the use, or threat of the use of nuclear weapons, presents our universe with its most serious threat just as our collective will to act against that threat must be equally unwavering.

MR. PRESIDENT,

Liberia reaffirms that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only guarantee against their proliferation, use, or threat of use. The so-called step-by-step approach to nuclear disarmament requires serious consideration. Any further suggested steps in the area of nuclear nonproliferation that would entail further commitments by the non-nuclear-weapons States must be linked to a clear timeframe for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. We share the
responsibility to prevent the use of nuclear weapons, their proliferation and to achieve nuclear disarmament through fulfilling the objectives of the NPT.

The time has come for us to stigmatize and denounce nuclear weapons and the role of nuclear weapons in military doctrines and policy rhetoric of the Nuclear Weapon states. We also reiterate our concerns regarding arguments which set preconditions for the implementation of existing nuclear disarmament obligations.

**MR. PRESIDENT,**

Liberia shares the concern of many Member States that awareness of the impact of nuclear weapons must underpin all approaches and efforts towards nuclear disarmament.

We welcome the renewed commitment of the international community, together with the ICRC and international humanitarian organizations, to address the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons.

By raising awareness about this issue, civil society has a crucial role to play along with governments as we fulfil our responsibilities. We owe it to future generations to work together to do just that, and in doing so to rid our world of the threat posed by nuclear weapons.

**MR. PRESIDENT,**

Indeed, Liberia is committed to the peaceful use of nuclear energy. However, we believe our support for the total elimination of nuclear weapons reflects an urgent and reasonable priority in the search for universal peace and security. We will not ignore at our peril, the increasingly chilling and frightening consequences of the use of nuclear weapons. Like many represented in this hallowed halls, this real fear has emboldened us further to call on all States with nuclear weapons to not only fulfill all their obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty but also to reinvigorate dialogue and serious negotiations and return to a common vision leading towards nuclear disarmament.
MR. PRESIDENT,

We do not have to live with the threat of nuclear weapons. We know this to be possible. And we know we can do this for ourselves and for our children.

I thank you.