HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO
COMMEMORATE AND PROMOTE THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE
TOTAL ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Statement of

The Hon. Alan Ganoo

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Regional Integration and International Trade

28th September 2021
Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Nuclear weapons remain a persistent threat to humankind.

With more than thirteen thousand of such deadly weapons in existence, our planet will not survive if just a single one of them is used.

More efforts should be exerted globally to eliminate nuclear weapons and swap our resources towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The future we want is certainly not a perpetual menace of extinction. The horrors of 1945 should not occur again.

Mauritius solemnly re-affirms its principled position to continue supporting the cause against nuclear weapons. We are convinced that nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of nuclear weapons are the sole guarantees against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

One of the first international acts of independent Mauritius was the signature of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in July 1968, which we ratified a year later.

The NPT is the cornerstone of the UN disarmament structure. It has largely contributed in preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, weapon technology, and has enhanced peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Mauritius was among the first countries to ratify in 1996 the African Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Treaty, also known as the Pelindaba Treaty. In this treaty, nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy are firmly entrenched.

Another important instrument brokered under the UN auspices is the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons which entered into force early this year.

Both these treaties remain among the outstanding achievements of the United Nations.
Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The COVID-19 pandemic, Climate Change, and Extreme weather events are creating havoc the world over.

We simply cannot afford the tragedy of a nuclear confrontation.

On this day, let us all reaffirm our collective priority to meaningfully pursue global nuclear disarmament.

I thank you for your attention.

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