



Statement by  
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Permanent Representative of Samoa to the United Nations in New York

High-level Plenary Meeting to Commemorate and Promote the International Day  
for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons  
Tuesday, 28 September 2021

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Mr. President,

As we celebrate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, Samoa reaffirms its commitment to global nuclear disarmament in order to remove the threat posed to humanity.

Achieving global nuclear disarmament is one of the priority and oldest goals of the United Nations. It also remains an important long-standing issue for the Pacific Small Island Developing States. In the 1970s, Samoa and other founding members of the Pacific Island Forum provided a united stand against nuclear weapons testing in the Pacific region. As a result, the South Pacific Nuclear Weapons Free Zone, or the Rarotonga Treaty was established, which came into force in December 1986 and marked its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary in December 2020.

The Pacific Island Forum members “reaffirmed unity in their continued commitment to a nuclear free Pacific and a nuclear weapons-free world”. Our Blue Pacific region “further reaffirmed its determination for a region free of environmental pollution by radioactive wastes and other radioactive matter”. The Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General issued a statement earlier this year as the Depositary of the Rarotonga Treaty, regarding the

discharge of the Advanced Liquid Processing System (ALPS) Treated Water from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station into the Pacific Ocean. Such regional treaties play a crucial role in encouraging regional peace and stability, protection of our people and our natural resources, and the promotion of global disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. Samoa will continue to cooperate and coordinate with other Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, States, International Organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations to promote concrete actions to move us closer to achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world.

Further to our commitment to a peaceful world free of nuclear weapons, Samoa joined the first group of countries to sign the “Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons (TPNW)” in 2017. We welcome the Treaty’s entry into force on 22 January this year. Being part of such historical timelines is uplifting and empowering.

Samoa is also a party to many international agreements that have as their key objectives the abolition and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. This includes the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which marked its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary since its entry into force.

As a small Pacific Island State, Samoa cannot protect itself from the threat of nuclear weapons. Indeed, no nation can, regardless of size or wealth. Our only shield is the rule of law, international treaties and the vital protection they afford all States.

Mr. President,

We must be firm in our advocacy to remove the threat that nuclear weapons pose to our fragile Earth and not yield to the pressures of those who profit from the manufacturing, exporting and possession of these horrific weapons. The risk of an accidental use of nuclear weapons can have an immediate destructive effect, and irreversible impacts.

Prohibiting nuclear weapons, and ultimately eliminating them is the only way to guarantee that they will never be used again. It is the surest way to guarantee a safe and peaceful world. Nuclear energy should be used only for peaceful purposes in support of the social and economic development of all States, without any distinction.

We must work together in partnerships to accomplish global nuclear disarmament now.

Thank you.