



Republic of Cuba

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE:
HUMANITARIAN IMPACT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

OSLO, 4-5 MARCH 2013

Document presented by Cuba

Cuba welcomes the Norwegian government's initiative in calling this important conference, which we attend with the intention of contributing in every possible way to deeper understanding by the international community of the humanitarian dimension of the use of nuclear weapons.

The total elimination and banning of nuclear weapons is extensively supported at international level. However, progress towards this aim has been slow. Mankind continues to run a serious risk of annihilation, posed by the existence of over 19,000 nuclear weapons, including 4,400 currently in operational status, while 2,000 are ready for immediate use.

Deployment of a tiny fraction of the existing nuclear arsenal would result in nuclear winter, with catastrophic consequences for our planet. The latest research based on the nuclear winter theory has not only vindicated the ideas of the 1980s but has shown that the effects of using such weapons would persist for at least ten years - much longer than previously thought.

According to the new studies, a regional conflict involving the use of 100 bombs - just 0.5% of the warheads in the world - on cities and industrial areas, would generate enough smoke to spoil world agriculture and could cause deaths even in countries distant from the conflict. When heated by the sun, the smoke would rise and persist for years in the upper atmosphere, shading the sunlight and cooling the planet, with unpredictable consequences for the climate.

The Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the UN General Assembly on nuclear disarmament commented: *Mankind today is confronted with an unprecedented threat of self-extinction arising from the massive and competitive accumulation of the most destructive weapons ever produced. Existing arsenals of nuclear weapons alone are more than sufficient to destroy all life on earth*¹.

¹ Resolution adopted on the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Tenth Special Session. Final Document. S-10/2..

The use of nuclear weapons would be a flagrant violation of international rules regarding the prevention of genocide and safeguarding the environment. Cuba regards the use of nuclear weapons as totally immoral and unjustified under any concept or doctrine of national security.

The total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against their use or threat of use. It follows that the concept of 'nuclear deterrent' must be abandoned once and for all, since it implies permanent possession of such weapons: The use of nuclear weapons as the basis of military doctrine is untenable and unacceptable.

The Non-Aligned Movement has presented a proposal worthy of serious consideration, advocating the definition of a concrete timetable for the gradual reduction of nuclear weapons until their complete elimination and prohibition, no later than 2025.

Cuba attaches the highest priority to nuclear disarmament. Fidel Castro, the leader of the Cuban Revolution, has repeatedly denounced the threat to the survival of the human race posed by the existence of nuclear weapons.

In December 2012, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution, proposed initially by Cuba and endorsed by the NAM, that convenes a High Level Meeting on nuclear disarmament to be held on 26 September 2013. This will be the first General Assembly meeting at this level on this issue and will provide a platform for leaders from all over the world to state their positions.

Cuba hopes that this meeting will constitute a step forward on the necessary road to nuclear disarmament, and that all nations will participate in this important event at the highest possible level.