



# MALDIVES

**Statement By**  
**Her Excellency Aminath Shabeena, Ambassador of the Republic of Maldives**  
**to the United Arab Emirates**  
**At the**  
**High-Level Plenary Meeting of the Assembly**  
**to Commemorate and Promote the International Day**  
**for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons**

*26 September 2022*

1. Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Assalam Alaikum, and a very good morning to you all.

2. I express my delegation's sincere gratitude to you Mr. President, and to the Secretary General, for convening this high-level meeting to discuss this issue, so critical to humanity's continued survival. The mere existence of nuclear weapons poses a grave threat to us and to future generations. It is imperative that we succeed in our aspirations to eradicate nuclear weapons once and for all.

Mr. President,

3. In 1946, in the aftermath of the devastation following the unleashing of the destructive power of nuclear weapons, the world came together and established the Atomic Energy Commission, under the General Assembly's very first resolution. In the spirit of hope, revival, and cooperation, we agreed: Never Again!

4. The international community has, during the last decades, undertaken diverse efforts to achieve the complete eradication of nuclear weapons. In 1959, nuclear disarmament became the first resolution of the General Assembly that was voted on unanimously, by the entire membership of the UN.



-2-

5. Yet, even after more than 60 years have passed since the international community took this unprecedented step towards peace, the world's nine nuclear armed countries continue the proliferation of these weapons. This not only gravely jeopardizes global security - but billions of dollars that could otherwise be spent on sustainable development, poverty eradication and improving humanity's condition are being spent on tools of mass destruction.

6. It is the world's collective moral obligation to use the limited resources of our planet towards promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. This sentiment is enshrined in SDG 16 and draws inspiration from the United Nations Charter itself.

Mr. President,

6. It is unfortunate that even as we speak at these commemorative events, only 68 states have ratified or acceded to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The Maldives is proud to be among those states.

7. It is evident that we need to reflect more deeply on history. We witnessed the immediate gruesome results and destructive potential of nuclear weapons in the nuclear bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima during World War II. In the decades that followed, we also bore witness to its long-term detrimental consequences on the climate and environment, on human health, and on socioeconomic development.

8. We must take heed of these lessons. We urge all Member State to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of nuclear weapons, and to make stronger commitments in this regard.

Mr. President,

9. The Maldives reiterates our position that the total elimination of nuclear weapons, including the destruction of existing arsenals, is the only guarantee to prevent their use.

10. Since 2019, the Maldives has ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the Cluster Munitions Convention, and the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty. The Maldives welcomes the entry-into-force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in January 2021. We also welcome the first meeting of State Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which took place in June 2022.



-3-

11. Domestically, our stringent laws have ensured the prohibition of the illicit trade in arms, both within our borders and with other countries. Further, the Maldives annually reports to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms.

Mr. President,

12. We consider the fulfillment of our obligations on disarmament, made in the UN to be a cornerstone of our commitment to peace and security. We also look forward to continuing our efforts towards our ultimate goal of a world free of nuclear weapons through strengthened, inclusive and renewed multilateralism.

13. We take tremendous pride in participating actively in today's event. We are hopeful, that these discussions will lead to greater cooperation and stronger commitments towards peace and prosperity and the achievement of our vision of a world free of nuclear weapons.

I thank you.

---