



# الجمهورية الجزائرية الديمقراطية الشعبية

RÉPUBLIQUE ALGÉRIENNE DÉMOCRATIQUE ET POPULAIRE

Ministère des Affaires Étrangères

وزارة الشؤون الخارجية

HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING OF THE GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY TO COMMEMORATE AND PROMOTE

THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE TOTAL  
ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

STATEMENT OF H.E. MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF ALGERIA  
MR. SABRI BOUKADOUM

NEW YORK, 2 OCTOBER 2020

Pre-recorded Statement (3min)

**Mr. President,**

My sincere thanks to you for organizing this high-level plenary meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

**Mr. President,**

We strongly believe that the greatest danger to mankind and to the survival of all civilizations remains unless nuclear weapons are totally eliminated.

Delegitimizing nuclear weapons is a necessary step to forestall the world from their danger.

It was evident that my country joined this path and conscientiously supported the process of their prohibition.

Algeria continues to suffer from the catastrophic consequences on humans and on the environment of the nuclear explosions conducted on its territory during the colonial rule. Algeria was among the first signatories of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. I would like, at this occasion, to reiterate our intention to ratify it in the very short coming time.

Let's not forget that this treaty was adopted during Algeria's Chairmanship of the 1<sup>st</sup> Committee in 2017.

**Mr. President,**

We share the concerns of other non-nuclear states about the limited progress made in meeting the nuclear disarmament obligations, and regarding improvements and development of existing nuclear weapons, which is no less than a violation of the legal obligations on nuclear disarmament.

There are no indications that nuclear-weapon States, which bear the primary responsibility for achieving nuclear disarmament, in accordance with the NPT and the very essence and goals of this organization, have translated into facts the unequivocal undertaking related to nuclear disarmament.

Let's not lose the opportunity of the upcoming NPT Review Conference to make progress toward the total elimination of nuclear weapons, the only Weapon of Mass Destruction that are not universally banned.

**Mr. President,**

We are convinced of the vital importance of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty as a core element of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

I would like to express the commitment of my country to spare no effort as a Co-chair of the 11<sup>th</sup> Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT, and seize this opportunity to make a

special appeal to all Parties to join the CTBT as soon as possible.

**Mr. President,**

The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones is not only a measure of confidence, but a real step towards the complete and general elimination of nuclear weapons.

The entry into force of the Treaty of Pelindaba establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa shows the African continent's commitment to this goal. We express hope to see this example followed in other parts of the world, namely in the Middle East.

**Thank you for your kind attention.**