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# IPU Statement

**Hon. Ms. Gabriela Cuevas  
Barron**  
**President of the IPU**

**Delivered by pre-recorded video**  
**International Day for the Total  
Elimination of Nuclear Weapons**

**New York, 2 October 2020**

Mr. President,

This year, 2020, we are commemorating 75 years. 75 years since the horrific atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. 75 years since the entry into force of the Charter of the United Nations. 75 years of ceaseless efforts to advance international peace and security through the pursuit of the elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

It is therefore with deep concern that we note the enduring presence of some 14,000 nuclear weapons around the world today. Nuclear weapons are the most dangerous weapons on earth. Their use would have unacceptable human, environmental and economic consequences, and the risk of proliferation is a threat to all.

The issue of nuclear weapons has been at the heart of the work of the parliamentary community for many decades. As parliamentarians, we represent the people of our countries – we work to shape the future they want. There is a gradual realization taking place in the world today. People aspire to a peaceful future, allowing for development and sustainable security. Since nuclear weapons are the world's biggest threat, we, as representatives of the people, should be working tirelessly to rid the world of that threat.

In 2014, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the global organization of national parliaments, adopted a landmark resolution on parliaments' contribution to achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world. The resolution called on parliaments to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and to raise awareness about the continuing dangers of such weapons and the need for and benefits of their total elimination. It also called for an irrevocable end to nuclear testing by ensuring the urgent entry-into-force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty as an indispensable step to achieve a world without nuclear weapons.

We welcomed the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which shares the IPU resolution's goals. We are thus encouraging its entry into force as the first legally binding international agreement to comprehensively prohibit nuclear weapons, with the aim of achieving their total elimination.

In these troubled COVID-19 times, we continue, more than ever, to strongly believe that nuclear weapons must be abolished. As a priority, the vast sums spent on their development and deployment should be redirected to meeting

genuine human security needs and mitigating the humanitarian and economic impact of the pandemic.

The tide of history is turning against the possession of nuclear weapons, which are no longer seen as instruments of national security but rather as violators of human security. Parliaments are crucially and uniquely placed to challenge current policies, present alternatives and push for policies to protect the human condition and the planet.

After 75 years of nuclear threats, it is time to join forces to finish what we started – to achieve the future that we want, a nuclear-weapon-free world, and bring about sustainable security for the generations of today and tomorrow.

Thank you.