

**Joint Statement**  
**General Debate of the First Committee**  
**of the 77<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly**  
**by**  
**Kiribati and Kazakhstan**  
**General Debate**  
(New York, October 2022)

*Mr. Chair and Members of the Bureau,*

Let me start by congratulating you on your new roles and wish you every success in accomplishing the First Committee's mandate.

*Mr. Chair and distinguished participants,*

On the occasion of the 77<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly's First Committee, we from Kazakhstan and Kiribati jointly reaffirm our commitment to realize a world free of nuclear weapons and consider it as the main goal of humanity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

We underline the importance of the efforts to address the rights and needs of affected communities through victim assistance, environmental remediation and international cooperation and assistance. We have deep concern for the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons as well as the ongoing humanitarian and environmental harm caused by nuclear weapons use and testing.

Jointly with other like minded states ,we fought hard for a consensus outcome document that touched upon nuclear justice at the 10<sup>th</sup> NPT Review Conference. The draft outcome document contained a strong reference for the international community to “interact with and directly share the experiences of the peoples and the communities affected by the nuclear weapons use and testing to know their humanitarian and environmental impact.” We are deeply disappointed that the states parties could not adopt the outcome document, very sad indeed for the countless victims of the nuclear legacy. The last time that the states parties adopted an outcome document by consensus was in 2010.

*Mr. Chair and distinguished participants,*

We are concerned about the lack of progress on advancing the goals of the NPT, including agreed disarmament commitments. The negotiations to adopt the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) were an effort by non-nuclear-weapon States to make progress towards the full implementation of Article VI of the NPT.

We welcome the entry into force of the TPNW and outcomes of the First Meeting of the States Parties to the TPNW, including the Vienna Declaration and the Action Plan.

We devote particular attention to the humanitarian goals of the TPNW embodied in Articles 6 and 7 as positive obligations to address the harm from the past use and testing of nuclear weapons, as well as to prevent future harm.

We further recommend that states emphasize the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons as a critical issue considering the current international situation.

We encourage all states to join our work in providing nuclear justice for the victims of nuclear weapons by joining the TPNW.

We call upon all states to sign and ratify the TPNW to ensure its universality.

Finally, we wish to underscore the importance of disarmament and nonproliferation education. We welcome the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs' educational initiatives and civil society's efforts in educating and empowering young people.

Thank you.