



*Statement by  
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*at the General Debate of the First Committee  
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Mr. Chairman,

First of all, I would like to congratulate you and the members of the bureau on your election and wish you a productive session.

Mr. Chair,

San Marino aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. Now, I would like to make some comments in my national capacity.

While we are still facing the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, many parts of the world are also facing severe crises and conflicts that are becoming more and more complex, creating great instability to all regions.

With the ongoing devastating war of aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, this instability has reached unprecedented levels. San Marino firmly condemns any violation of international law and of the United Nations Charter.

The aggressive nuclear rhetoric and the repeated threats that have been used bring us back to the darkest times of our history. San Marino firmly condemns such acts and reiterates that any use or threat of use of any weapon of mass destruction is totally unacceptable and of the utmost concern.

Currently, nuclear tension has reached an unprecedented level, raising the risk of an unprecedented disaster.

I would like to reiterate the call of the Heads of State of the Republic of San Marino to all parties involved in this crisis to renounce the use of force and to reopen the channels of dialogue and negotiation so that politics and diplomacy may prevail.

But sadly, today the threat of nuclear weapons being used is more tangible and closer than ever.

San Marino firmly believes in the words recently pronounced by the UN Secretary General: “nuclear weapons are the most destructive power ever created. They offer no security – just carnage and chaos”.

An eventual detonation, whether by accident or design, would indeed have catastrophic humanitarian consequences for mankind, because of their massive destructive capability and indiscriminate nature.

Despite this undeniable fact, hundreds of billions of dollars continue to be spent on the modernization and delivery systems of these weapons. Furthermore, these activities are clearly in contradiction with the commitments undertaken with the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which is the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime.

San Marino regrets that, at this critical time, and despite the long negotiations, the 10<sup>th</sup> Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty was not able to adopt its final document, a document which, although far from perfect, contained some useful commitments. Unfortunately, we have missed another chance to uphold this fundamental instrument and to make progress in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. San Marino reiterates its full support for the NPT, whose obligations and past commitments remain valid.

Mr. Chair,

The entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) represents a historic milestone in our disarmament architecture. San Marino welcomes the increasing number of Countries that have signed and ratified this instrument.

San Marino also welcomes the positive outcome of the First Meeting of State parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which delivered a strong signal of commitment to a world

free of nuclear weapons. San Marino urges all States committed to our final goal of a world without nuclear weapons to join the TPNW.

I would also like to reiterate San Marino's support for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. We are deeply concerned that more than 25 years after opening for signature of the CTBT, this instrument has not yet entered into force. The universal adherence to the CTBT is of crucial importance to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Mr. Chair,

This year we have continued to witness the indiscriminate bombing of cities, which has killed, wounded and trapped civilians in their own homes. The use of explosive weapons in populated areas now represents the main cause of civilian suffering in armed conflicts. The use of these weapons causes indiscriminate harm and it has a devastating impact on individuals and communities.

In addition to the unacceptable number of casualties provoked by the use of such weapons, we underline that civilians suffer from long-lasting physical harm and psychological trauma. They also suffer from serious consequences due to the destruction of critical civil infrastructures and for the impossibility to access vital services, such as hospitals and schools. Consequently, they are often forced to abandon their houses and remain displaced for years or even decades.

The Republic of San Marino appreciates the conclusion of the consultations on the text of the "Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas", which addresses the devastating and long-lasting humanitarian impact of the use of explosive weapons in such areas.

I would like to thank Ireland for its tireless work and dedication to this major humanitarian problem. San Marino looks forward to the Conference in Dublin next month for the adoption of this important instrument and I am glad to announce that San Marino intends to endorse it.

This Declaration is a big step forward towards the protection of civilians and it also represents a positive example of multilateralism.

Mr. Chair,

San Marino is also encouraged by another positive outcome, the one that was reached this year at the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States to review the implementation of the Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons. The regulation of conventional weapons, including small arms, is fundamental to strengthen peace and security in every region of the world.

San Marino underlines the importance of gender perspective, of women's full, equal and meaningful participation in every disarmament process in order to promote and achieve sustainable peace and security.

San Marino also underlines the importance of the full participation of young people and the active role of civil society on matters related to disarmament and non-proliferation.

Finally, Mr. Chair, it is disturbing to see that global military spending continues to rise, while an alarming number of people are struggling even to buy food. The military budget needs to be reduced, so that we would invest more in multilateralism, in conflict prevention, in different security strategies and in sustainable solutions for our planet.

Thank you.