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STATEMENT BY COLOMBIA **PLENARY** **TENTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE** **NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

New York, August 26, 2022

Mr. Chairman:

At the outset, allow me to express my appreciation for your tremendous efforts, not only in these four weeks but in these three years, in which you deployed your valuable skills, your experience, and, especially, your willingness to facilitate the achievement of a positive outcome of this Conference. We thank your leadership, your compromise, and your dedication. We also wish to thank the Bureau, the Chairmen of the Committees, and Sub-Committees for their efforts during these four weeks and in the preparatory process. We also thank your team, Mr. Chairman, and the Secretariat and interpreters for their work and dedication.

Mr. Chairman:

The founding Charter of this organization that has hosted our deliberations has as its pillars to preserve future generations from the scourge of war, to promote respect for human dignity, and to promote the development of all peoples. The determination to achieve these purposes, guiding our actions under fundamental principles, arose from the experience of the horrors of war and the evidence that, unfortunately, the application of scientific and technological development in the military field made possible destruction on a global scale.

The NPT arose from the recognition of that unfortunate possibility, and of the suffering that such devastation would inflict on all humanity. Avoiding it is our collective, legal, ethical, moral, and existential responsibility.

Mr. Chairman:

At the beginning of this Conference, we had the expectation of making progress in the implementation of the treaty, especially in the least advanced pillar, that of disarmament. In which timelines are required for the application of the commitments related to it, and benchmarks and progress reports for due follow-up. The natural transparency and accountability inherent to the implementation of legal commitments.

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Expectations that we consider reasonable and necessary, since 52 years after the entry into force of the NPT we have not achieved general and complete disarmament; valuable resources are allocated to programs to replace and modernize such weapons, their means of delivery, and their production facilities; nuclear weapons maintain and gain ground in military doctrines; the Treaty has not achieved its universalization; the risk of proliferation, horizontal and vertical, persists; and we are at the height of the nuclear threat since the cold war.

Although the final document did not contain advances in this regard, which are more necessary today than ever, Colombia was ready to welcome it positively.

We recognize the immense efforts made in these four weeks to achieve a consensual outcome that reaffirms our unrestricted determination to advance in the full implementation of the Treaty, and to persevere in achieving the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. That is the spirit that must continue to guide us.

We regret that it was not possible for this Review Conference to adopt a Final Document, to achieve a positive outcome, even if it did not reflect the expected progress, but at least to ratify the determination for the full and effective implementation of all the provisions of the Treaty. Colombia was willing to adopt it, convinced of the need to preserve legal instruments, international institutions, and multilateralism.

Mr. President:

May this be an opportunity to recall that only dialogue will allow us to address the challenges we face, among them, perhaps the main one, which is at the basis of all of them, that of assertive communication.

Human beings have survived as a specie thanks to cooperation. We must find new ways of relating to each other, understanding each other, supporting each other, of putting human beings and their dignity at the center of all our individual and collective undertakings. It is through dialogue, solidarity, and empathy, not deterrence, that we will be able to move into the 22nd century.

Colombia will always continue working in this direction.

Mr. President:

Our duty, responsibility, primary, essential, and fundamental, is to preserve life. That is what the full implementation of the Treaty is all about.

Thank you very much.

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