



**Statement by
Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu
High Representative for Disarmament Affairs**

At TPNW Ceremony



New York
26/09/2018

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to again take part in what has become an annual ratification and signature ceremony for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Allow me to begin by recognizing the continued leadership of the “core group” of supporting States, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and civil society, particularly the International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons.

Today is the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. As the Secretary-General stated at the commemoration of this international day, nuclear weapons “pose a unique and potentially existential threat to our planet,” and “we know that any use of nuclear weapons would be a humanitarian catastrophe.” Listening to the interventions, it is clear to me that, while there may be serious differences regarding the means of achieving it, the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons continues to be a shared one for Member States.

The goals the TPNW pursues remain as necessary as ever. A deteriorating international security environment and rising nuclear risks continue to demonstrate the wisdom of the adage that the only guarantee against the use of nuclear weapons is their total elimination. By signing or ratifying this Treaty, a growing number of States have shown a heartening commitment to multilateral nuclear disarmament.

I congratulate the States undertaking treaty actions today, which will bring the total number of ratifications to 32 and the total number of signatures to 79. We continue to see steady progress towards the threshold of 50 ratifications required for this Treaty to enter into force. The Secretary-General has made it clear that, once it enters into force, the TPNW will become an important element of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation framework.

The total elimination of nuclear weapons continues to be the highest disarmament priority of the United Nations. I look forward to continuing to work together to achieve our collective ambition of a more peaceful and prosperous planet for all.

I thank you.