

Statement of H. E. Dr. Igor Lukšić, Deputy Prime Minister Minister for Foreign Affairs and European integration of Montenegro at the High Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament

New York, 26 September 2013

Mr. President,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman,

It is a great honour to address this timely and important meeting on such a vital and ever-relevant topic of nuclear disarmament. I am pleased to note that the international community recognized the need to gather at the highest level in order to once more try to find a way to move closer and faster to the path to zero. That is our common goal, and we have to share responsibility and join our efforts to reach it.

It is needless to remind on devastating consequences of the use of nuclear weapons, which in all its forms present the threat to every living being on earth. Humanitarian impact is catastrophic, while loss of control over any peace of nuclear weapon poses a threat to thousands, millions of people, and even to the entire mankind. This risk becomes even greater when considering global threat such as international nuclear terrorism.

Mr. President,

I am confident that this is the time to take bold and decisive action not only on nuclear disarmament, but also on nuclear non-proliferation as these two aspects are inseparable. The humanitarian approach to nuclear disarmament, started in Oslo earlier this year, is becoming ever more relevant. The Open-ended working group on advancing multilateral disarmament negotiations has been meeting in Geneva throughout the last few months and recently concluded its work. This High-level meeting of the General Assembly brings an added value to the renewed attention and efforts of the General Assembly regarding the issue of nuclear disarmament. Recent progress in considering the relevance of this issue, underlines a rising necessity for the international community to take concrete action and make meaningful progress towards ridding the world of nuclear weapons.

Against this backdrop, we have witnessed persistent failure and continuing stalemate in the Conference on Disarmament (CD), which has been, to quote UN

High Representative on Disarmament, "sleepwalking through an increasingly changing world without any prospect for resuming its substantive work", end of quote. It is necessary to underline the need for breaking the deadlock of CD so that negotiations on the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty and other important instruments could commence. There is also a need to enable the expansion of membership of the CD in order to increase its visibility. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) has yet to enter into force. It is obvious that if we strive to make the world without nuclear weapons, nuclear tests must stop, once and for all. Rather limited progress in implementing obligations emerging from the outcome documents of the NPT Review Conferences in 2000 and 2010 has contributed to the broadly shared sentiment of disappointing results in nuclear disarmament. Montenegro will continue to advocate for the entry into force of the CTBT without delay.

Mr. President,

In achieving our ultimate objective - general and complete disarmament under strict and international control, we have on our disposal all the tools and measures. What is needed is a firm demonstration of political will and leadership to initiate frank and transparent discussion in order to overcome differences and build trust and confidence.

The winning card to achieve progress in this regard is step-by-step process, within global and non-discriminatory multilateral framework. A fruitful exchange of views and ideas, expressing shared commitment, would enable us reach the common goal of establishing an efficient and effective nuclear disarmament machinery, under the UN auspices.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am glad to be able to witness highly spread willingness to try to find common ground in our efforts to reach universally acceptable solution for this sensitive issue. We urge all the states to give their best to make progress in this regard possible. It is our firm belief that success is only achievable through the engagement of all UN members, agencies, and other relevant international organizations. Montenegro will remain committed to creating a world of peace and security, free of nuclear weapons.

Thank you.