



PERMANENT MISSION OF SOLOMON ISLANDS TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement by

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Solomon Islands

At the First Committee

Cluster 1: Nuclear Disarmament

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(Check against Delivery)

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Let me join others in congratulating you and your bureau on your election and assure you of my delegation's support during your term in office.

My delegation associates with the statement made by New Zealand and other likeminded countries.

As a peace loving country, Solomon Islands join the world in seeking a world free of nuclear weapons. We welcomed the convening of the High level Meeting on nuclear disarmament on 26 September last Month.

Mr. Chairman,

The purpose of the United Nations is to preserve international peace and security. My delegation reaffirms its call to eliminate nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction.

My region is a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone under the 1985 Rarotonga Treaty. The Treaty calls for no manufacture, no stationing and no testing of nuclear weapons in the South Pacific. My delegation welcomes other regions who have similarly established nuclear free zones. We have demonstrated our desire for peace and look forward to a world without nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation speaks passionately on the issue because three members with absolute powers within our United Nations organization tested nuclear weapons both atmospheric and underground in the late 1940s right up to the 1996 in the Pacific. Nuclear tests have seen the relocation of populations in the Pacific and these populations continue to suffer from health effects including birth defects. Nuclear testing has also contaminated the environment. The cost to the current and future generations in the Pacific affected by nuclear testing is not known, as no medical and environmental data were compiled by those responsible.

Knowledge of the devastation impact of the nuclear weapons used during World War II on Hiroshima and Nagasaki know the depth and strength of the destruction. The appalling humanitarian consequences have prompted numerous UN resolutions to free humanity of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

My delegation welcomes the various nuclear international frameworks. Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, Chemical Weapons Conventions, Biological and Toxic Weapons Conventions need to be respected. We regret to see that some that possess nuclear weapons remain

outside of these international disarmament frameworks. It weakens multilateralism. Universal acceptance of these frameworks is the only way forward. We note with concern however, that there are gaps in the nuclear disarmament instruments that do not provide for concrete mechanisms to address the catastrophic humanitarian, genetic, social and environmental consequences of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

We note with concern that even the peaceful use of nuclear in the event of disasters do pose humanitarian, genetic and environmental impacts that many of us, in the Pacific do not have the capacity and technological capability to measure and respond to. We are following with interest the Fukushima Nuclear disaster.

Mr. Chairman,

We must replace traditional military power with dialogue and cooperation. We agree that Nuclear weapons do not provide security for people but a threat to humanity. Nuclear remains a security threat enhancer. We regret disarmament talks have not materialized in real outcomes.

Military alliances and changing military postures globally including in the Pacific makes non-nuclear states nervous. We hope multilateral mechanisms put in place will build trust and move to global total nuclear disarmament and elimination of nuclear weapons.

While we commend efforts of two leading nuclear states to reduce their nuclear arsenals, we reaffirm that IAEA is the sole competent authority to verify and account for these commendable efforts.

My delegation remain convinced that a world free of nuclear weapons can only be possible through nuclear disarmament and total elimination of nuclear weapons as the absolute guarantee against the use or threat of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.