

President

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the members of the Western European and Other States Group<sup>1</sup>.

We thank you for organizing this high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate and promote the International Day against Nuclear Tests, pursuant to resolution 72/51.

We also acknowledge [*other speakers identified in the event programme*].

The International Day Against Nuclear Tests is devoted to enhancing public awareness and education about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions, or any other nuclear explosions, and the need for their cessation as one of the means of achieving the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

[based on OP 1 A/RES/72/51 of 4 December 2017 entitled “International Day against Nuclear Tests”]

We welcome the opportunity to contribute to this effort by participating in this annual event, held for the first time in virtual format.

Education and public awareness are important tools to advance our shared efforts on peace, security, disarmament and non-proliferation.

[based on PP 6 A/RES/72/51 with addition of ‘public awareness’]

We consider that every effort should be made to avert devastating and harmful effects of nuclear tests on the life and health of people and the environment.

[based on PP 2 A/RES/72/51]

Those effects can leave no one indifferent and we call, with determination, to put a definitive end to nuclear tests for a safer and better world.

President

We reiterate our condemnation of the six nuclear tests conducted by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea in violation of relevant Security Council resolutions.

We urge full compliance with the obligations under those resolutions, including that the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea abandon its nuclear weapons programme and not conduct any further nuclear tests.

[based on OP 6 A/RES/74/78 of 12 December 2019 entitled “Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty”]

We reaffirm our support for the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner, including through the Six-Party Talks, welcomes all efforts and dialogue to this end, including the inter-Korean summits and summits between the United States of America and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, and encourages all parties to continue such efforts and dialogue.

[based on OP 6 A/RES/74/78]

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<sup>1</sup> Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom.

President

We stress the vital importance and urgency of achieving the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and affirm our resolute determination, 24 years after the Treaty was opened for signature, to achieve its entry into force.

[based on PP 4 A/RES/74/78]

We urge all States not to carry out nuclear-weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions, to maintain their moratoriums in this regard and to refrain from acts that would defeat the object and purpose of the Treaty, while stressing that these measures do not have the same permanent and legally binding effect as the entry into force of the Treaty.

[based on OP 4 A/RES/74/78]

We welcome the contributions by the signatory States to the work of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, in particular its efforts to ensure that the verification regime of the Treaty will be capable of meeting the verification requirements of the Treaty upon its entry into force, in accordance with article IV of the Treaty, and encourage their continuation.

[based on OP 2 A/RES/74/78]

Thank you.