



*Statement by
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of the Republic of San Marino to the United Nations

at the General Debate of the First Committee
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Mr. Chairman,

I would like to congratulate you and the members of the bureau on your election and wish you a productive session.

Mr. Chair,

Despite the need of struggling against the pandemic and an unprecedented economic crisis and the need of investing in health, economic, social and environmental programs, the world military expenditure continues to rise. In the meantime, long and complex conflicts have not stopped, bringing even greater instability to all regions.

The Republic of San Marino is very concerned for the erosion of the disarmament and non-proliferation architecture, in particular for the risk of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons.

With the rapid technological advances, nuclear arsenals are being modernized and new delivery systems are being developed. In the meantime, the risks of escalation and miscalculation are increasing. This is extremely worrying if we think about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of an eventual detonation.

It is therefore critical that we all firmly recommit to advance our nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation agenda.

San Marino would like to reiterate its support for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. We are deeply concerned that 25 years after opening for signature of the CTBT, the prospect for its entry-into-force is still unclear. We urge the remaining States, whose ratification is necessary for the entry into force of the CTBT, to sign and ratify it without further delay.

San Marino looks forward to participating in the Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty next year and to working for a successful outcome document. The Conference will be an opportunity for all States Parties to work together in good faith for our collective security.

San Marino welcomes the extension of the New START Treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation and the ongoing bilateral dialogue for future arms control.

Mr. Chair,

The entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons represents a historic milestone. San Marino is thrilled for the great number of Countries that have already signed and ratified this instrument in such a short period of time. This proves that the majority of Countries supports a total ban of nuclear weapons. We strongly encourage other Countries to join this instrument and we look forward to participating in the First Meeting of States Parties next year.

My country has always stood against any weapons of mass destruction, whose use would have unspeakable consequences for humanity.

San Marino is seriously worried over the cases of use of chemical weapons. We firmly condemn such horrific acts, which pose a significant challenge to the international norm against chemical weapons.

The use of chemical or biological weapons by any one, at any time and under any circumstances is simply unacceptable and the responsible should be held into account.

Mr. Chair,

The use of explosive weapons in populated areas has a devastating and indiscriminate impact on civilians. San Marino calls on all parties to refrain from the use of these weapons in such areas and

to fully comply with International Humanitarian Law. In this regard, San Marino fully supports the adoption of an international political declaration on such topic.

Mr. Chair,

The improper use of cyberspace is also of great concern. Cybercrime is one of the fastest developing threats to international security. Malicious digital operations can disrupt vital infrastructure and can be used to spread misinformation or to control or repress human rights.

It is therefore critical to support responsible state behavior in cyberspace, where rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms are respected and implemented.

Finally, the proliferation of armed drones and of autonomous weapons are creating ethical and legal concerns. We believe that a broader multilateral reflection should be undertaken in these fields.

Mr. Chairman,

Now we have the chance to build back better, to work together and to take significant steps forward in the sphere of disarmament and non- proliferation.

Let's not waste this chance to reach our common goals and to build a more secure future for all.

Thank you.