



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

24 July 2013

Excellency

In December 2009, the General Assembly adopted Resolution 64/35 by consensus, declaring 29 August as the International Day against Nuclear Tests. The Day was instituted to highlight the importance of ending nuclear tests in order to avert their devastating and harmful effects on the lives and health of people and the environment.

The Assembly devoted this important day to “enhancing public awareness and education about the effect of nuclear weapons test explosion or any other nuclear explosion and the need for their cessation as one of the means of achieving the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free-world”.

In this context, I wish to invite you to participate in an informal plenary meeting to mark the Day under the overall theme “The Path to Zero”. The opening ceremony will be followed by a high-level panel, and a question and answer segment during which Member States can share their views and interactively engage with panellists.

The informal meeting convened and organized in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan, will take place on 5 September 2013 from 10:00 to 13:00, in the Trusteeship Council Chamber. A tentative programme of the event is attached herewith.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vuk Jeremic', written over a horizontal line.

Vuk Jeremic

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Informal Meeting of the UN General Assembly to mark the Observance of the International Day against Nuclear Tests

The Meeting is convened by His Excellency Mr. Vuk Jeremić, President of the UN General Assembly, and organized in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Date: Thursday, 5 September 2013

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Venue: United Nations Headquarters, Trusteeship Council Chamber

Opening statements by:

- H.E. Mr. Vuk Jeremić, President of the UN General Assembly
- H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations (invited)
- H.E. Mr. Asset Isekeshiev, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Industry and New Technologies of the Republic of Kazakhstan

High-Level Panel on the Path to Zero: The Role of the United Nations in Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

The official opening ceremony will be followed by a High-Level Panel on the above theme. The panelists are expected to cover some key issues, including necessary steps for further progress on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, the establishment of further nuclear-weapon-free zones, confidence building and other relevant concerns.

Panel Details

Moderator

H.E. Ambassador Eduardo Ulibarri, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations in New York

Speakers

- Ms. Angela Kane, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (invited)
- H.E. Ambassador Martin Sajdik, Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations in New York
- Dr. Lassina Zerbo, Executive Secretary, Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
- Mr. Geoffrey Shaw, Representative of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency to the United Nations
- Andrew S. Kanter, MD, Immediate Past-President, Physicians for Social Responsibility and Co-Vice President for North America, International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War

The panel will be followed by observations, and questions and answers from Member States.