



International Day against Nuclear Testing

**Remarks by Marc Finaud, Vice President of Initiatives pour le désarmement nucléaire (IDN),
President of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation & Disarmament (PNND)-France**

(Geneva, 29 August 2025)

Thank you for having invited our French NGO Initiatives for Nuclear Disarmament (IDN) to contribute to this important event on the occasion of the International Day against Nuclear Testing.

Our organization was founded over ten years ago by the former French Defence Minister, Paul Quilès and its President since our founder passed away is now General Bernard Norlain, the former Air Defence commander and Air Combat commander of the French Air Force. He will deliver his message in French in a few minutes. Our board is composed of former diplomats, officers, scientists, and other key representatives of civil society. This illustrates that, contrary to the official claim, there is no consensus in France on nuclear deterrence. Our aim is to promote a national debate on this critical policy that has been until now refused to French society. Unfortunately, our collective memory tends to forget the heroic struggle of all those who opposed France nuclear tests in Algeria and French Polynesia and the development of the French nuclear arsenal.

France did sign and ratify the CTBT and decommissioned its testing site in French Polynesia like Kazakhstan. However, it continued to test its nuclear weapons thanks to simulation and is modernizing its nuclear weapons for the next decades, in violation of its NPT obligations. As a result of decades of nuclear testing, the destructive power of nuclear weapons has dramatically increased since 1945. The former French captain of a nuclear submarine bragged a few years ago that the warheads on top of its missiles had a yield equivalent to 1'000 Hiroshimas!

When we know the terrible toll and destruction caused by the bombing over Japan to which were added the millions of victims and damages caused by other nuclear test explosions, accidents or production, it is surprising that the Member States of the United Nations haven't decided yet to declare an International Day of Remembrance of all such victims. This why IDN launched this initiative on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings. We hope that it will soon be supported by all delegations to the First Committee of the General Assembly.

Moreover, we support the Joint Appeal on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons by 2045 mentioned by Alyn Ware. It is indeed high time for the international community, having looked back at history, not only to become fully aware of the inadmissible risks to world security posed by the persistence of nuclear weapons and compensate their victims, but also to seize this opportunity to agree on the indispensable steps towards a world without nuclear weapons.

I am now pleased to yield the floor to General Bernard Norlain.