Special event to commemorate International Day Against Nuclear Tests

and the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

***Right to life without Nuclear Threat***

Tuesday August 29, 2023 (13:00-14:30)
Room V, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Hosted by the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations in Geneva

**Opening remarks:**

* H.E. Mr. **Yerlan** **ALIMBAYEV***Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations Office at Geneva*
* **H.E. Ms Tatiana VALOVAYA**
*Director-General of the UN Office in Geneva*

**Speakers:**

* *Mission of the People's Democratic Republic of* ***Algeria*** *to the United Nations Office at Geneva (tbc)*
* **Marzhan NURZHAN**.
*Deputy Director, Basel Peace Office. Member of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization Youth Group. Core Team Member, Youth Fusion. Commonwealth of Independent States Program Officer, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND).*
* ***OHCHR*** *(tbc)*
* **Others to be confirmed**

**Moderator:**

* **Alyn WARE***Peace and Disarmament Program Director, World Future Council. PNND Global Coordinator. Co-founder, Abolition 2000 Global Network for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons*

**Event Outline**

[International Day Against Nuclear Tests](https://www.un.org/en/observances/end-nuclear-tests-day) was established by the UN General Assembly in 2009 by [resolution 64/35](http://undocs.org/A/RES/64/35), to be commemorated annually on August 29. This day marks both the closure of the Semipalatinsk test site in 1991 and the date of the first Soviet nuclear test conducted there in 1949. Over four decades, between 1949 and 1989, the **Semipalatinsk Test Site** in eastern Kazakhstan was one of the primary locations for Soviet nuclear testing. **More than 460 nuclear tests** were conducted above ground, underground, and in the atmosphere, releasing enormous amounts of radioactive material into the air, water, and soil. More than **1.5 million people** in Kazakhstan were exposed to radioactive fallout during these atmospheric and underground tests, and vast tracts of land are now contaminated in Semey (previously Semipalatinsk) and the surrounding areas.

Globally since nuclear weapons testing began on 16 July 1945, over 2,000 have taken place. Some of the world’s over 60 nuclear test sites (see [interactive map](http://www.ctbto.org/map/#mode=nuclear)) continue to be contaminated.

In 1996, the International Court of Justice considered the impact of the use of nuclear weapons – using information from nuclear tests around the world along with other evidence – to affirm that the threat or use of nuclear weapons is generally illegal and that there is an obligation to negotiate for comprehensive nuclear disarmament. Then in 2018, the UN Human Rights Committee affirmed that the threat or use of nuclear weapons is ‘incompatible with respect for the right to life’ under Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and that States must respect their ‘international obligations to achieve nuclear disarmament under strict and effective international control.’

This event will outline the obligations under international humanitarian law (IHL), human rights law and laws of peace and security (UN Charter) to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world, explore ways to implement these obligations while maintaining peace and security for all, and discuss initiatives in key forums such as the NPT Review Process, UN General Assembly, Human Rights Council and UN Summit for the Future.

*Snacks and refreshments will be served outside the room from 12:45*

[#EndNuclearTests](https://twitter.com/hashtag/EndNuclearTests?src=hashtag_click)

[#29August](https://twitter.com/hashtag/29August?src=hashtag_click)

[#NuclearWeaponsFreeWorld](https://twitter.com/hashtag/NuclearWeaponsFreeWorld?src=hashtag_click)

[#IDANT](https://twitter.com/hashtag/IDANT?src=hashtag_click)