MESSAGE BY THE
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS,
MR. DEMETRIS CHRISTOFIAS

The date of 6 August 1945 justifiably haunts humanity. It forced the world to realise a new and stark reality: the possibility of nuclear holocaust. It is humanity’s duty to recall the thousands of innocent victims, who died as a result of the atomic blast and those who had suffered from the side effects of the nuclear fallout. Lest their death is not in vain, it is our duty and obligation to join the voices world-over in the fight for the abolition of nuclear weapons and to ensure everlasting world peace.

The proliferation of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery pose a major threat to international peace and security. The Republic of Cyprus, as an active participant in the EU Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, considers the promotion of universal adherence to and full implementation of all non-proliferation and disarmament treaties and conventions as essential. It should be noted that the Republic of Cyprus is not in possession of nuclear technology or nuclear weapons of any kind.

As a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Cyprus is of the firm view that the Treaty remains the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, as well as essential in the pursuit of nuclear disarmament in accordance with Article VI. The NPT, based on the three mutually reinforcing pillars of non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, constitutes the framework for maintaining and strengthening international peace, security and stability. Having welcomed the adoption by consensus of the final document of the 2010 Review Conference, Cyprus backs efforts towards a successful outcome of the 2015 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, including throughout the Preparatory Committee process, which commenced in April 2012.

We support the strengthening of the multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation regime and the revitalization of relevant international instruments. Within this context, Cyprus calls for the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the end of the deadlock in the Conference on Disarmament and the immediate launch of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty.

I salute your campaign for raising awareness and I wish that the children of today will grow up and get to enjoy a world free of nuclear weapons.

[Signature]

Demetris Christofias

Nicosia, 15 November 2012