

Ambassador Rafael Ramírez's speech at the Special Solemn Meeting of the General Assembly in Commemoration of the End of the Second World War:

Thank you Mr. President:

We would like to thank the President of the General Assembly, Mr Sam Kutesa, for calling this Solemn Meeting to commemorate the Seventieth Anniversary of the End of the Second World War and pay homage to all of the victims of this sad chapter in human history. We are honoured by the presence of a group of war veterans at this solemn meeting, and with them we would like to thank the bravery and sacrifice of all of the countries and peoples who fought against Nazism-fascism.

Seventy years after the end of the Second World War we should honour and remember the millions of human beings, dead or missing, injured, displaced and tortured by the horror of this war, the worst global conflict, where man fought for survival and the right to live for future generations; fought against Nazism and fascism. Let us vow that this was the last world war, that there shall be no more wars among men.

With the end of the Second World War, the United Nations was born with the commitment, enshrined in its Charter, to “save succeeding generations from the scourge of war”, by adopting effective measures to promote peace and security, social development and human rights in a comprehensive and inclusive manner. From that time, war became legally proscribed as a method of constraint or to solve differences. Only by faithful adherence to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter will it be possible to guarantee the peace and security of the planet.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is a land of peace. Two hundred years ago, our liberators raised their swords to fight for the rights of our peoples and for the independence of six South American nations. We have never attacked another country. We practice tolerance, dialogue and inclusion in our commitment to peace, justice and understanding between nations.

However, seventy years after the end of the Second World War, we see with pain and deep concern how intolerant and aggressive ideologies recur throughout vast regions of the planet, how there is a resurgence of fascism, extremism and hate motivated by religious, ethnic, political, national or historical reasons. These are ideologies that aim to incite and justify war to prop up and impose a global economic and hegemonic system that is unjust, predatory and unsustainable.

Sadly, in these seventy years, we have had to lament the occurrence of bloody, nefarious wars which, as always, have a deep, tragic effect on our condition as human beings. The millions of men and women who have suffered and continue to suffer the horror of war represent a challenge to the conscience of humankind. We ask, therefore, what ideology, or what reasons, what perverse geopolitical and economic interests, can sustain or justify the existence of immense military complexes, of so many weapons, so much technology, so many resources and means, ready to eliminate human beings from the face of the earth?

A few days ago, as a part of the Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, we paid tribute to the victims of the atomic

bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki that vaporised thousands of human beings in seconds and caused more than four hundred thousand victims in a few days, as well as terrible aftereffects over the years. From here, once more, we call for disarmament and reject the nuclear proliferation which, on that ill-fated occasion, made the terror of nuclear war known to the world.

We have the moral and political responsibility to prevent the profound damage caused by the ideology of death, fascism, hate, violence, military logic and totalitarianism from coming back to life in the present day, with more modern, sophisticated, dangerous and more overwhelmingly effective ways of dissemination and criminal use.

War that devastates significant regions of the planet, colonialism, interventionism, the promotion and financing of extremism and terrorism as instruments to destabilise countries and cause chaos to economic and geopolitical ends, are the palpable proof that we still have a great deal to do in international action to overcome these problems and achieve sustainable peace.

Today more than ever, the provisions of Resolution 69/267, which convenes this Session, are pertinent insofar as it calls on Member States to “refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations, and to settle all disputes by peaceful means”. This constitutes a clear and manifest reminder of an inalienable legal obligation: political independence, territorial integrity, the self-determination of peoples, sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs are the basic elements of international peacekeeping and security; fostering development even in terms of cooperation, with fair economic systems that promote the social inclusion of all sectors and give priority to the most vulnerable.

Finally, in 2014, Latin America and the Caribbean was proclaimed a “Zone of Peace” and, in addition, free of nuclear weapons since 1967; an area where there are no warmongering agendas, but where instead there exists dialogue, solidarity and unity between brother peoples who strive to strengthen all of our regional mechanisms to foster development in terms of complementarity and sovereign equality. Today, the call is to continue the efforts made to promote social development and the fight against poverty as the political banner that unites us, to ensure that the Second World War will only be a bad memory that humankind never repeats.

Thank you