

Delegation from the Republic of Chile Position Paper for the United Nations General Assembly

The topics before the United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) are: I. Nuclear Disarmament and International Security, II. Ensuring Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable, and Modern Energy for All and III. Combating Human Trafficking. The Republic of Chile looks forward to working multilaterally with Member States in addressing these issues at the upcoming conference.

I. Nuclear Disarmament and International Security

Since radioactive rays can kill millions of people and cause a serious humanitarian catastrophe, nuclear weapons are one of the largest threats to international peace and security. The devastating 1945 nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki costed the lives of many millions of people. As a result, the GA adopted S/RES/1 in 1946, calling for the elimination of atomic weapons in order to maintain international peace and security. Moreover, nuclear disarmament will also depend on the achievement of the SDGs set out in the Agenda 2030. It is therefore our duty to ensure that the SDGs 3, 6, 11, 13, 15 and especially 16 are achieved, especially SDG 16, since it emphasizes the importance of peace. Since the Nuclear Security Summit of 2014, Chile has contributed to the global nuclear security through many activities. On the national level, Chile has established the Radiological Emergency Security Commission (CONSER), which meets monthly and concentrates on strengthening the capacity of our agencies to prevent and react to nuclear or radiological events. Also, as a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and of the Global Alliance against the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, Chile has made various efforts towards global nuclear security. In these contexts, the Republic of Chile has consistently supported forums that promote real progress in the field of non-proliferation and disarmament of nuclear weapons. Furthermore, Chile is not only part of the Joint Bilateral Exercise between Chile and Argentina on Trans-border Radiological Emergency under the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) - "Paihuen", but has also ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) and signed the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM). Aiming at improving the global nuclear security, the international community's first step should be raising awareness among its member states in order them to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and thereby ensure its truly universal character. For this purpose, states should become more aware of how dangerous radioactive material can be, as for example, through the spreading of nuclear physicists' reports as well as videos and pictures of the aftermaths in Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Chernobyl and Fukushima in 2011. Chile highly recommends these reports to be taken into consideration by the UN member states, in order to keep the effects and dangers of nuclear weapons in mind, especially while discussing matter such as the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Furthermore, a solution to the question of how states can balance modernization programs with their disarmament obligations might be a potential agreement concerning a reduction of the amount of uranium that may be enriched. Besides that, a far greater task is the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. For this purpose, a forum in which all UN member states come together to find a common solution for the denuclearization of the area might help mitigate some of the most imminent risks. Since this concerns a delicate scenario, negotiations on how potential nuclear powers in the region could hold back on nuclear weapons testing and proliferation should include all relevant stakeholders, take place in a neutral space and involve impartial mediators. Chile is committed to making great efforts towards finding a common solution for this issue. In addition, nuclear weapons tests should be prohibited, as outlined by the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) of 1996. Although the CTBT enjoys strong support, it has not yet been able to enter into force due to a lack of sufficient ratification. For this reason, Resolution A/RES/72/70 was adopted by the GA in 2017 to urge the missing member states to ratify, in order for the treaty to enter into force and by that, contribute to the guarantee of international security and peace.

II. Ensuring Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable, and Modern Energy for All

Since affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy sources for the global population support economic growth, climate change mitigation, and better living standards for all, the lack of access to energy holds potential serious implications in all these areas. Despite, according to the Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL), which is an international organization launched by the former UN-Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, 1.06 billion people still lack access to electricity, particularly in rural areas and in Sub-Saharan Africa. This figure is alarming, especially since SDG 7 emphasizes the importance of affordable and clean energy. Accordingly, Chile recognizes the need to accelerate the global efforts towards guaranteeing access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. As Chile has considerable geothermal, solar and wind energy resources, as well as limited fossil fuel resources, it operates many solar and wind power plants. Furthermore, Chile has enacted laws that provide the

main framework for the promotion of non-conventional renewable energy, which highlights the increase and improvement of technologies as an important step to reaching goals like SDG 7. Thus, the installation of more solar and wind power plants as well as hydropower plants should be promoted, especially in developing countries. In addition, programmes could be introduced in developing countries to promote the increased use of renewable energy. Furthermore, recognizing the close link between the lack of resources such as energy or water and the economy is crucial, since an adequate energy supply is a prerequisite for economic development. Regarding that, the lack of energy and water in developing countries can also have a major impact on developed countries and thus, the economic sector should also work to ensure that each and every person has access to energy and clean water. This could be implemented through the establishment of a new fund and by improving existing funds. In order to achieve this and to make this possible, the awareness of the economic sector about the importance of access to energy and clean water should be enhanced.

III. Combating Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is an offense that corresponds to a violation of human dignity, physical integrity, basic human rights, and sustainable development. According to estimates by the International Labour Organization (ILO), 40.3 million people were exposed to modern slavery in 2016 alone. The ILO and the Walk Free Foundation define “modern slavery” in their correspondent report as follows: “modern slavery is broadly defined and refers to a variety of situations in which people are exploited and cannot leave because of fear, abuse, threats or coercion”. Especially since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) expressly prohibits slavery in all its forms, modern slavery should be eradicated everywhere. Article 4 of the UDHR states that no one shall be held in slavery or servitude and that slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms. It is therefore the international community’s duty to ensure that modern slavery and human trafficking violations are addressed in an effective manner. Moreover, combating human trafficking is important to ensure security in the world and to achieve SDG 16, which emphasizes the importance of peace and security in the world as well as justice and strong institutions. The Chilean law explicitly prohibits human trafficking and therefore, the Chilean government has stepped up law enforcement efforts to combat human trafficking by strengthening the police’s and law enforcement’s capacities. Our government has also stepped up efforts to prevent human trafficking and protect victims, including the development of a comprehensive national action plan to combat human trafficking and improve inter-agency coordination. Furthermore the National Women’s Service (Servicio Nacional de la Mujer) or SERNAM, which is an organization that promotes the equality of men and women, worked with 75 local offices, with international organizations, including the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and with NGOs to ensure that minors involved in possible trafficking situations were not returned to abusive or high-risk situations. Our government provided specialized training on trafficking, including training on the anti-trafficking law, to more than 300 Chilean officials in 2017, including law enforcement, prosecutors, and justice officials. In addition, the Public Ministry trained hundreds of law enforcement agents to recognize and investigate potential trafficking causes and trained prosecutors to prosecute cases more effectively. Besides, SERNAM raised trafficking awareness and provided information on victim’s rights and the prosecution of traffickers to 100 officials and 160 civic activists in the border cities of Iquique and Arica. Moreover, our government cooperated with Interpol on law enforcement activities and therefore, Chile encourages all states to cooperate more with Interpol and to strengthen the communication between states in order to better combat human trafficking. Border controls should also be tightened to counter human trafficking. Furthermore, all member states should establish workshops specifically designed to combat human trafficking. Police officers, prosecutors and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) should also be well prepared for the fight against trafficking in other countries. In addition, the opinion and perspectives of women and children should be considered when it comes to addressing the root causes of human trafficking. Special forums for victims and other women and girls, which are anonymous, could also be offered for them on how to recognize traffickers and how to protect themselves from them. Besides that Chile suggest that every country should make voluntary national action plans for combating human trafficking in order to increase and enhance the accountability of their efforts at international level. Since it worked very well in Chile, this should be established in every country. These voluntary national action plans should include measures in the areas of awareness raising, law enforcement, victim protection and prevention. To raise awareness, presentations can be given in schools and universities on this topic. To improve law enforcement, prosecutors should be trained to prosecute human trafficking cases more effectively. In addition, much needs to be done at the legal level and thus, even harsher penalties that act as a deterrent should be imposed on traffickers at the international level. In this context, the legal sector in every country, especially in those that are vulnerable to human trafficking, should be strengthened. Countries that are vulnerable to corruption should strengthen their institutions to effectively combat trafficking in human beings and slavery. The Republic of Chile is ready to support any country in all forms in order to combat human trafficking.