



Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran

to the United Nations Office and
other International Organizations in Geneva

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Statement

By H.E. Mr. Ali BAHREINI

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Before The Conference on Disarmament

General Debate

Geneva, 20 January 2026

Thank you, Madam President,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your assumption of the Presidency of this august body. I wish to assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation in the effective discharge of your mandate during your presidency.

Madam President, Distinguished Colleagues,

The Conference on Disarmament, as the sole multilateral negotiating forum on disarmament, is mandated to negotiate legally binding instruments in this field, in accordance with the Final Document of the First Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-I).

In order to effectively realize this mandate, the Conference needs to adopt a comprehensive and balanced programme of work that would enable it to resume substantive negotiations. In this regard, it is of paramount importance to preserve the negotiating character of this unique body and to prevent any erosion of its mandate by transforming it into a merely deliberative forum.

Last year, the Conference, following the re-establishment of its subsidiary bodies and building upon the sustained efforts undertaken in recent years, engaged in serious and intensive substantive discussions. Several of the subsidiary bodies came very close to adopting their respective reports. We

nevertheless regret that, due to a sudden and significant change in the position of one member that had previously expressed its agreement with the draft report of Subsidiary Body III, and as a result of the unconstructive positions adopted by that member, the Conference was unable to adopt the reports of its Subsidiary Bodies.

We remain hopeful that, under your leadership, as well as that of the succeeding Presidents, the Conference will be able to adopt a comprehensive and balanced decision on its work and to fulfill its envisaged mandate.

The year 2025, among other developments, witnessed unprecedented threats to the Charter of the United Nations, international law, and the global disarmament and non-proliferation architecture. On 13 June 2025, the Israeli regime, with the full support and complicity of the United States and certain European countries, carried out an unprovoked and premeditated attack against the territorial integrity and political independence of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in flagrant violation of *jus cogens* rules of international law, Article 2(4) of the United Nations Charter, and the most fundamental principles of international law.

On 22 June, the United States, acting in coordination with a non-party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), committed a criminal act by targeting Iran's nuclear safeguarded facilities in Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan. This act, carried out in clear violation of international law, constitutes a serious threat to and a major blow against the nuclear non-proliferation regime, which is a cornerstone of the international peace and security regime. The United States and the Israeli regime must be held fully accountable for these grave violations.

As demonstrated during the twelve-day war of aggression, the Islamic Republic of Iran will respond, fully within the framework of international law and the United Nations Charter, to any act of aggression against its sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence, as well as its interests and nationals. Uranium enrichment for peaceful purposes constitutes an undisputable right for a State Party to the NPT, and Iran will never renounce such a right. Iran has consistently expressed its readiness for genuine and unconditional negotiations, based on mutual respect, and not for dictates or the imposition of the will of one party upon another.

The year 2025 concluded with yet another unprecedented development: the abduction of the legitimate President of a Member State of the United Nations and of this Conference. In violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and all the basic principles of International Law, the United States abducted the lawful President of that independent State, together with his spouse, with the objective of asserting control over the country's resources. We strongly condemn this act and call for the immediate release of the President of Venezuela, and for full respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the right of the Venezuelan people to determine their own destiny. These actions by the United States, in clear violation of international law, constitute a real and immediate threat to international peace and security. The normalization or tolerance of such actions would further erode international peace and security, and this approach and conduct must be brought to an end without delay.

Madam President,

As we commence this year's session of the Conference on Disarmament, the unprecedented arms race—including in the nuclear domain—continues, and the threat posed by nuclear weapons to humanity remains ever-present.

Regrettably, Nuclear-Weapon States have not only fallen short of fulfilling their obligations on nuclear disarmament under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) but have also continued to pursue the renewal and modernization of their nuclear arsenals.

Over 40 countries rely on the extended nuclear deterrence provided by the United States, which raises questions regarding full compliance with the letter and spirit of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Likewise, the stationing of U.S. nuclear weapons in certain NATO states is widely seen as inconsistent with the obligations of those states under the NPT.

The ongoing modernization of France's nuclear forces—including its sea-based ballistic missile submarines, delivery systems, and air-delivered capabilities, alongside upgraded nuclear infrastructure—raises serious concerns. These developments reinforce the centrality of nuclear weapons in France's security doctrine and remain inconsistent with Article VI of the NPT and the commitments undertaken at the Review Conferences.

Similarly, the United Kingdom is undertaking a modernization of its nuclear forces, including the replacement of its submarines with a new generation, the development of new warheads, and the reintroduction of an air-delivered capability under NATO arrangements. These measures likewise consolidate the role of nuclear weapons in the United Kingdom's security doctrine and remain incompatible with its obligations under the NPT and its disarmament commitments.

Madam President,

Against this a backdrop, the risk of nuclear war remains alarmingly high, and the continued existence of nuclear weapons gravely undermines the international security environment, posing an incalculable threat to humanity. The persistent failure to halt and reverse the nuclear arms race has only heightened the risks of nuclear proliferation and undermined both the letter and the spirit of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

As underscored in the Final Document of the First Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-I), nuclear disarmament is indispensable for preventing the danger of nuclear war, strengthening international peace and security, and promoting the economic and social advancement of all peoples. So long as nuclear weapons exist, the threat of their use will continue to loom. Nuclear disarmament must therefore remain the highest priority in the field of disarmament, and collective commitments to achieving a world free of nuclear weapons—particularly within the Conference on Disarmament—must be fully upheld.

Nuclear disarmament, identified in paragraphs 20 and 47 of SSOD-I as both the priority objective and the immediate task of the Conference, requires urgent action to initiate negotiations within the CD on a comprehensive convention for the complete, verifiable, and irreversible elimination of all nuclear weapons. In this regard, nuclear-weapon States bear the primary legal responsibility and must assume the leading role in fulfilling this obligation.

Pending the achievement of a world free of nuclear weapons, non-nuclear-weapon States are entitled to effective and unconditional Negative Security Assurances. SSOD-I calls upon nuclear-weapon States to pursue efforts to conclude appropriate and effective arrangements to assure such States against the

use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. This requirement has been reaffirmed by successive NPT Review Conferences, notably in the 13 Practical Steps adopted in 2000 and the Action Plan on Nuclear Disarmament agreed in 2010.

Madam President, Distinguished Delegates,

The establishment of a Middle East free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction remains unattained due to the unlawful nuclear activities and nuclear weapons arsenal of the Israeli regime. By continuing to possess nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and by refusing to place its non-peaceful nuclear activities under the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency, this regime remains the sole and principal obstacle to the realization of such a zone—originally proposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran in 1974.

Iran, therefore, urges the international community to compel Israel to accede to the NPT as a non-nuclear-weapon party, to eliminate all its nuclear weapons, and to place all its nuclear facilities and activities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards.

In conclusion, Madam President,

From our perspective, the notion of “peace through strength” is indistinguishable from the law of the jungle. Lasting peace and security cannot be achieved through force, but only through cooperation and multilateralism, respect for the Charter of the United Nations, and strict adherence to international law.

The Conference on Disarmament constitutes a key instrument of multilateralism for the promotion of international peace and security. We all share the responsibility to work toward revitalizing this multilateral negotiating body, overcoming its longstanding deadlock, and refraining from any unilateral actions that could undermine or weaken it.

To this end, my delegation looks forward to working with you and other delegations toward the adoption of a comprehensive and balanced decision on the work of the Conference, encompassing all its core mandates and guided by the objectives set out in the final document of the First Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament. Thank You.