

2025 UNGA 80 First Committee

Explanation of Vote *After the Vote*

L.4, Steps to Building a Common Roadmap Towards a World without Nuclear Weapons

Chair,

I wish to explain Ireland's vote on Resolution L.4, *Steps to building a common roadmap towards a world without nuclear weapons*, sponsored by Japan. Once again, I express our appreciation for the Japanese delegation's thorough engagement on this text.

Chair,

Ireland has maintained the practice of abstaining on this resolution as a whole as our concerns on the qualifications the text places on the urgent need for nuclear disarmament have not been addressed.

Before turning to those concerns, there are a number of elements in particular which we welcome.

We welcome OP7 on nuclear weapons testing. We reiterate the call for those states that have not yet signed or ratified the CTBT to do so and to refrain from conducting nuclear weapon test explosions or any actions that would defeat the object and purpose of the Treaty. We must uphold the norm against testing. It is one of the real achievements in efforts to realise nuclear disarmament, and a key factor to prevent a heightened nuclear arms race.

We welcome the continued and important reference to both the sustainable development goals and gender. Continued efforts to realise the 2030 agenda and real gender equality remain essential to assuring our planet's sustainable future. Ireland is pleased that this text continues to support the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of both women and men and the further integration of gender perspectives in all aspects of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation decision-making processes.

We also welcome the strengthening of specific elements of the text, in particular PP13 on encouraging the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones and OP8's clarification that risk reduction is neither a prerequisite, nor a substitute for, nuclear disarmament.

While we acknowledge these strengths, the resolution as a whole continues to present conditionality for disarmament commitments and obligations. In elements, it does not advance our efforts towards a 'common roadmap' for a world without nuclear weapons.

Ireland strongly condemns Russia's nuclear threats in its war of aggression against Ukraine. Ireland condemns any and all threats to use nuclear weapons, implicit or explicit. However, in OP6 we do not accept the implication that some nuclear rhetoric or threats can be considered responsible.

On OP16, we do not accept reference to the "principle of undiminished and increased security for all". We reject any effort to use this limited conceptual framework to represent consensus on matters of international peace and security in this resolution. When stockpiles

are increasing and nuclear-armed states are modernising their arsenals, we must reverse the current trend by taking decisive and urgent action to fulfil our collective disarmament obligations, without delay and without new conditionalities or preconditions.

Ireland remains deeply concerned with the continued erosion and undermining of the disarmament and non-proliferation architecture. With the upcoming 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, it is important to make every effort to achieve results by consensus, especially on fulfilling Article VI disarmament obligations and related commitments. Amongst other issues, we call on all Nuclear Weapons States to engage meaningfully on proposals for enhanced transparency and reporting, including by way of interactive dialogue, with a view to making progress at the Review Conference.

Finally, Ireland supports the UN80 initiative, and would welcome efforts to strengthen effective nuclear disarmament. However, without prejudice to that support, we consider the new language in OP24 to be too unclear.

Chair,

While we appreciate the efforts by the main sponsor, fundamental aspects of the text have led to our abstention on the resolution as a whole. We look forward to continued engagement on this resolution, in particular on its revision in the next NPT review cycle.

Thank you.