

80th session of the United Nations General Assembly
First Committee
Cluster I – Nuclear Weapons

Explanation of vote
After the vote

Submitted by France on behalf of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and France

New York, 31 October 2025

Chair,

I have the privilege of delivering this explanation of vote on behalf of the United Kingdom, the United States and my own country, France.

Our three countries share the ultimate goal of a world without nuclear weapons. The NPT remains the foundation for achieving this goal, and we remain committed to upholding our obligations, including those under Article VI. We aim to ensure the success of the 2026 NPT Review Conference. We believe in an incremental, verifiable approach that is based on maintaining stability, as well as undiminished and increased security for all.

In this regard, Canada, Germany, and the Netherlands have tabled Decision L.39. We recall that one nuclear-weapon State is engaged in a significant and opaque build-up in its nuclear arsenal and has not declared a moratorium on the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. Furthermore, we remind that two states have blocked negotiations on an FMCT in the Conference on Disarmament for decades.

Our three countries remain committed to our voluntary moratoria on the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices and urge the one nuclear-weapon State that has not yet taken this step to do so.

Chair,

Draft resolutions L.15, L.18, L.25 and L.26 each contain references to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which we do not support or view as an effective disarmament measure. The TPNW does not change the legal obligations on our countries with respect to nuclear weapons. We do not accept any argument that the TPNW reflects, or in any way contributes to, the development of customary international law.

Chair,

Our countries are fully cognizant of “the devastation that would be visited upon all mankind by a nuclear war” and that nuclear weapons should only serve defensive purposes, deter aggression and prevent war. We have not been able to support resolutions L.25, L.55 L.26, L.17, and L.15 due to their implication that any use of nuclear weapons would cause such consequences, and additional language contained therein that is incompatible with our security considerations.

These resolutions do not accurately reflect the balance of obligations in the NPT nor the positive actions already taken by some nuclear-weapon States with regard to nuclear disarmament. They conceal the important nuclear weapons build-up of one nuclear-weapon State and the use of dangerous nuclear rhetoric by another nuclear-weapon State in support of its war of aggression. We are further concerned by the new language in L.55 that incorrectly frames extended deterrence relationships as “hastening nuclear decision-making.” This does not reflect reality. Extended deterrence arrangements have contributed to advancing global nonproliferation objectives for decades.

Chair,

Our three countries have not been able to support the new resolution L.56. This resolution does not sufficiently reflect the potential benefits of the use of artificial intelligence applications. Our three countries reiterate our long-standing commitment to maintain human control and involvement for all actions critical to informing and executing sovereign decisions concerning nuclear weapon employment.

Lastly, Chair, I want to explain further our position regarding resolution L.50. Our three countries support the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South-East Asia. We stand by our commitment to continue engaging with the Member States of ASEAN to find a common path towards signature of the protocol for nuclear-weapon States.

However, we regret the addition of new language which we were not able to support. We do not agree that all nuclear-weapon States' doctrines and nuclear modernization efforts are causing growing risks of nuclear danger. We wish to reaffirm that the United States, France and the UK remain committed to upholding our NPT obligations.

Regarding the "without reservations" clause, we wish to reiterate that our anticipated statements are fully compatible with the object and purpose of the Protocol, and fully consistent with the objectives and principles of the Bangkok Treaty.

On behalf of our three countries, I thank you for giving me the floor./.