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STATEMENT BY
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CHARGÉ D’AFFAIRES

**FIRST COMMITTEE GENERAL DEBATE ON
DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AT THE 80TH
SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

9th October 2025
Conference Room 4
United Nations HQ
New York

Mr. Chairman,

Let me warmly congratulate you on your election as Chair of this Committee and extend our appreciation to the other members of the Bureau. Ghana aligns with the statements of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the African Group .

Mr. Chairman,

2. The Secretary-General's report, *The Security We Need*, warns of rising global military expenditures driving a renewed arms race and straining national budgets. In 2024, military spending reached US \$2.7 trillion, a 9% increase over the previous year and the sharpest annual rise since the Cold War, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

3. This disturbing trend is mirrored most acutely in the nuclear domain, underscoring the need to keep up momentum across disarmament and non-proliferation as we work toward a world free of nuclear weapons. The NPT is central to this effort, but it is under serious strain because disarmament commitments from 1995, 2000, and 2010 remain unfulfilled.

4. As Chair of the Third Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review Conference, Ghana witnessed firsthand both the challenges of reaching consensus and the opportunities that exist when States engage in dialogue grounded in trust and compromise. These principles must guide the lead-up to the 2026 Review Conference if the NPT is to retain its centrality in the global security framework.

5. Ghana therefore urges Nuclear-Weapon States to fulfill their obligations under Article six of the NPT and past Review Conference commitments by taking concrete, transparent, and verifiable steps toward eliminating their nuclear arsenals. Ongoing modernization of stockpiles of nuclear weapons, deterrence policies, and deployment of same on foreign soil undermine trust in the NPT and fuel global instability.

6. Pending the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, Ghana emphasizes the vital role of instruments like the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, ratified by Ghana on 23 September 2025. However, their impact is diminished when compliance weakens, and nuclear doctrines shift towards lower doctrines.

Mr. Chairman,

7. Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, such as the Treaty of Pelindaba, are essential to strengthening the global norm against nuclear weapons and promoting regional and

international peace and security. Ghana fully supports all such zones and reaffirms its commitment to the establishment of a Middle East Zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. We urge all stakeholders to remain actively engaged in advancing the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East and the ongoing General Assembly mandated Conference.

8. In addition, Ghana upholds the inalienable right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy. We emphasize the vital role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in ensuring that nuclear science and technology are used safely, securely, and under strict safeguards.

Mr. Chairman,

9. Ghana reaffirms its commitment to the absolute prohibitions contained in the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention. These instruments remain vital pillars of the international system designed to prevent the re-emergence of weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Chairman,

10. On the issue of conventional weapons, we must strengthen existing norms, close legal gaps, and confront the challenges posed by emerging military technologies. The proliferation of autonomous weapons systems, armed drones, and

incendiary devices raises serious humanitarian, ethical, and legal concerns. Protecting civilians and upholding international humanitarian law must remain our priority. We urge full implementation and universal adherence to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and the Arms Trade Treaty.

11. Similarly, we also reaffirm the value of the United Nations Programme of Action and its International Tracing Instrument in combating the illicit flow of small arms. These tools are vital for preventing diversion and enhancing accountability. We welcome the adoption of the Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management and look forward to continued collaboration ahead of the 2027 Meeting of States.

Mr. Chairman,

12. Ghana is deeply concerned by developments that threaten strategic stability, particularly the deployment of anti-ballistic missile systems and the increasing risk of weaponizing outer space. These actions erode trust and undermine the global environment needed to advance disarmament and security.

13. We also commend the successful conclusion of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Security of and in the Use of ICTs and the consensus adoption of its Final Report. A smooth transition to the Global Mechanism is essential to ensure

this inclusive platform continues to foster consensus-based dialogue among all States.

14. Likewise, as we address the security implications of artificial intelligence, we must ensure its development and use in military contexts remain fully aligned with international law and the principles of human accountability.

15. In conclusion, Ghana reaffirms its steadfast commitment to multilateralism as the most effective means to advance disarmament, strengthen international peace and security, and promote the collective well-being of humanity. We must remain guided by the humanitarian imperative to protect human life, uphold human dignity, and preserve our planet for future generations.

I thank you.