



**2025 UNGA First Committee**

**Thematic Cluster statement: Nuclear Weapons**

**Delivered by Nicholas Clutterbuck, Deputy  
Permanent Representative to the Conference on  
Disarmament**

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Thank you.

New Zealand is deeply concerned by the deteriorating state of nuclear disarmament and arms control. A lack of progress has given way to active reversals, exacerbating global insecurity. Escalating tensions between nuclear-armed States, and the erosion of key agreements underscore the urgent need for renewed commitment to disarmament.

The NPT is the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. However, two review cycles without consensus have widened the gap between the Treaty's aims and its implementation. As well as facing ongoing non-proliferation challenges, the NPT's obligation to negotiate in good faith on nuclear disarmament is not being met. The NPT was never intended to entrench permanent nuclear weapon possession. We call on nuclear-weapon States to take practical steps to implement their disarmament commitments, including through transparency and reporting measures.

We also observe increasing reliance on nuclear weapons in security doctrines, continued investment in modernisation and expansion of arsenals, and alarming nuclear rhetoric. These developments are deeply troubling.

We urge the Parties to arms control agreements to fully comply with their obligations. We call for the negotiation of a successor to New START. States that have not yet joined the CTBT must accede without delay.

The total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only guarantee against their catastrophic consequences. The risks remain as long as these weapons exist.

To advance understanding of these consequences, last year New Zealand and Ireland led a resolution mandating a comprehensive scientific study on Nuclear War Effects. We welcome the establishment of the independent Panel and look forward to its findings.

The Treaty of Rarotonga reflects our region's enduring opposition to nuclear weapons.

Chair,

We reject the notion that nuclear disarmament must wait until a hypothetical, favourable security environment. The New Agenda Coalition offers concrete recommendations to fulfil disarmament commitments, including in our resolution for this Committee.

Finally, to conclude on a positive note, membership of the TPNW continues to grow. We congratulate Ghana for their ratification and Kyrgyzstan for their signature, joining the global movement toward the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Thank you.