

**Statement by Ms. Israt Ara, Deputy Permanent Representative of Bangladesh
at the General Debate of the First Committee of the 80th UNGA**

1500 hrs, 14 October 2025, CR-4

Mr. Chair,

I warmly congratulate you and Members of the Bureau on your election.

Bangladesh aligns itself with the statement delivered by Uganda on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

In addition, I would like to reiterate the following points in our national capacity.

Mr. Chair,

Eighty years after the adoption of Charter with the vision to create a world free of nuclear weapons, we are seeing escalation of conflicts in all corners of the world. Tensions among nuclear armed states are reaching new heights. In the scenario of continued arms race, increasing military spending and weakening arms control architecture, our aspiration for disarmament remains a far cry.

Mr. Chair,

For Bangladesh, disarmament is a matter of immediate security and survival, since we live in the shadows of several nuclear neighbors. We believe that nuclear weapons do not provide security to any nation, rather endanger security of all. That is why we remain at the forefront in assuming higher obligations under all major multilateral disarmament treaties. This unwavering commitment to disarmament is an integral part of our foreign policy.

Bangladesh was one of the first State Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). We welcome the Treaty's entry into force and commend the successful convening of its Third Meeting of States Parties in May this year.

Mr. Chair,

Bangladesh considers NPT as the foundation of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime. We firmly believe that any use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is a breach of international law. The only absolute guarantee against such use is their complete elimination.

Pending the achievement of that goal, the world must expand Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, including in the Middle East and South Asia, and provide credible and unconditional security assurances to all non-nuclear-weapon States.

Bangladesh emphasizes the importance of the non-discriminatory implementation of Article IV of the NPT, which upholds the inalienable right of all States to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. For us, nuclear technology contributes to clean energy, food security, and healthcare. In our national context, we remain committed to further deepening our existing cooperation with the IAEA to enhance our technical capacity.

Mr. Chair,

Bangladesh firmly believes that there is no alternative to a comprehensive and universal ban on nuclear testing. As one of the most densely populated countries, we remain concerned about the catastrophic consequences of any possible nuclear test in the region in the form of radiation exposure, environmental degradation and health hazard in their gravest forms. From this belief, we ratified the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in 2000 as the first South Asian country to do so. We strongly call upon

the remaining Annex 2 States to demonstrate leadership and join the global consensus without further delay.

Mr. Chair,

Bangladesh reiterates its unwavering support to the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention and underscores that there can be no impunity for the use of such weapons.

Bangladesh shares global concerns that the illicit transfer, accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons (SALW) pose serious threat to international peace and security.

Mr. Chair,

Bangladesh emphasizes the inalienable right of all Member States to explore and use of outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes. We believe that States, regardless of their level of capacity in space science, research and technology, ought to be able to contribute in shaping the future governance of outer space.

Mr. Chair,

We live in an age when AI is gradually making inroads in all aspects of life. We remain deeply concerned at the development of military applications using artificial intelligence. Our foremost responsibility is to harness AI for peace, not conflict. Therefore, we emphasize the urgent need for comprehensive frameworks to govern AI effectively in accordance with international law, ethical standards, and human rights principles.

Mr. Chair,

In this era of increasing global conflicts, the military expenditure continues to increase. The current liquidity crisis has put the development program in a complete disarray. We firmly believe that only through multilateralism we can achieve general and complete disarmament; and re focus our attention to attaining the development goals.

We call upon all States to remain united in strengthening our collective efforts toward the shared goal of a peaceful, secure, and nuclear weapons-free world.

I thank you all.