



IRELAND

UNGA80 First Committee

Thematic Debate on Disarmament Machinery

Statement by Ireland

Chair,

Ireland aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.

Chair,

The disarmament architecture is under extreme strain. Ensuring a properly functioning disarmament machinery, one that is fit for purpose and which produces results, is essential for both international peace and security, and the credibility of the multilateral system.

Chair,

Breaking the deadlock in the Conference on Disarmament (CD) is an important issue for Ireland. We have been a member of the CD for over 25 years. In that time, consensus has never been achieved on a programme of work. This is an unacceptable state of affairs, yet it persists. It places strains on delegations, especially smaller ones, and undermines confidence in the multilateral system.

We regret the frequent blockage of observer requests at the CD, including 16 states at the 2025 session by the Russian Federation. Such politicised actions to block and censor have been a frequent occurrence at the CD and are contrary to the body's principles and those of multilateralism. In this vein, we support both broadening the CD's membership and reforming its operation to help restore its credibility.

Chair,

Ireland also underscores the need to reinvigorate discussions within the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) through diligent cross-regional engagement in both working groups. 2026 will mark the final year of this three-year cycle. Ireland urges all Member States to seize this opportunity to develop

meaningful recommendations that we can build on. To this end, we commend the efforts of the chairs of the Commission and the respective chairs of the working groups towards substantive points of convergence.

Chair,

We should carefully consider the suggestions emerging from the UN Secretary-General's UN80 initiative, with the ultimate aim of bringing greater substance and sustainability to our work. Form should follow function. Ireland will do its part to ensure any reforms enhance our collective efforts.

Ireland greatly values the work of UNIDIR, and stresses the value of the Institute's autonomy and impartiality, and the importance of sustainable, cross-regional financing. We are grateful for the work of the often under-staffed implementation support units (ISUs) that effectively support our humanitarian disarmament conventions, and reiterate the need to ensure their adequate and predictable financing, and effective governance, moving forward.

Chair,

As we reflect on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the milestone UN Security Council Resolution 1325, we see that the disarmament and non-proliferation field has a long way to go to achieve gender equality. This goes for both participation, and the incorporation of gender perspectives and advancing of gender-responsive policy making. At this time of global pushback, Ireland will do what it can to ensure the protection of hard-won gains, and that we achieve greater progress in the period ahead.

Thank you.

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