



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations

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Statement

by

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Permanent Representative

During

80th Session of the General Debate

First Committee-Disarmament & International Security

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3:00pm

Conference Room 4

Mr. Chair,

1. I congratulate you and the members of the bureau on your election. I assure you of Kenya's support and cooperation.
2. My delegation aligns with the statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of Nigeria and Indonesia, on behalf of the African Group and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) respectively. I will make additional remarks in my national capacity.
3. Our global peace and security situation remains fragile and precarious. The global landscape is increasingly defined by wars, protracted armed conflicts that have pushed the world to a dangerous humanitarian tipping point.
4. Unfortunately, the UN Charter - the bedrock of our shared values in multilateralism, diplomacy, and respect for international law - stands undermined by the escalation of geopolitical rivalries. Today, unilateral actions, dangerous power plays, overlapping initiatives and competing processes that risk fragmenting our efforts have replaced cooperation and dialogue.
5. As Member States we have a duty to uphold our commitments to the UN Charter and prioritize peace over conflict, dialogue over division, and cooperation over unilateralism. The cost of ignoring the core principles enshrined in UN Charter is far too high. The continuation of these wars is an indictment of not only the perpetrators, but also the

international peace and security architecture that has failed to stop these senseless wars and hold the perpetrators to account.

6. In this time of global uncertainty, Kenya continues to provide leadership at the regional level and beyond, working within its capacity to contribute to our shared goal of achieving sustainable peace and restoring dignity to women, men, and children affected by conflict.

Mr. Chair,

7. The only absolute guarantee against the use of nuclear weapons lies in their complete elimination. The road to this end is constructive engagement, political will, and the full implementation of multilateral obligations until nuclear disarmament. We remain hopeful that the 2026 NPT Conference will yield positive and tangible outcomes in this regard and call for the full implementation of Article VI of the Treaty and the guidelines of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
8. As a State Party to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), Kenya urges all Annex 2 States to promptly ratify the Treaty to facilitate its long-overdue entry into force. At the same time, we emphasize the importance of upholding the inalienable right of all states to develop peaceful nuclear technology, in accordance with Article IV of the NPT. In this regard, we call for strengthened capacity-building initiatives and equitable access to nuclear technology that promote peaceful development and shared progress.

9. My delegation reaffirms its steadfast commitment to the Chemical Weapons Convention recognizing that the complete and verifiable elimination of chemical weapons is fundamental to international peace, security, and the rules-based multilateral order. We condemn the use of chemical weapons by any actor, under any circumstances, as a grave breach of international law and a threat to global stability. We call for enhanced vigilance, strengthened national implementation, and sustained international collaboration, including capacity-building, information sharing, and scientific exchange within the OPCW framework, to ensure that chemistry is used exclusively for peaceful and beneficial purposes advancing humanity.

10. The advent of Artificial Intelligence in the military domain and the use of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) are sources of concern owing to the dual-use nature of such technologies, offering both humanitarian benefits and posing serious risks to civilians when weaponized. Kenya urges the international community to move decisively towards the negotiation of a legally binding instrument with clear prohibitions and robust regulations that ensures such technological advancements serve to protect humanity, rather than diminish its values. The ongoing diplomatic processes must not become a mechanism to delay action but a vehicle for urgent progress.

Mr. Chair,

11. In line with the Secretary General's report on Artificial intelligence in the military domain and its implications for international

peace and security, Kenya emphasizes that any military use of AI must remain under meaningful human supervision and in full conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, international humanitarian law, and human rights law. We support the establishment of an inclusive and dedicated process within the United Nations to address the governance, risks, and security implications of AI in the military sphere, ensuring that its use contributes to stability and the protection of civilians rather than to escalation or harm.

12. My delegation is deeply concerned about the potential deployment or testing of weapons in outer space, which threatens global security and strategic stability. We reaffirm the importance of preventing an arms race in outer space and preserving it as a domain for peaceful purposes and the benefit of all humankind and support calls for continued dialogue to ensure that outer space remains free of conflict and is governed by international cooperation, mutual trust, and adherence to the rule of law.

Mr. Chair,

13. We commend the progress made under the Open-ended Working Group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025, which advanced important discussions on cyber norms and global digital security. My delegation is confident that we can achieve consensus on an inclusive future institutional dialogue that would build on the progress made thus far

to ensure the safety, stability, and resilience of global information and communication technologies.

14. The illicit proliferation of small arms, light weapons, and their ammunition have a devastating impact on human life and livelihoods and continue to exacerbate conflicts and undermine development efforts. My delegation calls for enhanced initiatives to eradicate the illicit arms trade as well as increased capacity-building support for Member States, particularly on weapons management and the destruction of illegal arms.

15. We view the upcoming 9th Biennial Meeting of States as an opportunity to address emerging challenges, enhance international cooperation and assistance, and advance concrete, measurable progress in implementing the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

16. In conclusion, I reaffirm Kenya's unwavering commitment to constructive engagement on matters of disarmament and international security and call for unity of purpose to create a safer and more peaceful world, for current and future generations.

I thank you.