



# PHILIPPINES

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## STATEMENT

To be delivered by

**Mr. PAOLO MARCO R. MAPULA**  
**Second Secretary**

Thematic Debate on Cluster VII: Disarmament Machinery  
First Committee of the 80<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly  
Conference Room 4, United Nations Headquarters, New York  
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Mr. Chair,

The Philippines aligns itself with the statements delivered by Singapore on behalf of ASEAN and by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The Philippines remains deeply concerned that the conventional and nuclear arms control architecture is under severe strain. Heightened power rivalry, surging military spending, the weaponization of emerging technologies and of outer space, and deadlocked negotiating forums all contribute to a growing threat to humanity and global stability. My delegation believes that Member States must now act with renewed urgency and boldness. As such, allow me to highlight three interlinked themes:

First, the need for effectiveness through reform of the multilateral disarmament machinery. The Philippines urges the Conference on Disarmament to intensify its consultations, to agree and implement a balanced and comprehensive programme of work, and to open up trajectories for negotiation on fissile material cutoff, prevention of arms races in outer space, and emerging technologies. A strong Conference is indispensable to multilateral disarmament.

Second, the value of inclusivity and trust-building through universal mechanisms. The United Nations Disarmament Commission, with its universal membership, retains a unique role in building confidence and exploring emerging issues. The Philippines welcomes the three-year cycle of the UNDC and looks forward to substantive discussion on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and on emerging technologies in the context of international security.

Our delegation also underscores that equality is a core principle of the United Nations and multilateralism. However, that equality remains elusive after 80 years. The Philippines laments

that not all UN member states can participate in the Conference on Disarmament on equal footing despite continuing to fund the holding of its meetings.

Third, the need for renewed political impetus for disarmament. We support the convening of a Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly on Disarmament (SSOD-IV) as a timely platform to review the disarmament machinery, to raise ambition, and to interface disarmament with the broader UN agenda on development, climate, and digital security. The Philippines believes that an SSOD-IV would provide a clear political spotlight, renew multilateral momentum, and help translate normative commitments into concrete, time-bound action.

Mr. Chair,

The Philippines reaffirms its strong commitment to strengthening the UN disarmament machinery. We look forward to working with all delegations on this path, including leveraging the Philippines' regional experience and capacities, and contributing to a safer world for our people and for future generations.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.