



*The Permanent Mission of Portugal
to the United Nations*



PORTUGAL
United Nations Security Council
2027/2028

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**United Nations General Assembly
80th session**

**First Committee (disarmament and international security)
Cluster 7 (disarmament machinery)**

New York, 28 October 2025

Statement by Portugal

Delivered by Mr. Miguel Alegre,
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Chair,

Portugal aligns with the statement of the European Union and wishes to make a few remarks in its national capacity.

As mentioned in our cluster 6 national statement, disarmament is a multi-level effort. However, in light of recent discussions around UN80, States are also asked to reflect on ways in which existing mechanisms can be made more effective.

The three main disarmament bodies at the UN – the First Committee, the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission – each have a role to play, but their work can be enhanced and made more complementary. Greater synergies have to be found.

Allow me to point to a few recommendations on how we can strengthen the UN disarmament machinery.

First, predictable and sustainable funding must be ensured. Paying mandatory contributions in full and on time is a first step to achieve this goal.

Second, these bodies have to be inclusive. Portugal has applied to be a member of the Conference on Disarmament in 1993, having participated as an observer ever since, while patiently awaiting a decision. In 2025, for the third consecutive year, Portugal, along with 15 other UN Member States, has been blocked for political reasons from participating as observer of the Conference on Disarmament, which



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is a concerning sign of lack of inclusivity and transparency in the single multilateral disarmament negotiating body. Inclusivity also means ensuring meaningful participation of international and regional organizations, civil society, academia and industry in disarmament processes, enriching our works with their expertise.

Third, we must show that the machinery delivers on tangible results. The conclusion of new legally binding instruments in the areas of lethal autonomous weapons systems or of production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other explosive devices, for example, would be a step in the right direction.

Chair,

Apart from the intergovernmental bodies, allow me also to express Portugal's gratitude towards UNODA and UNIDIR. Upholding their independence and supporting their work, both politically and financially, can prove highly beneficial in advancing the disarmament and non-proliferation agenda.

Other non-UN organizations such as the IAEA, CTBTO or OPCW are also crucial actors in the disarmament machinery which we must lend our support to. Robust verification processes ensure compliance, build trust among States and reduce the risk of proliferation.

Chair,

To conclude, strengthening the disarmament machinery is strengthening multilateral institutions and reviving the multilateral spirit. The multilateral approach is one where States are equally heard and can collectively join efforts to tackle problems that go beyond borders. Overcoming the deadlocks in the disarmament machinery can therefore produce concrete results which reduce conflicts and ultimately contribute to sustainable development.

I thank you.

[439 words]