

BELGIUM

Statements for debates in thematic clusters

Cluster I – Nuclear Weapons

1st Committee of the 80th UN General Assembly

New York, October 2025

Cluster I – Nuclear Weapons

Mister Chair,

Belgium aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU and wishes to offer the following remarks in its national capacity.

The consequences of the use of nuclear weapons are far reaching. The prevention of the intentional or unintentional use of nuclear weapons is therefore of vital importance.

Deterrence is part of preventing nuclear use. Belgium therefore fully supports NATO's stance on the need for nuclear deterrence as long as adversaries possess nuclear weapons, and certainly when they threaten to use them against us.

Belgium is in favour of a gradual and realistic approach of nuclear disarmament, aimed at concluding irreversible and verifiable disarmament agreements between the nuclear powers. Credible nuclear arms control and disarmament requires a balance that ensures inclusive and sustainable security for all.

A cornerstone of this balance is the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which has significantly reduced nuclear stockpiles, curbed proliferation, and enabled peaceful nuclear cooperation.

Today the NPT faces notable challenges. Belgium reconfirms that the DPRK's nuclear programme is illegal, and the DPRK cannot claim a status not granted under the NPT. Belgium deplores that Russia undermines the Treaty in exchange for North Korean ballistic missiles and cannon fodder for use in its war of aggression against Ukraine.

Iran, another supplier of weapons to Russia, refuses clarity over its nuclear programme and denies access to the IAEA. After years of unsuccessful dialogue to find a diplomatic solution, reinstating all UNSC sanctions is therefore a justified response.

Chair,

Belgium urges nuclear-weapon states to engage in risk-reduction efforts and calls on those with the largest arsenals—Russia, the United States, and China—to negotiate new limits on strategic and non-strategic warheads.

Belgium also calls for universal ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and urges Russia to reverse the withdrawal of its ratification.

Belgium supports the establishment of a Group of Scientific and Technical Experts on Nuclear Disarmament Verification as a concrete step towards a world without nuclear weapons.

Thank you.