



European Union

Statement on Regional Disarmament and Security

First Committee of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

FOR DELIVERY ONLY

Mr. Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries North Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Albania*, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina* and the EFTA countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Monaco and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

The EU will continue to work for the peaceful resolution of regional instability and insecurity and of conflict situations. We strongly support the establishment of regional and sub-regional confidence- and security-building measures.

It remains a strategic priority of the EU to support peace and stability in the entire Middle East. The EU reaffirms its full support for the establishment of a zone free of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

Mr. Chair,

Russia's unjustified and illegal full-scale war of aggression against Ukraine continues to inflict a devastating toll primarily on the Ukrainian people. We condemn Russia's actions to destabilise the global architecture for the maintenance of peace and security, including UN Security Council instruments. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and its repercussions for European and global security in a changing environment constitute an existential challenge for the European Union. We call for a full, unconditional ceasefire which could allow space for meaningful talks for genuine peace aimed at ending Russia's war of aggression and restoring a comprehensive, just and lasting peace. The EU and its Member States will continue to uphold international law and full respect for Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders, support Ukraine, and work to ensure full accountability for crimes.

* North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

Russia's illegal seizure and occupation of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant and military activities endanger Ukraine, the region and the world.

The EU condemns the military support for Russia's aggression provided by the DPRK and Iran, as well as the Belarusian regime's involvement in Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the announced deployment of Russian nuclear weapons on the territory of Belarus. We note with concern China's support to Russia's military-industrial complex. We urge all countries to immediately cease any direct or indirect assistance to Russia in its war of aggression against Ukraine.

Mr. Chair,

The EU welcomes the agreement on the first phase of the Comprehensive Plan to end the Gaza Conflict put forward by President Trump to secure an immediate ceasefire and the release of all hostages. We call on all parties to fully implement the agreement without delay, allowing for the establishment of a lasting ceasefire, the release of the hostages, and the unimpeded access and sustained distribution of humanitarian assistance at scale into and throughout Gaza. This is a real chance to end the devastating war and the human suffering, and to forge a credible political path towards lasting peace and security, based on the two-state solution.

Building national capacities and strengthening regional cooperation remain central to our efforts, as set out in the EU Strategy against illicit firearms, small arms and light weapons and their ammunition.

The EU supports SALW control projects, often in collaboration with regional organisations (the African Union, ECOWAS, UNREC, RECSA, the OSCE, the Southeastern and Eastern Europe Clearing House for the Control on SALW, the Organisation of American States, UNLIREC and League of Arab States).

Furthermore, other EU assistance activities focus on promoting universal adherence to and national implementation of key international instruments. The EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative provides a platform for cooperation with partner countries to mitigate risks posed by chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.