



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



First Committee of 80th Session of UN General Assembly

Cluster 1: Nuclear Weapons

Statement of Greece

Delivered by Mr. Pantelis Margaris, Minister Counsellor, Disarmament Expert

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Mr. Chair,

The preservation, and universalization of the NPT, a balanced approach regarding its three pillars and a sincere dialogue between nuclear and non-nuclear states must be at the center of our deliberations during the upcoming 11th Review Conference.

Unfortunately, the 11th Review cycle is taking place amidst a deteriorating global security environment and an alarming erosion of the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

Greece shares the goal of a more secure world without nuclear weapons, but the nuclear disarmament process should be pursued through a step-by-step approach.

The complex security environment especially in Europe underscores the importance of extended nuclear deterrence as reinforced by NATO's nuclear sharing arrangements as a means to deter aggression.

We commend the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and we support its efforts towards the universalisation of Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements together with Additional Protocols as the current verification standard under the NPT, having in mind an overdue need for updates, due to rapid technological progress.

We commend the courageous work of the IAEA in maintaining a continuous presence in Ukraine under challenging conditions.

Greece strongly supports the Agency's work in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology, an issue we had the opportunity to discuss in depth with Director General Grossi during his visit to Athens last May.

Greece follows closely international developments on Small Modular Reactors and other new technologies, recognising their potential contribution to future energy systems, while underlining that the highest standards of nuclear safety, security and safeguards must apply.

We urge all relevant parties to continue engaging into dialogue in good faith, towards concluding a successor agreement to New START.

Mr. Chair,

Greece supports the establishment of nuclear-free zones around the world as well as the establishment of a Middle-East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction and their delivery systems.

My country is concerned by the non-proliferation challenges related to the Iranian nuclear programme and urges Iran to comply with its legally binding nuclear safeguards obligations under the NPT.

Greece is committed to upholding the sanctions regime on the DPRK as an essential tool to constrain its WMD and ballistic missile programmes. We are ready to work with all partners toward the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

My country believes that Outer space must remain a domain free of nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction.

Lastly, Greece remains fully committed to supporting the effective and universal implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004).

In its capacity as Vice - Chair of the 1540 Committee, Greece is organizing the coming month, a national workshop on Maritime Border Security Enforcement within the Context of Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540.

I Thank you