



*The Permanent Mission of Portugal
to the United Nations*



PORTUGAL
United Nations Security Council
2027/2028

[Check against delivery]

**United Nations General Assembly
80th session**

**First Committee (disarmament and international security)
Cluster 6 (regional disarmament and security)**

New York, 27 October 2025

Statement by Portugal

Delivered by Mr. Miguel Alegre,
Political Officer (Disarmament), Permanent Mission of Portugal to the UN in New York

Chair,

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

Multilateral efforts are only as effective as they permeate different levels and spheres. The work carried out at the UN can and should be informed and also itself inform work carried out at regional, national and local levels. If these levels communicate and function in complementarity and collaboration, rejecting a logic of competition, norm-setting and their implementation are rendered more efficacious.

This rule applies to most work at the UN and therefore it also applies to disarmament and non-proliferation issues. The UN can provide a comprehensive picture and set global norms, and regional approaches can adapt and fine-tune those norms to the specific contexts in which they operate.

Being deeply integrated both in the Atlantic alliance and in the political project of the EU, Portugal understands the value of regional cooperation, also as a means to strengthening national capacities.



*The Permanent Mission of Portugal
to the United Nations*



PORTUGAL
United Nations Security Council
2027/2028

Chair,

Portugal's preoccupations with regional disarmament are clear. We are deeply concerned about the proliferation crises affecting not just the Middle East, but also the Indo-Pacific.

This is why, on the nuclear front, we fully support the IAEA's mandate, including its work related to safeguards, safety, security as well as on technical cooperation and call on all States to cooperate with the Agency and grant full and unrestricted access to the Agency's experts to nuclear sites when requested. This is also why we support the establishment of a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in the Middle East.

But the regional disarmament agenda must also include conventional weapons. And cooperation in this respect is crucial.

This is why Portugal actively participates in a number of regional activities. Allow me to list a few. Within the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, the Council of Chiefs of Police established a Commission on Arms and Explosives, whose role is to share best practices and information in order to curb illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. In Latin America, and also in the area of illicit trade in SALW, we actively participate in the European-Latin American Assistance Program against Transnational Organized Crime. Our police forces have also recently translated into Portuguese an EU handbook on firearms for border guards and customs, to spread good practices into the Lusophone world.

Indeed, we believe that it is through cooperation – whether it be region-to-region, State-to-region or intra-region – that we can enhance regional disarmament efforts.

I thank you.

[409 words]