



*Statement by  
Ms. Natascia Bartolini  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
of the Republic of San Marino to the United Nations*

*at the General Debate of the First Committee  
80<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly  
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Mr. Chair,

First of all, it is a real pleasure to congratulate you and all the members of the bureau on your election. You can count on this delegation's full cooperation.

San Marino aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.

Now I would like to add some comments in my national capacity.

Mr. Chair,

San Marino is deeply worried about all the ongoing conflicts around the world, which continue to spread death, destruction and immense suffering to civilians, trapping them in cycles of violence and trauma.

Sadly, we have witnessed an alarming rise in civilian casualties in conflicts. The number of women and children killed has reached disgraceful figures.

Civilians have been deliberately attacked. Starvation and rape have been used as weapons of war by parties.

We firmly condemn such actions and call on all parties to strictly abide to international humanitarian law.

Regrettably, violence has increased also against humanitarian actors and journalists, who are being killed in unprecedented numbers.

We condemn the attacks against humanitarian personnel, aid workers and journalists and we call on all parties to reverse the erosion of international humanitarian law. In this spirit, San Marino has recently endorsed the Declaration for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel.

San Marino also condemns the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, which causes the disruption of basic services for the population and unacceptable civilian harm. We continue to support and call for the implementation of the “Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas”.

We also recall the fundamental importance of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in preventing harm to civilians. We regret recent withdrawals from such instruments; we believe that in times of armed conflict, civilians are particularly at risk and it is therefore critical to reinforce IHL.

San Marino remains very concerned about the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine, which continues to cause dramatic consequences for the civilian population.

We welcome all international efforts for a comprehensive, just and lasting peace, in line with the UN Charter and international law and we continue to support Ukraine’s independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

Concerning the Middle East, San Marino is thankful to the successful mediators’ efforts and welcomes the conclusion of the peace agreement. While remaining very concerned about the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza, this recent long-awaited outcome represents a glimmer of hope for a just and lasting peace, based on the two-state solution.

Mr. Chair,

Ongoing armed conflicts increase global instability and put all humanity at imminent risks, including nuclear risks.

Aggressive nuclear rhetoric and threats have regrettably reappeared, increasing the risk of deadly escalation, threatening to spiral out of control and putting all humanity in global danger. San Marino condemns in the strongest terms any nuclear threat, implicit or explicit and irrespective of circumstances.

The catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any nuclear detonation must always guide our work.

Regrettably, nuclear doctrines have been strengthened and military and nuclear confrontation is growing. Modernization and expansion of nuclear arsenals are advancing, as it is clearly shown by the rising military expenditures.

The use of new technologies, including artificial intelligence, creates new uncertainties and concerns, while the risks of cyberattacks and manipulation of nuclear arsenals cannot be underestimated.

The Doomsday Clock warns 89 seconds to midnight—the closest it has ever been to global disaster. We need to change course.

The only way to change this course is a collective recommitment to our multilateral instruments. San Marino continues being firmly committed to the full implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and looks forward to the upcoming NPT Review Conference. We must seize this opportunity to uphold the integrity and credibility of this instrument and finally prove that, when we work together constructively, we are able to achieve a successful outcome.

San Marino firmly believes in a world free of nuclear weapons and firmly supports the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). This treaty, which complements and strengthens the disarmament regime, is an important step in our path towards a nuclear-free world. San Marino promptly signed and ratified this Treaty, showing an unwavering support for a total ban of nuclear weapons. We urge all Countries to join this important instrument.

Mr. Chair,

San Marino is also worried about the risks related to new technologies in the military domain. The rapid advances in artificial intelligence have led to concerning levels of autonomy in conflicts. We must ensure that human control is preserved over life and death decisions. The increasing use of autonomous weapons systems, which challenge human control over the use of force, has deepened humanitarian, legal, ethical, technological, security and human rights concerns.

San Marino believes that international regulations of autonomous weapons systems are urgently needed, due to their rapid advancement and to their increasing use on the battlefield. We therefore support the starting of negotiations for a legally binding instrument, which should be based on the two-tier approach, to set clear prohibitions and restrictions.

Mr. Chair,

We are witnessing an unprecedented rise in global military expenditures. San Marino believes that security cannot be based on an arms race. On the contrary, we believe that investing in disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation, in the long term will result in an investment in peace, security and sustainable development.

We must redirect our efforts towards that path, renewing our commitments to disarmament obligations and to peace through diplomacy and cooperation.

Thank you for your attention.