

**STATEMENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE
FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY 80TH SESSION
GENERAL DEBATE DELIVERED BY MR. PETER SHIJA, MINISTER
PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON
16TH OCTOBER, 2025**

Mr. Chairman,

1. I would like to congratulate you on your election as president of the first committee for 80th session as well as the members of the bureau. I wish you all success in guiding the committee's work for this session, and URT assure you full support and cooperation.
2. The United Republic of Tanzania, aligns itself with the statement delivered by the African Group and the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

3. Tanzania remains deeply concerned by the deteriorating state of global disarmament and non-proliferation. The continued existence of nuclear weapons poses an existential threat to humanity. We echo the African Group's profound disappointment with the consecutive failures of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conferences, which erodes the very foundation of our collective security. The ongoing modernization of nuclear arsenals and the inclusion of nuclear weapons in security doctrines are contrary to the spirit and letter of the NPT.
4. For Tanzania, the total and irreversible elimination of nuclear weapons within a clear timeframe is not just a political goal; it is a moral and security imperative. It is the only absolute guarantee against their use or threat of use. We therefore strongly support the Treaty on the Prohibition of nuclear weapons (TPNW) and look forward to the Third Meeting of States Parties in

March 2025. We call upon all states, particularly Nuclear-Weapon States, to sign and ratify this landmark treaty.

5. As a proud State Party, Tanzania reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the Peli Ndaba Treaty, which establishes Africa as a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone. This Treaty is a cornerstone of our regional security, prohibiting the testing and stationing of nuclear explosive devices on our continent. We will continue to submit and support the annual resolution on this Treaty and call for its universal adherence.

Mr. Chairman,

6. Tanzania is gravely concerned by the illicit trade, transfer, and proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). This scourge fuels conflict, terrorism, and organized crime, directly impacting peace and security in our region. As a host to refugees fleeing conflicts exacerbated by these weapons, Tanzania has witnessed their devastating humanitarian consequences firsthand.

7. We remain firmly committed to the UN Programs of Action on SALW and welcome the successful outcome of the Fourth Review Conference. We urge strengthened international cooperation, including holding manufacturers accountable, to combat the illicit flow of these weapons. Tanzania has taken concrete national steps, including building the capacity of our border and port officers to prevent illicit trafficking, and we welcome further international support in this critical area.

Mr. Chairman,

8. Tanzania's commitment to these principles is demonstrated by our active participation in the international legal framework. We are a party to key instruments, including the NPT, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban

Treaty (CTBT), and the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

Through the Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission (TAEC), we rigorously regulate all nuclear and radioactive materials to ensure they are used exclusively for peaceful purposes in health, agriculture, and research, in full compliance with our IAEA safeguards obligations.

9. We welcome the work of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC) and commend its 38 years of service. Tanzania has directly benefited from UNREC's technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives. We join the African Group in calling for enhanced support and resources for the Centre to deliver on its vital mandate.

10. On emerging challenges, Tanzania underscores the importance of preventing an arms race in outer space and supports the negotiation of a legally binding instrument. We also emphasize that human control must be retained over the use of force, including in discussions on lethal autonomous weapons and military applications of artificial intelligence. Mr. Chairman,

11. In conclusion, Tanzania believes that through renewed political will, trust, and a return to genuine multilateralism, we can revitalize the disarmament agenda. We will continue to actively and constructively participate in the work of this Committee and lend our support to the African Group's resolutions.

12. I thank you, Mr. Chairman!