



**Statement by His Excellency Odo Tevi,  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Vanuatu to the United Nations  
Before the First Committee (Disarmament and International Security)  
80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly  
New York, 13 October 2025**

**Mr. Chair,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

At the outset, let me congratulate you for assuming the chairmanship of this important committee as well as your respective Bureau members. I assure you of Vanuatu's support during your term.

**Mr. Chair,**

Our deliberations in this First Committee take place against the backdrop of a world in distress — a world where conflicts are multiplying, trust among nations is eroding, and the global arms race is accelerating. The international community is witnessing renewed investments in nuclear and conventional weapons while resources for peacebuilding, development, and climate action remain depleted.

For small island developing states like Vanuatu, the meaning of “security” goes beyond traditional notions of military strength. Our security lies in the protection of our people, their health, education, water and food security, our environment, and our future. **Climate change** — not conventional warfare — poses the most severe threat to our national survival. Rising seas, stronger cyclones, and ocean acidification directly endanger our well-being. Addressing this threat must therefore remain at the heart of the global security agenda.

The Forum Leaders in their 54<sup>th</sup> Session in Solomon Islands, endorsed the **Blue Pacific Ocean of Peace Declaration in alignment with the Boe Declaration** reaffirms our region's aspiration to

remain a **Zone of Peace** — one free from militarization, external interference, and great-power rivalry.

**Mr. Chair,**

Vanuatu remains deeply concerned by the continued modernization of nuclear arsenals, the absence of progress in nuclear disarmament, and the growing militarization (and continuing commercialization) of new domains such as outer space and cyberspace. These trends undermine the collective security architecture that this Committee seeks to uphold.

We urge all **nuclear-weapon States** to fulfill their disarmament obligations under **Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)** and to take concrete steps toward the **complete elimination of nuclear weapons**.

We further urge for the **universalization of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)**. The Pacific region continues to bear the scars of nuclear testing, and we must ensure that such suffering is never repeated — anywhere, ever again. We welcomed the recent efforts to address the ongoing harm caused by the use and testing of nuclear weapons globally through victims assistance and environmental remediation.

Vanuatu is proud to have ratified the **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)** — a landmark instrument that embodies humanity’s collective aspiration for a world free of nuclear arms. We urge all Member States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Treaty, and we commend the growing number of States that continue to join it. We also call on all states to participate in the first Review Conference of the TPNW which is planned to be held on 30 November to 4 December 2026. We acknowledge that the TPNW is complementary with the NPT, CTBT, nuclear-free zone treaties, and other elements of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

**Mr. Chair,**

Emerging security challenges also require our urgent attention. The rapid development of **autonomous weapons systems, artificial intelligence, and cyber capabilities** raise serious

ethical and humanitarian concerns. These technologies must be governed by international law and human oversight. Vanuatu supports global efforts to establish binding norms that ensure these innovations serve the cause of peace, not destruction.

We are equally alarmed by the proliferation and misuse of **small arms and light weapons**, which continue to fuel conflicts and undermine stability in many regions. Vanuatu strongly encourages timely and effective implementation of the **Arms Trade Treaty** and the **UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons**, including enhanced capacity support for small states.

**Mr. Chair,**

Disarmament and development are mutually reinforcing. Every dollar diverted to the arms race is a dollar taken away from education, health, and climate resilience. The pursuit of peace and the Sustainable Development Goals are inseparable.

Vanuatu reaffirms its unwavering commitment to **multilateralism, the rule of international law,** and the **principles of the UN Charter**. We believe that collective security, grounded in dialogue and mutual respect, remains the surest path to global peace.

Let us renew our resolve to build a safer, fairer, and more sustainable world — one where the security of one nation does not come at the expense of another's survival.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.