

**General Statement on behalf of members of the Informal Group of Observer States to the
Conference on Disarmament (IGOS)
1C – 2025 – UNGA80 – Cluster VII**

DELIVERED BY SLOVENIA

Thank you Chair.

I have the honour to speak on behalf of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Kuwait, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, the Philippines, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, as well as Thailand, who will deliver the second part of this statement, and my own country Slovenia, who all traditionally apply to become Observer States, and some have applied to become Members States to the Conference on Disarmament.

We would first like to thank Mexico for the broad, transparent and inclusive consultation process on the text, and their attempts to find a suitable text. We commend that.

At the same time, we regret that once again, it was not possible to take a clearer stance on the continued exclusionary practices against the requests to become observers by States who are not members of the Conference on Disarmament, but who have a keen interest in shaping the matters of international security in the Conference's deliberations.

In 2023, we had the unprecedented situation of no decision being taken on the requests by 39 States to become observers. In 2024, while the Conference welcomed many States requesting to become observers, the challenges remained. This year, 16 States were once again blocked from participating as observers, while others were accepted.

This is contrary to the principles of multilateralism and inclusivity that should guide the work of the Conference and indeed arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation.

Chair, may I kindly ask for the Chair to recognize Thailand, which will deliver the second part of the statement?

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DELIVERED BY THAILAND

Thank you Chair.

The decision adopted by the Tenth Special Session on Disarmament of the UN General Assembly on 30 June 1978 clearly stated that, and I quote:

"Since the process of disarmament affects the vital security interest of all States, they must all be actively concerned with and contribute to the measures of disarmament and arms limitation, which have an essential part to play in maintaining and strengthening international security."

This is a principle that all States should adhere to and promote. Disarmament is undoubtedly a matter concerning all States, as clearly demonstrated here in the First Committee. Limiting participation undermines not only the credibility, but also the transparency and accountability of the CD as a single multilateral disarmament negotiating body.

In addition to that, in line with the UN80 initiative, we believe that the Conference should regain its efficiency and deliver on its mandate in order to ensure that it remains relevant and addresses the current challenges in the field of disarmament.

As we reassert the importance of multilateralism during the UN's 80th anniversary, we should commit to ensuring that no UN Member States are blocked from taking part in the activities of the Conference on Disarmament –while continuing to pay to its budget.

It is our expectation that starting with the 2026 Session, the principles of inclusivity and multilateralism quoted in the resolution we have in front of us will be fully respected and observed.

Thank you Chair.