

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY – 80TH SESSION
FIRST COMMITTEE
THEMATIC DEBATE ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS
STATEMENT BY THE UNITED KINGDOM
Delivered by Ambassador David Riley
New York, October 2025

Chair,

The UK remains fully committed to the goal of a world without nuclear weapons. This commitment is not just set out in fine words. It is how we act.

The UK will continue to promote and show transparency, engaging regularly with civil society and international partners, including to promote understanding and confidence in our policies. We will continue to champion crucial collaboration on irreversibility and effective verification, to ensure that when the circumstances allow, rapid progress can be made on the path towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

We take our commitment to the NPT Review process just as seriously. We published our draft National Report for the NPT Review Conference in April. We have held open consultations with stakeholders in New York

and Vienna, and will hold consultations in Geneva in November. We continue to invite input via email from anyone who would like to send us feedback.

We are committed to dialogue among Nuclear Weapon States, including on nuclear doctrines and strategic risk reduction. The UK is pleased to chair the P5 Process this year.

Chair,

We are committed to bringing the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty into force; to beginning negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty in the Conference on Disarmament; and, to championing the vital work of the IAEA, alongside its independence and impartiality.

We regret that others have chosen a different path.

Russia's decision to de-ratify the CTBT was a significant setback for international arms control. China's rapid and opaque expansion of its nuclear arsenal raises serious concerns about its commitment to transparency and nuclear risk reduction. Since 2019, Iran has exceeded

all limits on its nuclear programme that it had freely committed to under the JCPoA. According to the IAEA's report of 4 September 2025, Iran holds a quantity of enriched uranium which is 48 times the JCPoA limit. DPRK's persistent violations of UN Security Council resolutions and provocative nuclear activities remain a grave threat to the non-proliferation regime.

Chair,

We should be under no illusions as to the security context within which the NPT Review Conference will take place. But it is precisely because of these challenges that the UK stands ready to work constructively with all partners towards a successful outcome.

The Treaty is about more than conferences, of course. It has served all our interests well for the past fifty years. I am confident it will continue to server our collective interests for decades to come.

Thank you.