

Statement by the United States
Thematic Discussion on Cluster 1- Nuclear
UNGA First Committee 2025
FOR DELIVERY

Chair,

The United States remains steadfast in its commitment to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and nuclear war. President Trump has made clear he is open to engaging in good faith on arms control and has shown a commitment to safeguarding the nuclear nonproliferation regime upon which we all depend. But as long as U.S. adversaries continue to undermine peace and security, the United States will ensure our nuclear deterrent is safe, secure, effective, and reliable.

Chair,

For decades, the United States has demonstrated its commitment to arms control and disarmament through concrete actions including a 90 percent reduction of our arsenal, a moratorium on the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices since the 1990s, and proven dedication to transparency and accountability.

Yet, Russia continues to pursue novel and dangerous weapons while China rapidly and opaquely expands its nuclear forces. Russia also is supplying nuclear fuel for China's plutonium-generating breeder reactors, which is particularly troubling because those facilities could support China's nuclear warhead production.

Such actions run counter to our collective goal to prevent a nuclear arms race. These past two weeks we have heard China say it was committed to arms control, avoiding an arms race, and engaging in dialogue on strategic risk reduction – we are ready for China to turn those words into actions.

Chair,

The United States has also demonstrated its commitment to nonproliferation through our support for IAEA safeguards, nuclear security, and multilateral initiatives that help partners develop capabilities to prevent proliferation.

Meanwhile, North Korea advances its weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs in violation of multiple UN Security Council resolutions with Russia's support and China standing by idly. Iran's repeated violations of its safeguards obligations seriously threaten the international nonproliferation regime. President Trump has never wavered: Iran cannot be allowed to have a nuclear weapon.

Chair,

The United States will seek to strengthen NPT implementation at next year's Review Conference, including by advancing risk reduction, expanded access to peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and promoting a more effective review process.

The NPT obligates all nuclear-weapon States – including Russia and China – to negotiate in good faith on effective measures to advance nuclear disarmament. President Trump wants to reduce nuclear weapons, and all countries should encourage Russia and China to join the United States in implementing NPT obligations and advancing the goals of NPT Article VI. Otherwise, stability and the ultimate goal of a world without nuclear weapons will prove elusive.

Thank you.