

United States General Debate Statement for 80th UNGA First Committee

FOR DELIVERY

Thank you, Chair.

On behalf of the United States, I congratulate your Excellency Massari and the other members of the Bureau on your election to lead this 80th session of the UN General Assembly First Committee.

Chair,

President Trump has made clear that the United States will be a leading voice when it comes to international security. He has demonstrated in the nine months he has been in office that he will spare no effort to engage with leaders around the world to secure peace. The President has consistently stated that “nuclear weapons are the single greatest threat to this world.” And on September 23 in these halls, he called on every nation to join the United States in ending once and for all the development of biological weapons—reflecting the U.S. commitment to eliminate biological weapons since 1969 when we unilaterally renounced our historical program. Under his leadership, the United States also continues to prioritize the identification and verified destruction of any remaining elements of the Assad regime’s chemical weapons program and to counter the development and use of chemical weapons worldwide. Additionally, the United States will seek the benefits of emerging technologies, while mitigating risks. And we will seek to mitigate the potential for dangerous escalation in ongoing or possible conflicts.

The President also has made clear that the world is facing a resurgence in threats, and we must adapt the existing international security architecture to meet them. And in this vein, we need to see results. The United States and its citizens – like the citizens of all our countries – demand security at home, and we cannot permit threats to the homeland to persist. We need concrete means to address and defend against them.

Chair,

We face a world today where China is pursuing at break-neck speed the opaque build-up of its nuclear weapons arsenal, with no insight into its intent or endpoint. We call on China to explain its actions to the world. Another nuclear weapon State is developing novel nuclear weapons capabilities and has made concerning changes to its nuclear doctrine – all while waging the largest land war in Europe since 1945. Meanwhile, Iran’s relentless violations of its safeguards obligations threaten nuclear proliferation, not to mention nefarious cooperation with Russia through its ballistic missile and drone programs. And the DPRK’s advancement of its weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs – relying on dual-use goods and technology from China and Russia - in violation of multiple UN Security Council resolutions, continues just as it aids Russia in its war against Ukraine.

Many of these threats are directed towards the United States. All of them threaten global peace and security. Let me be clear, it is not the United States or NATO that is creating this threat environment. It is the malign actors who are giving rise to instability, misperception, and the potential for escalation and who are gambling with our shared future.

In this environment, the United States and its allies will strengthen our collective defense to establish the conditions under which real progress can be made: advancing peace through strength. Simultaneously, in this 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the United Nations, it is time to reinvest efforts in a streamlined, efficient, fit for purpose, arms control and disarmament architecture that more effectively convenes member states to solve problems.

Chair,

In this anniversary year, we must become more efficient and take steps to rationalize and prioritize our work in the First Committee. We can and should reduce the number of resolutions and decrease costs. In this, the United States is leading by example: we will not introduce any resolutions of our own this year, and we will continue to request others introduce periodicity into many of the annual resolutions that have not substantially changed from year to year, including those that we have both supported and not supported in the past.

While we decided not to run our triennial compliance resolution this year, let me reiterate that compliance by Member States with nonproliferation, arms control, and disarmament agreements to which they are parties is essential for international peace, security, and stability. This decision in no way detracts from our enduring commitment to promoting treaty compliance and holding those who violate their obligations accountable to uphold and strengthen implementation of the global nonproliferation regime.

With efficiency gains, the United States and the other First Committee participants can address urgent global priorities in this challenging moment. Together, we can drive toward real results.

Chair,

Ahead of next year's Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty Review Conference, the Trump Administration has emphasized the need to recommit to nuclear nonproliferation obligations, demonstrate transparency by all Nuclear Weapon States, and engage in substantive risk reduction.

President Trump has made clear that the threat posed by nuclear weapons is far too great. He has reiterated that he is willing to engage in good faith negotiations with China and Russia to achieve meaningful progress and to prevent a nuclear arms race.

The President has also reiterated that he is willing to engage in good faith negotiations with Iranian leaders, though Iran's refusal to conduct direct talks and repeated rejections of our proposals have so far precluded meaningful progress on a diplomatic solution.

He has urged us to consider the harm-reducing and transformative benefits of military applications of emerging technology while appropriately balancing risks.

The President has encouraged countries to join a U.S.-led AI verification initiative to enhance enforcement of the Biological Weapons Convention because biological weapons have no place in this world.

The United States has also called for responsible behaviors in outer space to ensure it remains a domain for innovation, exploration, and commercial activity we all depend on, free from weapons of mass destruction in perpetuity.

Across this and other important work, the United States firmly believes that peace, security, and prosperity is best achieved through strength and partnership. We are prepared to work with willing partners that share our commitment to delivering tangible results towards these goals, and we will not hesitate to press for accountability for those who undermine our efforts.

The challenges we face in disarmament, nonproliferation, and international security are complex, but they are not insurmountable if we all commit to addressing these challenges together.

Thank you, Chair.