



# REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations, 237 East 52nd Street, New York, NY 10022  
Tex: (212) 888-5770 Fax: (212) 888-5213 E-mail: zambia@un.int



## STATEMENT

BY

**DIRECTOR – RESEARCH, PLANNING AND PROJECTS  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

**MS. IREEN MUSONDA**

**DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE  
FIRST COMMITTEE**

**ON ALL DISARMAMENT AND  
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AGENDA ITEMS**

**AT THE**

**EIGHTIETH SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**OCTOBER 2025**

**Mr. Chair,**

Since Zambia is taking the floor for the first time, allow me to join others that have spoken before me to congratulate you, Chair and the distinguished bureau members on your election to preside over the work of the First Committee.

Zambia aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Africa Group and wishes to make the following remarks in its national capacity.

**Mr. Chair,**

The Republic of Zambia reaffirms its steadfast commitment to the principles of general disarmament and international security, recognizing that disarmament is essential for building a peaceful, stable, and cooperative international order.

We welcome the Secretary-General's comprehensive report on disarmament which provides critical insights into current disarmament challenges and opportunities.

Zambia continues to believe that general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control is a foundational pillar of international peace.

**Mr. Chair,**

The link between disarmament and development is particularly critical for developing countries, including Zambia, where the diversion of public resources toward excessive armaments severely constrains progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We therefore reiterate our support for disarmament measures that enable economic transformation and human security.

**Mr. Chair,**

Zambia remains firmly committed to the peaceful uses of outer space and to ensuring that space remains a domain free of conflict, weaponization, or military confrontation. We believe that outer space is the common heritage of humankind and must be preserved exclusively for peaceful purposes, scientific advancement, and sustainable development.

**Mr. Chair,**

We note with concern the growing militarization of outer space, as highlighted in the Secretary-General's report, which outlines the rising threat posed by the testing and development of space-based weapons and anti-satellite capabilities.

Recent incidents of satellite interference, jamming, and destructive Anti-Satellite tests (ASAT) have only served to intensify the risk of misunderstanding and escalation, threatening global peace and security.

**Mr. Chair,**

Zambia reaffirms its commitment to the global aspiration of a world free of nuclear weapons, however, we express concern relating to the non-adherence to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The current security environment calls for renewed political will, practical measures, and enhanced cooperation among all States.

**Mr. Chair,**

We welcome the adoption of the resolution entitled steps to building a common roadmap towards a world without nuclear weapons, which, adopted by a large majority, calls upon nuclear-weapon States to "ensure that nuclear weapons are never used again."

Equally important is the resolution on "Addressing the legacy of nuclear weapons", which recognizes the grave human,

environmental, and health consequences of nuclear testing and use, and urges States to cooperate in “providing victim assistance and environmental remediation.” For Zambia, this principle is vital: suffering anywhere undermines the global position against nuclear use everywhere.

**Mr. Chair,**

Conventional weapons remain a significant source of insecurity in many parts of the world, especially in regions vulnerable to armed conflict, organized crime, terrorism, and underdevelopment. The unregulated and illicit flow of small arms and light weapons (SALW), continue to fuel violence, threaten peace processes, undermine countries authority, and impede socio-economic development. The human and socio-economic costs of armed violence are high particularly if left unchecked.

The destabilising impact of conventional weapons, especially in post-conflict and fragile regions, continues to pose a serious threat to peace, development, and human security. The proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW), anti-personnel mines, and explosive remnants of war exacerbates armed violence, fuels criminal networks, and undermines recovery efforts in conflict-affected societies.

**Mr. Chair,**

The persistent threat posed by the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, especially in conflict-prone and post-conflict regions, also remains a grave concern.

Zambia urges strengthened implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, improved stockpile management, and enhanced regional coordination, particularly across Southern Africa, to prevent the proliferation and misuse of these weapons.

**Mr. Chair,**

We also wish to draw attention to the implications of emerging technologies, particularly artificial intelligence, in the military domain. While acknowledging the potential benefits of AI for decision-making and operational efficiency, Zambia stresses the importance of establishing strong international norms to govern its use.

The unregulated deployment of lethal autonomous weapons systems, in particular, raises profound ethical, legal, and humanitarian concerns. We support ongoing efforts to develop a legally binding international instrument that ensures meaningful human control, compliance with international humanitarian law, and accountability for any use of force.

**Mr. Chair,**

In addressing the role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament, Zambia welcomes the insights provided in the **Secretary-General's report**, which highlights both the opportunities and risks associated with scientific advancement. While we support innovation and the use of science for peaceful purposes, we are concerned about the potential misuse of technologies such as cyber tools, biotechnology, and advanced robotics.

We call for inclusive international dialogue on the governance of these technologies and underscore the importance of ensuring that all countries, especially those in the developing world, benefit equitably from peaceful scientific progress.

**Mr. Chair,**

In conclusion, Zambia firmly believes that multilateral cooperation remains the most effective path toward reducing tensions, preventing conflict, and advancing global disarmament goals.

We urge all Member States to reaffirm their commitment to international law, transparency, and collective security.

Disarmament is not merely the elimination of arms—it is the creation of space for peace, for justice, and for the sustainable development of all nations. Zambia remains ready to work with all partners to ensure a safer and more secure world for present and future generations.

**I thank you.**