

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ZIMBABWE AT THE 80TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY FIRST COMMITTEE THEMATIC DISCUSSION ON CLUSTER 2: OTHER WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION: 22 OCTOBER 2025

Mr. Chair,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Non-Aligned Movement. We will make additional remarks in our national capacity.

Chair,

The prospect of biological or chemical weapons proliferation evokes critical global security concerns, which can only be addressed through multilateralism. Biological and chemical weapons can traverse the globe within a matter of hours, posing serious risks to international security. Despite the very clear risks, significant disparities persist worldwide in biosecurity preparedness, including detection systems and response capacities.

This year, we celebrate 50 years since the Biological Weapons Convention entered into force as the first multilateral disarmament treaty to ban an entire category of weapons of mass destruction. 50 years later, there are many successes. However, we remain concerned with the lack of a verification regime under the BWC, while there is also need to address emerging issues such as synthetic biology and dual-use research. On this note, we call for the strengthening and enhancement of the BWC's institutional architecture, including its capacity to support States to respond to international emergency situations. We also call for enhanced international cooperation and assistance, for peaceful purposes.

On chemical weapons, we commend the OPCW on its effective operation and verification system, while promoting peaceful uses of chemicals. Zimbabwe applauds the OPCW for its role in the complete destruction of all declared chemical weapon stockpiles.

We implore all States to fully support the work of the OPCW in the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. We call for international cooperation on activities not prohibited under the CWC and for capacity building in areas including detection, response and forensic analysis related to chemicals.

We urge the OPCW Technical Secretariat to support States Parties to develop their chemical industrial capabilities for peaceful purposes.

Meanwhile, rapid technological advancements prompt the need for continued focus on the potential developments and new threats involving chemical, biological and toxin weapons.

Chair, let me conclude by reassuring you that Zimbabwe remains steadfast in its commitment to the total elimination and prohibition of all chemical, biological and toxin weapons.

I thank you.