



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cabo Verde to the United Nations

80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

First Committee - General Discussion

Intervention by Ambassador Tania Romualdo, Permanent Representative of Cabo Verde

Mr. Chairperson,

Since this is first time we are taking the floor, we would like to congratulate you on your election to lead the work of the First Commission. You can count on Cabo Verde's support.

We align ourselves with the statements delivered on behalf of NAM and on behalf of the African Group and add the following in national capacity.

Cabo Verde, a peaceful island State committed to multilateralism, welcomes the opportunity to participate in this discussion on disarmament and international security.

Although we do not possess nuclear weapons, Cabo Verde ratified all major international disarmament instruments, reaffirming our commitment to peace, collective security, and the primacy of international law.

We live in peace, but we are not immune to the cross-cutting impacts of global insecurity. Armed conflicts, weapons proliferation, and the absence of clear norms directly affect human security, sustainable development, and regional stability.

The continued existence of nuclear arsenals poses an existential threat to humanity. The instability they generate undermines collective security and diverts resources that could be applied on the SDGs and save millions of lives.

Total elimination of nuclear weapons is a collective responsibility and a moral imperative. Durable security can only be achieved through the permanent removal of these weapons from the international landscape. We therefore call for the universalization of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), the revitalization of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) with renewed focus on Article VI, and the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CNTBT) by the remaining States. Peace is not merely the absence of war, but the absence of existential threats.

We strongly condemn the use and threat of use of chemical and biological weapons. SIDS with limited resources are particularly vulnerable to the cross-border impacts of incidents involving such weapons. We advocate for strengthening verification mechanisms under the Chemical Weapons Convention and enhancing international cooperation for technical capacity-building, especially in developing countries. Effective prevention requires robust norms and international solidarity to ensure all States have adequate response capabilities. The security of some states cannot be built upon the vulnerability of others.

Accountability and transparency in conventional weapons production and trade are essential and we urge industrial-capacity States to assume greater responsibility in exports regulation. Especially small arms whose silent proliferation fuels conflicts beyond borders and undermines development efforts. There's a need for regional platforms, with UN technical support, for tracking and destroying obsolete stockpiles.

Cabo Verde advocates that outer space remains a common good of humanity, free from militarization that would pose systemic threats to global peace and civilian infrastructure. Space must be preserved as a domain of scientific cooperation and collective progress, not transformed into a new arena of geopolitical confrontation. It is time to negotiate a legally binding instrument prohibiting the placement of weapons in space and ensuring the peaceful and equitable use of space technologies.

Digital security is another integral part of international security. Digital trust is a pillar of international stability. Cyberattacks and digital misinformation have disproportionate

impacts on the most vulnerable States. The Global Digital Compact and the work of the Open-ended Working Group on ICTs have our total support.

The role of UN Regional Centers for Peace and Disarmament and the creation of a South Atlantic Forum for Sustainable Security, with UN support and participation from coastal States are vital. Regional capacity-building in the South Atlantic and elsewhere is essential to ensure that all States can fully participate in multilateral disarmament and security processes. Regional peace is built through inclusion, cooperation, and mutual respect.

To strengthening multilateral disarmament mechanisms and international security, we need to assure inclusiveness and full participation. This is not only a matter of fairness but a necessary condition for the effectiveness and legitimacy of multilateral decisions.

Mr. Chair,

Cabo Verde reaffirms its commitment to peace, disarmament, and the strengthening of the multilateral system and stands ready to work with you, your team and all member states and partners.

Thank you.