



# CROATIA

Statement by

Ms. Helena Marković  
Third Secretary

at

the First Committee 80th Session General Debate

Check against delivery

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Mr. Chair, dear Colleagues,

Croatia's path to sovereignty has been shaped by a firm commitment to peace, freedom, and democratic values. From our non-aligned position during the Cold War, through the experience of armed aggression in the 1990s, and to EU and NATO membership, Croatia has consistently demonstrated dedication to collective and cooperative security.

Guided by these principles, Croatia remains concerned by the grave humanitarian situation in Gaza. We commend President Trump's leadership in bringing about a negotiated agreement and commend all efforts aimed at de-escalation and alleviating civilian suffering. It is essential to ensure full, unimpeded humanitarian access, uphold international humanitarian law and secure the safe release of hostages. Croatia expresses hope that these steps will pave the way for renewed dialogue and lasting peace.

At the same time, Croatia unequivocally condemns the Russian Federation's unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine and firmly supports its independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. We actively contribute to efforts aimed at safeguarding nuclear safety and ensuring accountability for violations of international law.

We remain a strong advocate of multilateralism and a rules-based international order. Arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation are not ideals but instruments of peace and security. Our own experience, once facing aggression without deterrence, has taught us the cost of insecurity and the value of solidarity.

In this context, nuclear deterrence within NATO's collective defense posture, remains a key to strategic stability and peace. It is defensive, proportionate, and consistent with the UN Charter and international law, providing credible security assurances to non-nuclear allies that reduce proliferation incentives.

Croatia calls on all nuclear-weapon states to recommit to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Ahead of the 2026 Review Conference, we urge transparency, accountability, and a meaningful outcome.

We support the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and regret the Russian Federation's "de-ratification". Remaining Annex II States should sign and ratify the Treaty without delay. Additionally, we support prompt negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) and a global moratorium on fissile material production for nuclear weapons pending its adoption.

Strategic stability requires transparent nuclear doctrines. We urge all nuclear-armed states to align policies with verifiable actions, enhance transparency about their arsenals, and engage in meaningful risk reduction.

We particularly encourage China to increase transparency regarding its nuclear doctrine and arsenal, and to take tangible steps to reduce strategic risks. Mutual trust must rest on openness and dialogue.

We remain deeply concerned by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's continued nuclear and missile development in violation of UN Security Council resolutions, and urge its return to full compliance with its international obligations and dialogue toward denuclearization.

Croatia reaffirms the importance of the New START Treaty and supports expanding strategic arms control frameworks. We urge all nuclear armed states to engage constructively in nuclear arms control negotiations, which are essential for global security.

We strongly support the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which promotes transparency and responsibility in the global arms trade, and emphasize the full implementation of the ATT to prevent diversion and strengthen export controls, especially for dual-use goods and technologies.

Croatia commends the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) role in ensuring nuclear energy use for peaceful purposes and supports its full, timely, and transparent cooperation with Iran. Full access and compliance are critical for regional stability and the integrity of the non-proliferation regime.

We welcome the renewed cooperation of the new Syrian authorities with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and encourage further engagement to verify the complete elimination of chemical weapons. Constructive participation is vital for restoring trust and upholding the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

Croatia reiterates its firm support for both the CWC and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC). The use or threat of use of chemical or biological weapons is unacceptable. In this regard we underscore the importance of safeguarding the independence and credibility of mechanisms such as the OPCW and the UN Secretary-General's Mechanism.

As a country once heavily affected by landmines, Croatia remains committed to the full implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and continues to support demining, particularly in Ukraine, through technical expertise and humanitarian aid. Solidarity in demining is an investment in lasting peace.

Croatia underscores the persistent threat of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and supports full implementation of the UN Programme of Action and the Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management. Strengthened controls, stockpile security, and export monitoring are key to preventing conflict and enhancing human security.

Regarding emerging technologies, Croatia emphasizes that lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) must comply with international humanitarian law, ethical standards, and democratic values.

We also recognize that both outer space and cyberspace, while offering immense potential, also pose serious security challenges. Responsible behavior must extend beyond Earth and into cyberspace. We support the application of international law to space activities and welcome the work of the UN OEWG on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, as well as UN framework for responsible State behavior in cyberspace and the new Global Mechanism on ICTs to advance transparency, capacity-building, and accountability. Strengthening responsible conduct and resilience in these domains is essential to safeguarding international peace and security.

Mr. Chair,

Croatia remains a constructive partner in advancing peace, security, and disarmament. Guided by our national experience, anchored in international law and our strategic alliances, we will continue

to support diplomacy, responsibility, and multilateral cooperation to address the challenges of today and tomorrow.

Thank you.