



CZECH REPUBLIC

Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations

80th Session of the General Assembly

First Committee: General Debate

Statement by

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New York, 13 October 2025

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Thank you, Chair,

Let me begin by congratulating you on your election as Chair of the First Committee.

Czechia fully subscribes to the statement delivered by the European Union. Allow me to add several remarks in our national capacity.

At a time of profound crisis for international peace and security, Czechia reaffirms its unwavering commitment to international law, effective arms control, disarmament, and nonproliferation. The First Committee remains an essential forum for upholding these principles, fostering dialogue, and strengthening collective security.

That is why we condemn Russia's deliberate targeting of civilians and civilian infrastructure, including repeated strikes on Ukraine's energy grid, that has caused immense suffering and heightened nuclear safety risks. Adding to that, Russia's reckless nuclear rhetoric, nuclear threats, and announced deployment of nuclear weapons to Belarus are provocative, dangerous, and destabilizing. The continued occupation of the Zaporizhia Nuclear Power Plant, with repeated outages of the plant's offsite power supply, illustrates Russia's blatant disregard for nuclear safety and security. We thank the IAEA for its impartial efforts to uphold safety at the Power Plant and reiterate that the plant must be returned to full Ukrainian control.

We also remain deeply alarmed by Russia's use of chemical agents as a method of warfare in Ukraine, in flagrant violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Czechia expresses its appreciation to the OPCW for its indispensable work in upholding the global prohibition of the use of chemical weapons. We fully support the OPCW's ongoing efforts in Syria and hope that the new Syrian authorities will cooperate fully and transparently to ensure the complete elimination of all remaining chemical weapons and related capabilities in full compliance with the Convention.

Chair,

The NPT remains the cornerstone of the global security architecture. Its three pillars are of equal importance, and we must ensure their balanced implementation. Czechia attaches the highest importance to the NPT and wishes to see a constructive and forward-looking outcome of the forthcoming Eleventh Review Conference. We stand ready to work closely with the Chair and all States Parties to ensure the continued strength and effective implementation of the NPT. It is the responsibility of all NPT Nuclear Weapon States to act transparently and responsibly. In this regard, we are increasingly concerned by China's opaque and rapid nuclear build-up, which is inconsistent with its declared No First Use policy. We call on China to engage in meaningful arms control discussions. Likewise, we underscore the importance of the New START Treaty as a key element of global strategic stability and call on Russia to meaningfully engage with the United States in negotiations

on a successor agreement that preserves and strengthens the existing arms control architecture.

On Iran, the IAEA has repeatedly concluded that it cannot confirm the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear programme. Iran must resume full cooperation with the IAEA without preconditions. Failing to meet its legal obligations stemming from its NPT safeguards agreement, Iran has left the international community no choice but to reimpose lawful UN sanctions. We call on Iran to address all concerns arising from its nuclear program and engage in good faith negotiations.

Similarly, we condemn the DPRK's continued illegal nuclear and missile programmes, as well as Russia's attempts to shield Pyongyang from accountability and to exploit illicit arms transfers. This is a direct violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions and a grave threat to regional and global security. We are alarmed that - in pursuit of its neocolonialist objectives in Ukraine - Russia has repeatedly undermined the very core of the NPT by claiming support for DPRK's status as a nuclear weapon state.

Chair,

On emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence and lethal autonomous weapons systems, we must move urgently to establish norms of responsible use and behavior. Czechia fully supports the Responsible Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain initiative as an important forum for addressing the military uses of artificial intelligence and promoting responsible behaviors in this field. We also thank the Chair of the GGE on LAWS, Ambassador of the Netherlands, for his effective leadership and continued efforts to advance discussions within the CCW framework.

Similarly, we need to uphold and develop existing norms of responsible behaviors in outer space, where irresponsible actions risk undermining the peaceful use of this domain. Czechia welcomes the beginning of substantive work in the Open-Ended Working Group on PAROS and regrets that Russia continues to disregard the overwhelming consensus on this issue.

Chair,

Czechia reiterates its strong commitment to multilateralism. That is why we cannot remain silent about the persistent deadlock of the Conference on Disarmament, combined with its lack of inclusivity. This situation runs counter to the very spirit of the UN 80 process, which should strengthen, not weaken, multilateralism and inclusion. Russia bears much of the responsibility for this situation by systematically blocking numerous observers from participating in the work of the Conference, which should be plainly reflected in its report.

Chair,

The profound deterioration of the security environment, driven above all by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, leaves us no choice but to increase our defence spending — not out of preference, but out of necessity to protect our people and uphold peace. It is therefore not surprising that, under such dire security circumstances, several States have also felt compelled to withdraw from the Ottawa Convention — forced to take such steps by Russia's aggression and persistent threats to their very existence.

That said, we remain committed to working constructively with all UN members to ensure that disarmament and nonproliferation deliver real security for future generations.

Thank you, Chair.