



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

DRAFT STATEMENT

**FIRST COMMITTEE THEMATIC DEBATE ON NUCLEAR
WEAPONS**

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CR4
UNHQ

Chair,

Eighty years after the detonations in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the nuclear taboo that has long defined the limits of human warfare is showing signs of strain.

The survivors — the *hibakusha*, now in their eighties — still await the fulfillment of their lifelong quest: a world free of nuclear weapons.

At 89 seconds to midnight, the Doomsday Clock stands at its closest point to catastrophe since its creation by Einstein and co back in 1947.

Arms-control regimes are eroding, nuclear rhetoric is re-emerging, and new technologies are deepening instability.

Global stockpiles now exceed 12,000 warheads. Nuclear-armed States continue to modernize their arsenals and delivery systems. Military expenditure reached a record 2.7 trillion USD last year — with more than 100 billion USD devoted to nuclear forces and billions more to private technology firms designing next-generation weapon systems.

More recklessly, misplaced confidence in the idea of a “*limited*” nuclear exchange could have humanity stumble into nuclear war.

Recommitment to the NPT, the CTBT, and the TPNW is therefore imperative.

Yet non-proliferation cannot endure without fairness, mutual guarantees, and a credible disarmament pathway.

While some nations regard nuclear capability as the ultimate insurance of security, others remain constrained by its fragility and arbitrary unilateral coercive enforcement of the non-proliferation regime.

Chair,

A new frontier of risk also looms. Most of today's safeguards predate the age of algorithmic warfare. The acceleration of artificial intelligence and autonomous systems in defense presents an unprecedented challenge to nuclear stability.

Decision-support algorithms now permeate early-warning and command systems, compressing decision timelines and eroding human judgment at moments of potential crisis.

Until their total elimination, nuclear weapons must adhere to the Human-in-the-Loop principle and remain under strict human oversight — to keep the nuclear taboo intact in the algorithmic age.

Finally, nuclear disarmament is a development imperative.

The opportunity cost of the more than 100 billion USD spent last year on nuclear forces is self-evident — each dollar invested in weapons of annihilation is a dollar denied to human security, education, health, and climate resilience.

The clock is ticking, but we still hold the power to turn it back.

Thank you.