



IRELAND

UNGA80 First Committee

General Statement

Statement by Ireland

Chair

Congratulations on your assumption of the Chair. Ireland offers you our full support.

Ireland aligns with the statements of the European Union, and the New Agenda Coalition.

Chair,

Once again we meet amidst multiple serious crises each of which reflects and shapes our work on disarmament, global challenges and threats to peace.

Russia's unjustified and illegal full-scale invasion of Ukraine is now in its fourth year. Russia's use of nuclear rhetoric and threats, violations of international law, targeting of civilians, use of chemical weapons on the battlefield, and ongoing illegal occupation of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, are unacceptable and reprehensible. Ireland unequivocally condemns Russia's actions. A comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine based on the principles of the UN Charter and international law is a key priority.

Ireland welcomes that Israel and Hamas have agreed on the first phase of a peace deal to end the war in **Gaza**, and that all living hostages have been released. The peace deal offers an opportunity to address the catastrophic humanitarian situation and unconscionable human suffering in Gaza, to put an end to the manmade famine and to restore the vital medical, educational and other social services which have been decimated in Gaza over the past two years. All members of this United Nations must reflect on what more they can do.

The non-proliferation challenges in **Iran** are profound and urgent. Iran must engage meaningfully and in good faith with the international community to satisfy concerns about its nuclear programme. The JCPOA showed that when all relevant parties are engaged, Iran's nuclear activities can be verifiably constrained. We must recommit to a lasting and sustainable diplomatic solution. This must involve Iran's full cooperation with the IAEA, including through implementing its legal obligations.

Chair,

Through these urgent and pressing crises, we can see disturbing themes.

We have seen conflicts involving nuclear-armed states, continued obstruction in multilateral organisations, attacks on the integrity of international institutions including the **IAEA**, flagrant breaches of international law, including international humanitarian law, violations of sovereignty and territorial integrity, and **attacks on nuclear facilities**. Ireland echoes the concern of the IAEA Director General at the UN Security Council on the consequences of such attacks, including for regional and global stability.

Amidst this, the disarmament and non-proliferation architecture is under real strain. Upholding it – and its successes - is not a passive exercise: it takes real political will and effort.

Over the next year we will come together in the context of a number of Review Conferences.

- We will engage in good faith to achieve a positive, meaningful outcome at the **NPT Review Conference**. We are not unaware of the challenge involved. It is crucial that we maintain the NPT as the essential element of the disarmament and non-proliferation regime. We continue to call for the balanced implementation of its three pillars, in particular disarmament, which has lagged behind. We will advance proposals for increased transparency, especially by the nuclear-weapons States, to drive accountability for disarmament obligations and commitments.
- We welcome the establishment of the independent scientific panel to examine the **effects of nuclear war**, mandated by the General Assembly and proposed by Ireland and New Zealand. The panel will provide an up-to-date understanding of the consequences of these weapons, demonstrating with the latest science data and modelling that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought. We look forward to the presentation by the Chair of the panel to this Committee.
- In its 30th anniversary year, we will call for long-overdue progress, made more difficult still by Russia's de-ratification, towards the effective implementation of the **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty**. We must continue to safeguard the norm against nuclear testing.

- We will continue to advocate for the **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons** as an effective means of advancing and achieving nuclear disarmament, motivated by the awareness of the catastrophic humanitarian and environmental consequences of nuclear weapons, and in full complementarity with the global disarmament and non-proliferation regime.
- We will support international organisations, in particular the **IAEA** and the **OPCW**, in their crucial and impartial work. We call on all States to ensure full cooperation with the work of the Agency. Ireland strongly supports the OPCW in identifying, documenting and eliminating chemical weapons in Syria.
- We take good note of the UN Secretary-General's call for urgent progress on a legally binding instrument on **lethal autonomous weapons systems**. We welcome the work of the Group of Governmental Experts in the CCW. The 'rolling text' currently being developed represents a comprehensive set of elements, sufficient to form the basis of negotiations. In that spirit, we are pleased to co-sponsor with Austria and a cross-regional group, a resolution on this topic.

Chair,

Ireland is a proud champion of the UN Secretary-General's advocacy campaign on **humanitarian disarmament and mine action**.

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons are key treaties that continue to save countless lives and prevent serious injury, during conflict and for decades after. We call on all States Parties to uphold their commitments under these Conventions, and call on those who have not yet done so to join without delay.

It remains a key priority for Ireland to address the wide-ranging effects of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. In 2024, **EWIPA** affected 74 countries and territories. Over 90% of casualties were civilians. Ireland encourages States that have yet to do so, to endorse and implement the EWIPA Political Declaration. Ireland looks forward to the international conference in Costa Rica, with a view to advancing best practice for civilian protections in conflict zones.

We all have a stake in disarmament. The invaluable contributions of **civil society**, academia, and, most importantly, the input and perspectives of victims and survivors of these weapons, must be recognised and promoted.

Chair,

The achievement of **gender** equality is a long-standing priority for Ireland. But, in terms of progress, the disarmament and non-proliferation field continues to lag in this area. Today, we are in danger of reversing even that limited progress. To achieve sustainable peace and development, the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all our efforts must be realised.

Chair,

The international disarmament and non-proliferation architecture provides the structure to tackle the challenges we face today, and to protect civilians from the impact of armed conflict. That architecture must be protected and reinforced. Ireland reaffirms its commitment to that task, and to upholding and strengthening international humanitarian law.

Thank you.