

Statement by Bangladesh delegation (Rashed Ahmed, Second Secretary) on the Thematic Debate on “Nuclear Weapons” at the First Committee of the 80th Session of the UNGA

Date: 21 October 2025, Venue: CR-4, UNHQ

Thank you, Chair.

Bangladesh aligns itself with the statement delivered by Indonesia on behalf of NAM. Allow me to share our national position.

Nuclear weapons continue to pose the most significant threat to humanity, and the consequences of their use are catastrophic. Eighty years after the adoption of Charter with the vision to create a world free of nuclear weapons, we are seeing escalation of conflicts in all corners of the world. We believe that nuclear weapons do not provide security to any nation, rather endanger security of all. That is why we remain at the forefront in assuming higher obligations under all major multilateral disarmament treaties. This unwavering commitment to disarmament is an integral part of our foreign policy.

Mr. Chair,

Bangladesh considers NPT as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and the fundamental foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. We firmly believe that any use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is a breach of international law. The only absolute guarantee against such use is their complete elimination. We must work towards a successful 11th Review Conference in 2026 and the universalization of the Treaty. Full implementation of NPT obligations, especially by Nuclear-Weapon States, is essential for global disarmament and non-proliferation.

Pending the achievement of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, the world must expand Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, including in the Middle East and South Asia, and provide credible and unconditional security assurances to all non-nuclear-weapon States.

Bangladesh emphasizes the importance of the non-discriminatory implementation of Article IV of the NPT, which upholds the inalienable right of all States to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. For us, nuclear technology contributes to clean energy, food security, and healthcare. In our national context, we remain committed to further deepening our existing cooperation with the IAEA to enhance our technical capacity.

Mr. Chair,

Bangladesh was one of the first State Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). We welcome the Treaty's entry into force and commend the successful convening of its Third Meeting of States Parties in May this year. We urge all States that have not yet done so to join the Treaty.

Bangladesh remains concerned about the catastrophic consequences of any possible nuclear test in our region in the form of radiation exposure, environmental degradation and health hazard in their gravest forms. We firmly believe that there is no alternative to a comprehensive and universal ban on nuclear testing. From this belief, we ratified the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in 2000 as the first South Asian country. We strongly call upon the remaining Annex 2 States to demonstrate leadership and join the global consensus without further delay.

To conclude, we reiterate our ardent calls that all States must consistently renounce nuclear weapons, recognizing the critical need for a world without them.

I thank you.