

Statement on behalf of Broadly Like Minded

to be delivered by

H.E. Robert in den Bosch

Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the
Conference on Disarmament and Ambassador-at-large for Disarmament
Affairs

at the

**Eightieth Session of the First Committee of the United Nations General
Assembly**

on

Nuclear Weapons

New York, 17 October 2025

Check against delivery

Chair,

I take the floor on behalf of Albania, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Türkiye and my own country the Netherlands.

Chair, excellencies, distinguished delegates,

It is in the interest of humanity that nuclear weapons are never used again. Maintaining the nuclear taboo is essential to achieving our common goal of complete, irreversible and verifiable nuclear disarmament. In January 2022, the leaders of the P5 reaffirmed in a joint statement that “a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought”. We urge the P5 to uphold this commitment. In 2024, an overwhelming majority of UN Members have committed themselves to this principle through the adoption of the Pact for the Future.

We remain dedicated to pursuing a practical and achievable path toward the shared vision of a world free from nuclear weapons. Our approach to disarmament takes careful account of the global security environment, with a clear focus on the risks posed by nuclear weapons. At its heart, our commitment is informed by a

deep awareness of the devastating humanitarian and environmental consequences that nuclear conflict would bring.

Much of the nuclear arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation architecture remains strong and functional even under the present security conditions. In implementing the NPT, the IAEA works every day to promote global nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology. It does so through the application of safeguards and its contributions to strengthening nuclear safety and security. The CTBTO, while still to be formally established, is already operational, with its global monitoring system.

Yet our common pursuit is facing fundamental challenges, including irresponsible nuclear rhetoric, a lack of respect for international law, as well as the expansion of nuclear arsenals and an unfortunate stalemate in reaching new agreements, such as on fissile materials for nuclear weapons.

Chair,

The nuclear weapon states — and especially the holders of the largest arsenals — have a particular responsibility. We call on them to pursue transparency measures and enter into talks on

risk reduction measures, arms control, and reduction of their arsenals.

With the New START Treaty suspended and approaching its expiration, we face the prospect of losing the last remaining bilateral nuclear arms control agreement between the United States and Russia. It is of the utmost importance that an appropriate successor agreement be put in place as soon as possible.

Chair,

Our goal is an ambitious and successful NPT Review Conference. At the Conference we must recommit ourselves to the obligations and commitments across all three pillars of the Treaty. As tensions continue to rise globally, and nuclear risks increase concurrently, it is more important than ever to find common ground on measures to prevent nuclear war, increase transparency and accountability, and build confidence and trust. These steps are not a replacement, or prerequisite, for disarmament. They lay the crucial groundwork for long-awaited arms control and disarmament progress. The 2026 Review Conference is the right time and place for this.

Thank you Chair.