

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ZIMBABWE AT THE 80TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY FIRST COMMITTEE THEMATIC DISCUSSION ON CLUSTER 1: NUCLEAR WEAPONS: 21 OCTOBER 2025**

Mr. Chair,

My delegation welcomes this discussion, and aligns itself with the statements delivered by the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Group. We add the following in our national capacity.

Distinguished Delegates,

As we look ahead to the Eleventh Review Conference of the NPT in 2026, this 80<sup>th</sup> Session of the First Committee provides a timely opportunity to galvanise renewed multilateralism, political will and good faith negotiations aimed at achieving general and complete nuclear disarmament under strict and effective international control.

We implore Nuclear-Weapon States to reaffirm their Joint Statement that “a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought,” and to recommit to their NPT Article VI disarmament obligations and to other existing undertakings in this regard. Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, Zimbabwe calls for the delivery of negative security assurances to all Non-Nuclear-Weapon States and for the articulation of No-First-Use policies as an immediate guardrail.

Zimbabwe urges all the remaining Annex 2 States to ratify the CTBT with a renewed sense of urgency. Horrific humanitarian and environmental consequences left in the wake of nuclear testing are permanent reminders of the grave effects which must never be allowed to recur.

Zimbabwe calls for the universalisation of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones in all the remaining parts of the world. We look forward to the First Review Conference of the Treaty on the Prohibition of

Nuclear Weapons, to be held in 2026 under the Presidency of South Africa, as an important platform to reinforce the incompatibility of nuclear weapons with international humanitarian law.

Chair,

The possible use of Artificial Intelligence in nuclear command, control and communications arouses grave concerns and we underline that human control is an imperative that should have no compromise, even for the perceived efficiencies or expedience of emerging technologies.

Distinguished Delegates,

To achieve the balanced implementation of the NPT, we call for the increased provision of peaceful nuclear-science related capacity building and training programmes, especially for the Global South. We further underscore the important role of the IAEA and its Safeguards regime to ensure the safety and security of nuclear materials and installations.

In conclusion Chair,

We call for bridge building, collective responsibility, and renewed commitment towards irreversible, irrevocable, complete and verifiable nuclear disarmament.

I thank you.