

**PGA speech on the occasion of the opening of the 80<sup>th</sup> session of  
The Disarmament and International Security Committee (First  
Committee/ 1C)**

**8 October 2025, 10 A.M.**

**Conference Room 4, UN HQ, NYC**

*CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY*

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I begin by warmly congratulating the Chair, His Excellency Mr. Maurizio Massari, Permanent Representative of Italy, and the Bureau members on their election to lead the First Committee during this 80th session.

I wish you every success in the work ahead.

You assume this responsibility at a moment of urgency: as conflicts devastate communities in Haiti, Sudan, Ukraine, and Gaza—while our collective commitment to disarmament and the cause of peace is visibly weakening.

**(PAUSE)**

As I have said repeatedly: it is not the Charter that is failing us.

What is failing is the commitment of Member States to uphold the principles of the Charter and international law.

We speak of peace, yet our actions—and how we allocate resources—tell another story.

Last year, the world spent 3,169 US dollars every second on nuclear weapons.

*Every second.*

Resources that could have built schools, expanded healthcare, and strengthened infrastructure were instead invested in weapons capable of annihilating humanity.

While we mark the first anniversary of the Pact for the Future, in which Member States pledged to strengthen the disarmament and non-proliferation architecture, we are also seeing that very architecture—painstakingly built over decades— now being challenged.

As this is the start of our working session, and as the working groups delve into the nitty gritty substance—taking a realistic view of the world as it is—we must consider how we can and should work together for the future, so that the hard-won successes of the past are not eroded.

This includes:

- the Non-Proliferation Treaty,
- the Ottawa Convention,
- the Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions, and
- the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty,

(PAUSE)

Our commitments during High-Level Week on disarmament must not fade into rhetoric.

They must live in practice—here, in the work of this Committee.

Too many States have set aside their obligations instead of reinforcing them. Some have chosen a different path altogether.

It is our collective duty to preserve, strengthen, and adapt these commitments to meet new realities—especially as emerging technologies, from artificial intelligence to cyber capabilities, reshape our security landscape.

One opportunity will be next year, here in New York, when the Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons will convene.

That will be a defining moment to recommit—not only to disarmament and non-proliferation, but to the very raison d'être of the Charter: peace.

But we also know—from the low participation during High-Level Week on disarmament, and from the mounting challenges to non-proliferation - that this will not be an easy task.

As I said in my opening speech at High-Level Week, this is not an ordinary session.

What was once routine procedure may today be highly controversial, or even openly contested.

We must therefore think carefully before simply repeating the resolutions and working methods of the past.

Instead, we must ask ourselves: do they still make sense in our time.

When new challenges arise, for example in safeguarding humankind in outer space—and when our working methods themselves must become more efficient.

(PAUSE)

Essential to our work in our times is not only the thematic content of resolutions but also strengthening the United Nations itself, so it can fulfil its mandates.

The UN80 initiative and the broader reform process must not be reduced to a cost-cutting exercise or bureaucratic restructuring; they must be about making our Organization more effective.

Mandate review is central to that effort.

Across the Main Committees, the Assembly has long been weighed down by repetitive resolutions that dilute rather than sharpen our work.

But there are signs that there can be progress. In the First Committee alone, there were 76 resolutions in the 79th session; in this 80th session, so far just over 60.

And it is up to demonstrate that this reduction is more than a statistic but a demonstration that duplication can be reduced when Member States are willing.

Still, the task is far from finished. Real progress will only come when all Committees streamline their agendas, ensuring that every resolution adds value rather than noise.

I encourage you to ask yourself when drafting resolutions: is every paragraph essential? Do we need an SG report when funding and capacity may be limited – or may not even exist?

(PAUSE)

As I emphasized to many of your ministers and heads of government last week: reform is ultimately about priorities.

And our most important priority is to demonstrate that the promises of this organization still matter and that our commitments remain real.

Thank you.