



PHILIPPINES

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

STATEMENT

To be delivered by

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Mr. Chair,

My delegation congratulates you on your assumption as Chair of the First Committee. We are confident that under your leadership, we will navigate the complex issues before us. The Philippines aligns itself with the statements delivered by Malaysia on behalf of ASEAN and by Uganda on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chair,

We meet at a time when multilateralism is under strain, yet never more essential. The trust deficit among States demands that this Committee remain a forum for principled engagement and collective resolve.

We face mounting military modernization, intensifying rhetoric, and accelerating technological change- conditions that erode global stability and heighten risks to civilians everywhere. Nuclear-armed States are expanding and modernizing their arsenals, reversing decades of post-Cold War reductions. These trends underscore the urgent need for renewed and practical disarmament measures.

The Philippines reaffirms its constitutional and moral commitment to the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. The Non-Proliferation Treaty remains its indispensable foundation. We congratulate Ambassador Do Hung Viet of Viet Nam on his designation as President of the 2026 NPT Review Conference and look forward to working closely with him toward a successful outcome.

Yet progress on the implementation of the NPT has long been at a standstill. We urge renewed dialogue and meaningful action, especially on the practical steps under Article VI toward verifiable, irreversible disarmament, and for Nuclear Weapon States to accelerate the implementation of their obligations under the 64-Point Action Plan. We likewise call on States to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which reinforces the humanitarian principles underlying the NPT.

As a member of the IAEA Board of Governors, the Philippines stresses that peaceful uses of nuclear energy must not be treated as secondary to disarmament and non-proliferation. The recent passage of our National Nuclear Energy Safety Act underlines our commitment to this advocacy. Access to nuclear science, technology, and innovation remains an inalienable right of all States Parties, to be pursued safely, securely, and sustainably for development and human welfare.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty's entry into force remains one of the clearest, most attainable measures to constrain nuclear escalation. Yet, entry into force is blocked by outstanding ratifications among the Annex II states. The Philippines urges those States to undertake the political decisions required to remove this obstacle and to refrain from conduct that would undermine the global testing taboo. As Co-President of the 2025-2027 Article XIV process alongside Sweden, the Philippines remains committed to universalizing the CTBT and strengthening its verification regime.

We also reiterate the long-standing call for the immediate commencement of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty. Such a treaty is an essential and long-overdue confidence-building measure. The Conference on Disarmament must be resourced and politically supported to resume meaningful work on this treaty without preconditions. Our delegation regrets the continued paralysis, but this should not diminish our determination; instead, it should compel renewed political courage.

Mr. Chair,

The evolving character of conflict demands that we expand our legal and norm-building efforts to emerging technologies. Cyber operations, artificial intelligence in the military domain, and lethal autonomous weapon systems pose systemic risks to civilians and global stability. We urge all States Parties to develop binding measures to ensure that military applications of AI remain consistent with international law, especially International Humanitarian Law.

The recently concluded OEWG on Security of and in the use of ICTs has charted a path toward a Permanent Global Mechanism. The Philippines supports its prompt operationalization and resourcing to ensure inclusive participation of developing States.

On lethal autonomous weapons, we continue to support the Convention on Conventional Weapons' Group of Governmental Experts and encourage it to pursue measures that uphold international humanitarian law and human responsibility for use-of-force decisions. We join like-minded States in urging the development of a concrete, universally applicable, and legally binding instrument to govern lethal autonomous weapons systems. Technology must serve humanity, not replace human judgment in matters of life and death.

We must not forget the human dimensions of conventional weapons. The cross-border and transnational threats of small arms and light weapons and their illicit trade fuel conflict, organized crime, and human suffering. We welcome progress under the Global Framework for Through-Life Conventional Ammunition Management, including the 2025 Preparatory Meeting that advanced practical cooperation on safety and accountability. The Fourth Review Conference of the UN Programme of Action reaffirmed the need for national implementation, tracing, and international cooperation- and the Philippines remains committed to this work.

The Philippines has further demonstrated dedication to global disarmament through the recent enactment of our Chemical Weapons Prohibition Act, which bans the development, production, stockpiling, and use of Chemical Weapons, in fulfillment of our Chemical Weapons Convention obligations. We continue to advocate for stronger legal frameworks for chemical weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

We reaffirm our support for both the Norms, Rules, and Principles of Responsible Behavior for Reducing Space Threats and a legally binding instrument on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, to maintain outer space as a peaceful and cooperative environment.

Regionally, the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone exemplifies cooperative risk reduction. We welcome recent movement toward broader protocol adherence by Nuclear Weapon States, which would buttress regional stability. The Philippines will continue to pursue practical measures that lock in non-use and protect our people from the specter of nuclear harm.

The Philippines champions the participation of civil society, youth, and women, consistent with the Women, Peace and Security agenda, to ensure that our deliberations reflect the diversity of those most affected by conflict. At the recent IAEA General Conference, the Philippines, as penholder on behalf of the G-77 and China, helped secure a consensus resolution on Staffing and Women in the IAEA Secretariat, guiding human-resource development in the nuclear field worldwide, especially for developing countries and women.

Mr. Chair,

Our appeals are not abstract. We propose concrete, verifiable steps: accelerate NPT Article VI implementation plans; promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy; secure political commitments and a clear timeline for FMCT negotiations; advance CTBT universalization and ratifications; operationalize the OEWG's global mechanism for responsible behaviour in cyberspace; and conclude CCW work streams to establish binding safeguards on autonomous weapon systems.

Together, these measures will reduce risk and restore credibility to multilateral arms control. We further call on the parties to the New START Treaty to extend it or conclude a successor agreement before its 2026 expiration, preserving verifiable limits on strategic nuclear arms.

Mr. Chair,

The Philippines stands ready to work constructively with all partners, to offer capacity-building, to support verification-friendly language, and to champion human security as the central objective of disarmament. Let us translate consensus into commitments, and commitments into action. Let us restore predictability, widen restraints, and renew cooperation. The security of our peoples depends upon the choices we take here and now.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.