



*The Permanent Mission of Portugal
to the United Nations*



PORTUGAL
United Nations Security Council
2027/2028

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**United Nations General Assembly
80th session**

**First Committee (disarmament and international security)
Cluster 1 (nuclear weapons)**

New York, 17 October 2025

Statement by Portugal

Delivered by Mr. Miguel Alegre,
Political Officer (Disarmament), Permanent Mission of Portugal to the UN in New York

Chair,

Portugal aligns with the statement of the European Union and wishes to make a few remarks in its national capacity.

This year, we mark two anniversaries which set a very different tone.

In 1945, this organization – the UN – was created, an incredibly positive development which enshrined multilateral diplomacy as the means to peacefully resolve conflict.

At the same time, the first nuclear test was conducted and the first nuclear weapon was used. These drastic events showed how dangerous and destructive these weapons are.

This is why, a little over 20 years afterwards, we came together and agreed on the NPT.

This Treaty remains the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime. It is also the fundamental basis upon which we can incrementally and diplomatically work towards nuclear disarmament, while ensuring the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and ultimately achieve the promise of the Treaty's Article VI.



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Chair,

In the decades since the NPT entered into force, much progress has been achieved. Arsenals were reduced and, also due to the adoption of the CTBT in the late 1990s, nuclear testing almost halted.

However, today things are changing. The nuclear disarmament architecture is eroding. Geopolitical mistrust is growing.

The emergence of Artificial Intelligence, the development of hypersonic missiles or of deep sea drones have complexified the scenario further.

The risk of miscalculation and of escalation is increasing.

What must the international community do then?

Chair,

To answer such question, Portugal offers the following eight recommendations.

First, the NPT must be universalized. This is why we call on all States which have not ratified the Treaty to do so at the earliest opportunity.

Second, the NPT must be fully implemented. This is why, despite lack of consensus at the first three sessions of the Preparatory Committee, we encourage constructive participation at next year's NPT Review Conference.

Third, taking the NPT forward also means addressing Emerging and Disruptive Technologies, namely when referring to AI and nuclear strategic nexus.

Fourth, all States must continue supporting the impartial, independent and objective work of the IAEA.

Fifth, the CTBT must enter into force. We call on Annex 2 States to ratify this important Treaty as soon as possible, and on all States to support the work of the CTBTO in strengthening its verification regime.

Sixth, the Conference on Disarmament must engage in negotiations and conclude a Treaty banning the production of fissile material.

Seventh, given that the New START Treaty is due to expire, we call on both sides to fulfill their agreed limits pending the negotiation of a successor Treaty.

Eighth, we urge the establishment of a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in the Middle East.



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Chair,

As the Secretary-General recently put it, “disarmament is not the reward for peace – it is the foundation of peace”.

The international community must therefore rebuild trust and reinvigorate our global non-proliferation and disarmament architecture.

I thank you.

[481 words]