

80th session of the United Nations General Assembly

First Committee

Cluster V – Other disarmament measures

Explanation of position

Before the vote

Submitted by France on behalf of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America, and France

New York, 6 November 2025

L.11 “Relationship between disarmament and development”

L.13 “Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control”

L.21 “Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament”

Chair,

France is delivering this explanation of position on behalf of France, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

On **L.11**, our three countries continue to question the notions implied in PP7 of a “symbiotic relationship” between disarmament and development, and of a diversion of military expenditures from development needs. We want to make clear that conditions conducive to effective arms control and disarmament are not dependent on development only. Defense investments are also necessary to deliver peace and security and, in return, facilitate development. There shall be no shortcut here.

We also express reservations regarding PP4 of the resolution, which refers to the Final Document of the 19th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Kampala on January 19 and 20, 2024. This document contains numerous problematic statements that run counter to our national positions, particularly on non-proliferation and nuclear deterrence.

On **L.13** regarding environmental norms, we want to make clear that our three countries operate under stringent domestic

environmental impact regulations. We see no direct connection, as implied in this resolution, between general environmental standards and multilateral arms control.

Finally, while we recognize the need to understand the benefits and challenges of the development of science and technology in the field of disarmament, nonproliferation, and arms control as expressed in resolution **L.21**, we underscore that the “rights” referenced in this resolution relate to those specified in the CWC, the BTWC, and the NPT.

As PP5 makes clear, States must exercise those rights in accordance with their international obligations, including their non-proliferation obligations under those treaties. None of these three treaties recognizes a “right to technologies” or a “right to sensitive materials” that entitles a State to obtain such technologies or materials from other States.

I thank you./.