



STATEMENT OF SLOVENIA

H.E. Ms. Ondina Blokar - Drobič

**Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia to the UN
at the First Committee of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly
New York, 13 October 2025**

General Statement

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Let me begin by congratulating you, Ambassador Massari, and the Bureau on your appointments. Slovenia will be engaging constructively throughout this session. We align ourselves with the statement delivered by the European Union.

Mr. Chairman,

We meet at a time of profound uncertainty. Conflicts are intensifying, trust among states is strained, arms control and disarmament frameworks are eroding, while and new technologies are reshaping our world.

Where does this leave us? What can the international community and this organization do?

For Slovenia, the answer is clear: respect and uphold international law and bring more certainty into an uncertain world.

I wish to begin this year's intervention by focusing on regional security issues.

We condemn Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine, which continues to cause immense human suffering and destabilize the wider region. Slovenia stands with Ukraine, its right to self-defense and, with international efforts towards an unconditional ceasefire and a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace.

We call on Russia to respect the UN Charter and international law and to end its war in Ukraine immediately. We welcome the signing of the Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict and the beginning of the ceasefire in Gaza, offering an opportunity for a lasting peace.

Colleagues, wars, even when IHL is respected, bring deaths, destruction and suffering that transcends a single generation. When the law is ignored or deliberately violated, accountability must be ensured and impunity cannot be tolerated. This is true for the war in Ukraine, in Gaza, and all other conflicts around the world.

Slovenia will continue working with its partners to both alleviate the humanitarian crisis and on to pursue negotiated solutions to conflicts. This includes supporting a deal/agreement that would prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons in return for lifting nuclear-related sanctions.

Let me reiterate; Slovenia wishes to see the regime and objectives of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPoA) meaningfully restored. There is no other, but diplomatic solution to the challenge of Iran's nuclear program.

Mr. Chairman,

Turning to the NPT, Slovenia will work toward a successful outcome of the 2026 Review Conference. The NPT remains the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation architecture and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Article VI awaits its full implementation. Slovenia calls on nuclear weapon States to meet their disarmament obligations, enhance transparency and risk reduction measures, and re-engage in a substantive arms-control dialogue.

NPT is much more than a legal instrument.

It represents understanding between generations, a promise to prevent the nuclear flames of war, to advance the peaceful atom, and to keep alive the hope of a world free of nuclear weapons.

A comprehensive ban on nuclear tests is an essential step toward that world. Slovenia urges all States, especially those whose ratification is required, to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me turn to the issue of technology. The rapid development of artificial intelligence (AI) in the military domain makes ongoing discussion on lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) increasingly urgent. AI brings threats, as well as opportunities in maintaining peace and security, as we have recently discussed in the Security Council.

Slovenia acknowledges the limited but meaningful progress achieved in the Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons

Systems (GGE LAWS), as well as the work undertaken through initiatives such as the REAIM process. While we recognize the potential of AI technologies, it is vital to remember that behind every algorithm there still stands a human. This underscores the central principle of human responsibility and accountability, which must guide both our multilateral efforts and national approaches.

On a related note, Slovenia welcomes the successful conclusion of the Open-ended Working Group on security of and in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs), with the consensus adoption of its final report in July. We look forward to continuing discussions on developments in the field of ICTs in the context of international security and advancing responsible State behavior in the use of ICTs within the new Global Mechanism established by the report.

Mr. Chairman,

Slovenia remains fully committed to the Ottawa Convention, including through its engagement in the Convention's machinery, like in the Committee on Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance 2026 - 2027. Slovenia will continue to work towards a mine-free world, including through ITF - Enhancing Human Security, a humanitarian organization, which continues to help communities worldwide overcome the deadly legacy of mines.

Before concluding, I wish to reiterate Slovenia's commitment to a multilateral system based on international law, in particular the UN Charter. We also wish to emphasize the obligations stemming from binding international treaties. In this context and being aware of the importance of the Chemical Weapons Convention and its universality, Slovenia has

decided to run for the seat in the Executive Council of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons for the 2026-2028. We are determined to contribute to the effective work of the Organization, prevent further proliferation of chemical weapons and their use, and contribute to the destruction of all remaining stocks of re-emerged chemical weapons.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I wish to highlight the importance of gender dimension in arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. Slovenia firmly believes that the meaningful participation of women in these processes contributes to more effective, inclusive, and sustainable outcomes.

We will share additional views on specific issues in our upcoming cluster statements.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.