



# PHILIPPINES

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## STATEMENT

To be delivered by

**Mr. PAOLO MARCO R. MAPULA**  
**Second Secretary**

Thematic Debate on Cluster II: Other Weapons of Mass Destruction  
First Committee of the 80<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly  
Conference Room 4, United Nations Headquarters, New York  
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Mr. Chair,

The Philippines aligns itself with the statement we delivered on behalf of ASEAN and the statement delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

In the face of evolving threats, upholding multilateral norms against chemical, biological, and radiological weapons remains indispensable. The Philippines affirms its strong commitment to strengthening these frameworks.

At the national level, the Philippines has further demonstrated dedication to global disarmament through the recent enactment of the Philippines' Chemical Weapons Prohibition Act, a concrete testament to the strengthening of our commitment to implement our obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention. Through this law, we now criminalize not only the use of chemical weapons, but also their financing and cross-border transfer of precursors and scheduled toxic chemicals. We continue to advocate for stronger legal frameworks for chemical weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

On the broader CBRN front, the Philippines has hosted key regional capacity-building initiatives. Among them: the 2024 CBRN Summit held in Makati in December 2024, which brought together government agencies, private industry, and international experts to foster "Innovative Strategies to Mitigate Risks Against Emerging CBRN Threats and Challenges".

We also contributed to regional cooperation under the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) by providing a voluntary contribution to its Scientific Advisory Board trust fund in April 2025, thereby supporting science-and-technology aspects of the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Further, our region's CBRN Centre of Excellence in Manila continues to receive recognition for its active role in mitigating CBRN risks in Southeast Asia and its cooperation with the European Union's Centres of Excellence initiative.

Regionally and globally, the Philippines sees urgent need to translate norms into capacity. In this light, we call upon all States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention to give renewed attention during the inter-sessional period and beyond to strengthening national frameworks for oversight of dangerous biological materials, to enhancing transparency measures, and to accelerating cooperative assistance. Our delegation also welcomes the work of the Working Group on Strengthening the BWC, specifically the proposals to establish mechanisms on International Cooperation and Assistance as well as a mechanism to review and assess scientific and technological developments.

The Philippines remains steadfast in upholding and strengthening global governance structures that prohibit the use of weapons of mass destruction and prevent their proliferation. This commitment underpins the necessity of robust strategic trade management, effective export controls, border security, and international cooperation.

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the indiscriminate nature of weapons capable of mass destruction, and the grave risk they pose in the hands of non-state actors or states under weak oversight, make universal adherence to the relevant treaties and conventions a vital minimum. The Philippines, therefore, reaffirms its willingness to work through the UN, through regional mechanisms such as ASEAN, and through bilateral partnerships, to reinforce non-proliferation norms and to assist States with lesser capacity. The Philippines emphasizes that the challenge before us is not just legal or technical: it is political and moral.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.