

Check against delivery!

**STATEMENT BY MS. KRASSIMIRA BESHKOVA,
CHARGÉ D’AFFAIRES A.I., DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
BULGARIA TO THE UN IN NEW YORK**

**80TH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, FIRST COMMITTEE
GENERAL DEBATE, 16 October 2025**

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on the assumption of the Chairmanship of the First Committee. I assure you of my delegation’s full support.

Bulgaria aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and would like to highlight several remarks in its national capacity.

Mr. Chair,

It is deeply concerning that once again we convene our deliberations under seriously deteriorating security environment, marked by heightened geopolitical tensions, armed conflicts raging in Europe, Middle East and Africa, and proliferation of WMDs.

A glitter of hope is the ceasefire agreement reached between Israel and Hamas and the execution of the first phase of the Gaza peace plan. We commend President Trump’s leadership in this complex process, and the mediation efforts of Egypt, Qatar and Türkiye, emphasizing that diplomacy is the only way towards a lasting peace. We call on all parties to fully implement the plan without delay.

Against this backdrop, Russia counties its unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine in total disregard for the principles enshrined in the UN Charter and international law. We firmly condemn this brutal invasion and any support by third countries – notably Belarus, Iran, and the DPRK – that enable Russia to continue its war. We further condemn Russia’s irresponsible nuclear rhetoric and its threats to use nuclear force, which are escalatory and provocative and undermine the global non-proliferation and disarmament architecture. We urge Russia to cease this aggression, respect international commitments, and withdraw all military forces from Ukraine's internationally recognized borders.

Mr. Chair,

At this critical juncture for the collective security system and multilateralism as a whole, a tangible progress in the nuclear disarmament and a robust non-proliferation regime are more needed than ever.

Bulgaria reaffirms its commitment to achieving a world free from nuclear weapons. We believe that the nuclear disarmament must be effective, verifiable, and irreversible, and that it can be attained only within the framework of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), specifically its Article VI, through a step-by-step approach grounded in mutual trust and with due consideration to the security environment.

It is regrettable that the Third NPT Preparatory Committee was unable to agree on a final report and lay a solid ground for the successful outcome of the Review Conference next year. However, we must spare no efforts to bridge differences among NPT States Parties during the

final stage of this review cycle and to recommit our obligations across all three pillars of the NPT, thus strengthening the regime that has been contributing to our collective security for more than five decades.

A key element of the step-by-step approach is the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) which Bulgaria, as an Annex 2 state, firmly supports. Russia's decision to revoke its ratification of the CTBT is deeply deplorable, as it distances the prospect for the Treaty's entry into force. We call on Russia to re-ratify the CTBT and to stick to its commitments to the Treaty. We also call upon all States to fully observe the de facto moratorium on nuclear tests and to refrain from any action incompatible with the Treaty.

Likewise, we urge the DPRK to return to full compliance with all its NPT and IAEA safeguards obligations as a non-nuclear weapon state, to immediately and with no preconditions sign and ratify the CTBT, and to engage in meaningful dialogue aimed at pursuing the complete, verifiable, irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Concerned by the serious proliferation risks stemming from Iran's nuclear programme, Bulgaria supports all diplomatic efforts aimed at reaching a viable solution to the Iranian nuclear dossier that could guarantee that Iran would never acquire nuclear weapons. We urge Iran to resume its full and meaningful cooperation with the IAEA and to return, in good faith, to the negotiation table.

Mr. Chair,

Bulgaria remains committed to the promotion and strengthening of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the Biological and Toxic Weapons Convention (BTWC) as powerful key international instruments legally prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of such weapons and indispensable elements of the global arms control and non-proliferation architecture. We, as international community, must ensure that there is no impunity for their use and that all perpetrators are brought to justice.

Chair,

Russia's continuous military aggression against Ukraine has demonstrated that progress in conventional arms control is of paramount importance for the international security and the protection of civilians in armed conflicts.

We remain committed to upholding the principles and the objectives of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons as an effective multilateral platform for responding to present and future challenges emanating from the developments of weapons technologies, including the lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS). As Chair of the 2024 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention Bulgaria is proud to present this year's resolution entitled "Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects". We count on the Member States' support for preserving the consensual nature of this important resolution.

In conclusion, Chair, and in the context of UN80, let me reiterate our commitment to continue to work on improving and modernizing the disarmament machinery in order to make it deliver in a more effective and efficient way.

Thank you!