



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF EXTERNAL POLICY

UNGA Resolution 80/40 on “Promotion of Multilateralism in the Area of Disarmament and Non-proliferation”

Portugal believes that multilateralism is the most efficient way to attain the objective of peace and security maintenance at an international level, including through disarmament and non-proliferation. In this issue, Portugal is party to the most relevant Treaties and other international and regional mechanisms regarding the prevention and elimination of threats represented by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), including nuclear weapons. Portugal also cooperates with international organizations that work in those areas and ensures the compliance of Sanctions and Restrictive Measures issued by the European Union and the United Nations.

Among the mechanisms mentioned above, we note the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons (BTWC), the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, the 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, and its Protocols (including amendments) (CCW), the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (CWC), the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (Convention of Ottawa), the Treaty of the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Convention on Nuclear Safety, the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM), and its Amendment. Portugal is party to all these instruments.

Portugal also participates in the following export control regimes: the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), the Australia Group (AG), the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), the Zangger Committee and the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA).

Portugal has participated in outreach activities which aim to promote the universalization of the main treaties and other legal instruments regarding disarmament and non-proliferation, especially with the Portuguese Speaking Countries, through formal and informal contacts and initiatives such as seminars, workshops and meetings.

Following the efforts in the area of disarmament, at a multilateral level, Portugal was one of the first 50 states to ratify the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which is the first disarmament legal instrument adopted by the United Nations in the last decade.

In what concerns nuclear disarmament, it is recognized the risk represented by those countries that possess and seek to develop nuclear weapons, especially in regions that are politically and socially instable, which represent a higher threatening potential.

With reference to the nuclear disarmament, Portugal defends the full implementation of the NPT, always considering the importance of the existence of confidence building measures among nuclear and non-nuclear States.

Portugal also hopes that the Conference of Disarmament adopt, as soon as possible, a program of work, supporting the negotiation of the Missile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT). To this aim Portugal highlights the importance of the implementation of the 2010 NPT Action Plan, in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and believes that the effective implementation of that Action Plan includes ending the stalemate of the Conference of Disarmament. Portugal also signed and ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), and has proceeded with outreach activities regarding its universalization.

In the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, Russian aggression against Ukraine marked the beginning of a new era for Europa and the world, compelling us to address the broader implications of the crisis and war itself. It affected in a decisive manner our security and defense architecture, that only responsible multilateralism can preserve and strengthen.

Portugal further underscores that the effectiveness of multilateralism in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation depends on the credibility, inclusiveness and transparency of international institutions. Strengthening dialogue among States, promoting confidence-building measures and ensuring the regular exchange of information remain essential to reduce mistrust and prevent miscalculation, particularly in periods of heightened geopolitical tension. A resilient multilateral framework requires sustained political commitment and the

willingness of States to engage constructively, even in complex security environments.

Portugal also recognizes the increasing relevance of emerging and disruptive technologies in shaping the contemporary security landscape. Advances in areas such as artificial intelligence, cyber capabilities and dual-use technologies present both opportunities and risks for international peace and security. In this regard, Portugal supports multilateral efforts aimed at developing common understandings, voluntary norms and confidence-building measures that address the responsible use of such technologies, ensuring that innovation does not undermine existing disarmament and non-proliferation commitments.

Furthermore, Portugal highlights the importance of capacity-building and knowledge-sharing initiatives as instruments to strengthen multilateral cooperation, particularly with developing countries and small States. Technical assistance, training programmes and institutional partnerships contribute to enhancing national implementation capacities and facilitate broader participation in international regimes. Such cooperative efforts support the universalization of key legal instruments and reinforce the legitimacy and effectiveness of the global non-proliferation architecture.

Portugal also reaffirms the importance of promoting a culture of multilateral responsibility, grounded in respect for international law and the principles of the United Nations Charter. The strengthening of partnerships between States, international organizations, academia and civil society contributes to fostering informed dialogue, enhancing transparency and encouraging the development of innovative approaches to disarmament and non-proliferation challenges. In this context, sustained engagement at diplomatic, technical and societal levels remains indispensable to preserving peace, stability and international security.