Statement of Algeria

First Committee - 81st Session of the UN General Assembly

General Debate

New York, 8 October 2026

Mr. Chair,

I am pleased to extend my sincere congratulations to you and the distinguished members of the Bureau on your election to steer the work of this Committee. You have the full support of my delegation in ensuring the success of our work.

It also wishes to express its support for the statements delivered by the Non-Aligned Movement, the African Group and the Arab Group.

We reaffirm our steadfast commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and to multilateral international action towards nuclear disarmament in all its forms. Diplomacy, dialogue and cooperation remain the best and most effective means of advancing the objectives of disarmament and achieving international peace and security.

While reaffirming its full commitment to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation (NPT), as the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, Algeria expresses its deep concern at the growing threat posed by nuclear weapons to international peace and security.

For the first time since the end of the Cold War, the global nuclear stockpile is expected to grow again, as new and more modern warheads enter arsenals faster than retired ones are dismantled. There is no doubt that the threat posed by nuclear weapons and their catastrophic humanitarian consequences remain a matter of grave concern for the entire international community. Any use of nuclear weapons would have catastrophic humanitarian consequences and would violate international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law. We call on all nuclear-weapon States, as well as States claiming protection under nuclear deterrence arrangements, to reject nuclear weapons as a means of defense.

Some estimates indicate that the cumulative yield of the bombardment of Gaza since October 2023 is equivalent to approximately 15 times the explosive yield of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. We once again condemn these bombardments and the devastating humanitarian and environmental consequences inflicted upon the Palestinian population.

In this context, we stress that the complete elimination of nuclear weapons remains the only guarantee against their use or threat of use. From this standpoint, we support the Treaty on the

Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and welcome the fact that a majority of UN Member States are now parties to or signatories of the Treaty. Its entry into force represents, in our view, the most significant positive development in nuclear disarmament in recent years and we welcome the progress achieved towards its implementation, notwithstanding the challenging international security environment. We look forward to the first Review Conference of the Treaty, to be held from 30 November to 4 December 2026.

We call on all States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify, or accede to, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons without further delay. The Treaty represents the strongest legal rejection of nuclear weapons, and every new signature and ratification further strengthens the global norm against nuclear weapons.

While welcoming the commitment to nuclear disarmament contained in the Pact for the Future, we consider that there is an urgent need for more ambitious and stronger measures.

Mr. Chair,

We express our grave concern at the continued qualitative and quantitative development of nuclear weapons and the development of new types with increasingly destructive capabilities. Nuclear-armed States continue to devote substantial financial resources to upgrading and expanding their nuclear forces. We call for an end to the nuclear arms race and for these resources to be redirected towards sustainable development and the well-being of peoples.

We unequivocally condemn threats by States, whether explicit or implicit, to use nuclear weapons, as well as threats to resume nuclear testing.

We express deep concern at the risks associated with integrating artificial intelligence into nuclear command-and-control systems, including the prospect of unauthorized access, which could increase the risks of miscalculation, accidental use and unintended escalation. We stress the need to ensure full human control over nuclear weapons pending their complete elimination.

We are also deeply concerned by the expansion of so-called “nuclear umbrella” arrangements and by moves in some States to weaken domestic measures aimed at preventing nuclear proliferation. Such developments run counter to the objective of reducing the role of nuclear weapons and strengthening the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones represents a decisive step towards the complete elimination of these weapons from the world. In this context, the African nuclear-weapon-free zone, established by the Treaty of Pelindaba, embodies the continent's steadfast commitment to this noble objective.

From this perspective, we stress the vital importance of establishing a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. We call for the full and effective implementation of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference decision on the Middle East.

In this regard, we welcome the convening of six sessions of the United Nations Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction, and look forward to the forthcoming seventh session to be held next month.

We reaffirm the obligations of nuclear-weapon States under Article VI of the NPT, including their obligation to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to nuclear disarmament and the cessation of the nuclear arms race. The continued lack of tangible progress in this regard remains a matter of serious concern.

Having had the honor to serve as Vice-President of the Eleventh Review Conference held earlier this year, under the able leadership of Ambassador Do Hung Viet of Viet Nam, we appreciate the efforts of the Presidency to bridge differences and advance the work of the Conference. Despite these tireless efforts, we deeply regret the failure of the Conference to achieve consensus on a substantive outcome. This failure, for the third consecutive Review Conference, underscores the ongoing failure of nuclear-weapon States to fulfil their legal obligation to pursue negotiations in good faith on nuclear disarmament.

We also stress the need to strengthen and effectively implement the pillar of cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to support non-nuclear-weapon States in exercising their inalienable right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy for economic and social development.

We unequivocally condemn all attacks against nuclear facilities subject to IAEA safeguards, which endanger nuclear safety and security and undermine the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

We welcome recent efforts to address the continuing harm caused by the use and testing of nuclear weapons through victim assistance and environmental remediation measures, while emphasizing that much more remains to be done in these areas. In this regard, Algeria welcomes the convening of the inaugural International Meeting on Victim Assistance and Environmental Remediation on 1 September 2026 and looks forward to its recommendations.

Mr. Chair,

We reaffirm our full support for international efforts aimed at promoting the universality of treaties relating to nuclear disarmament and call on all countries that have not yet joined the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty to do so as soon as possible, while stressing the special responsibility of nuclear-weapon States and Annex 2 States in this regard.

We also call on nuclear-weapon States to make an explicit and clear commitment to the principle of no first use of nuclear weapons and to provide legally binding and unconditional assurances that they will not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States.

Mr. Chair,

With regard to conventional weapons, Algeria reaffirms the right of States to manage their stockpiles in a manner that meets their legitimate defense and security needs. With regard to small arms and light weapons, we remain deeply concerned about their illicit trafficking and the threat this poses to security and stability, particularly on the African continent.

Algeria welcomes the outcome of the Ninth Biennial Meeting of States on the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, held in June 2026. Having served as Vice-Chair of the Meeting under the leadership of Ambassador James Larsen of Australia, we remain committed to strengthening the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

We also commend the work of the Preparatory Meeting for the Global Framework for Through-Life Ammunition Management, held in June 2025, and look forward with great interest to the meeting of Member States scheduled for 2027.

Algeria attaches the utmost importance to keeping outer space free from an arms race and ensuring that its use is focused on peaceful purposes for the benefit of all humanity. In this context, Algeria welcomes the adoption of resolution 79/512, which consolidated the tracks for addressing this vital issue under the umbrella of the United Nations, as well as the progress made in the meetings of the Open-ended Working Group.

We also take note of the consensus adoption of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, pursuant to resolution 77/250, and consider it a key opportunity to move forward towards the adoption of a legally binding international instrument preventing an arms race in outer space.

In the area of cybersecurity, Algeria stresses the importance of supporting international cooperation to enhance the security of information and communications technologies and of ensuring the continued central role of the United Nations in developing the international framework of standards in accordance with international law and taking into account the interests of all States on an equal footing.

Algeria recalls with appreciation the consensus adoption, in July 2025, of the final report of the Open-ended Working Group on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications

Technologies 2021–2025, including the elements concerning the establishment of a global United Nations mechanism.

Mr. Chair,

We note the rapidly increasing role of emerging technologies, foremost among them artificial intelligence in the military domain, and the need to address them seriously. We stress the need to ensure equitable access for all States to the opportunities offered by these technologies, while at the same time providing effective protection against their potential risks.

Algeria supports a comprehensive and in-depth discussion within the framework of the United Nations disarmament mechanisms, emphasizing the importance of continuing an inclusive discussion based on compliance with international law and the promotion of full human control, while prioritizing the study of risks associated with military applications of artificial intelligence.

Algeria welcomes the consensus reached in the Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems within the framework of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), on the set of elements of an instrument without prejudging its nature and other possible measures. We look forward to the seventh review conference of the CCW, scheduled for 16 to 20th November 2026, and urge meaningful progress towards addressing the humanitarian, legal and security challenges posed by these technologies.

Mr. Chair,

Algeria stresses the utmost importance of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention in eliminating entire categories of weapons of mass destruction. It calls for their universal adherence and their full and effective implementation without discrimination or selectivity.

We hope that efforts will be combined to enable the adoption by consensus of reports and decisions related to the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. We welcome the outcome of the Ninth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention and express our satisfaction at the agreement to establish a working group to strengthen the Convention. We reaffirm our commitment to working through this group to develop effective measures of a legally binding nature.

Mr. Chair,

Algeria stresses the central role of the Conference on Disarmament and the United Nations Disarmament Commission in advancing disarmament objectives at the global level. It calls for renewed and genuine political will to advance the work of these important bodies. It also

supports the convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

We emphasize the need to revitalize the role of the Conference on Disarmament and its negotiating mandate, particularly with regard to nuclear disarmament, which remains the highest priority in the field of disarmament.

We deplore the inability of the United Nations Disarmament Commission, at its 2026 substantive session, to achieve substantive outcomes. This situation further underscores the urgent need to strengthen the functioning of the multilateral disarmament machinery and to demonstrate the necessary political will and flexibility to overcome differences.

We attach great importance to disarmament education and youth engagement, recognizing the important role of young people in promoting awareness of disarmament and international peace and security.

Mr. Chair,

Before concluding, I would like to explain my delegation's votes yesterday on the amendment to, and the provisional programme of work and timetable of the First Committee for 2026 contained in A/C.1/81/CRP.1.

My delegation sincerely thanks you**, Mr. Chair,** and the members of your Bureau for your tireless efforts, leadership and constructive engagement in preparing the provisional programme of work and timetable. We commend your personal efforts to bridge diverging positions and build consensus. It is therefore regrettable that, despite these efforts, the Committee had to resort to a vote on a matter traditionally guided by consensus and cooperation.

My delegation supported the amendment to footnote "b", which sought to encourage statements of three minutes while allowing up to five minutes for individual delegations, and four minutes while allowing up to seven minutes for group statements. We believe this would have offered greater flexibility and sufficient time to articulate positions, in line with the Non-Aligned Movement's position on General Assembly revitalization.

Following the rejection of the amendment, my delegation abstained on the adoption of the provisional programme of work and timetable. This principled decision reflects our concern over the lack of consensus on key elements of the timetable. While we attach great importance to commencing substantive deliberations without delay, procedural arrangements should accommodate all delegations' legitimate concerns and ensure a balanced allocation of time across thematic clusters.

My delegation remains committed to constructive engagement and to working with you, **Mr. Chair,** and all Member States to advance our common multilateral disarmament goals.

Mr. Chair,

In view of the strategic importance Algeria attaches to the Mediterranean region and to its security and stability, we will once again submit the annual draft resolution entitled **"Strengthening Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean"**, and we call for broad support for this important initiative.

In conclusion, Algeria wishes to reaffirm its steadfast commitment to working constructively and positively to advance the objectives of disarmament and strengthen international peace and security, with a view to a world free of nuclear weapons and a world characterized by security, stability and prosperity.

Thank you.