



UNGA81 First Committee – Nuclear Weapons

Joint Statement

October 16, 2026

Chair,

I take the floor on behalf of Albania, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Türkiye, and my own country, Canada.

Chair, excellencies, distinguished delegates,

It is in the interests of all humanity that nuclear weapons never be used again. Maintaining the 81-year nuclear taboo is critical to achieving our common goal of complete, irreversible and verifiable nuclear disarmament. In January 2022, the leaders of the P5 reaffirmed in a joint statement that “a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought”. We urge the P5 to uphold this commitment to intensify dialogue towards this goal.

We remain dedicated to pursuing a practical and achievable path toward the shared vision of a world free from nuclear weapons. Our approach to disarmament takes careful account of the global security environment, with a clear focus on the risks posed by nuclear weapons. At its heart, our commitment is informed by a deep awareness of the devastating humanitarian and environmental consequences that nuclear conflict would bring.

Much of the nuclear arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation architecture remains strong and functional even under the present challenging security conditions. The IAEA plays a vital role in advancing global nuclear non-proliferation through the application of safeguards. At



the same time, the Agency is indispensable in promoting access to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology, including through its Technical Cooperation Programme, while supporting the highest standards of nuclear safety and security. The CTBT, while it has yet to enter into force, has helped build and sustain a powerful norm against nuclear testing. We call for the CTBT's prompt entry into force, which would activate its full verification regime and enhance our collective ability to monitor and reinforce treaty compliance.

Yet our common pursuit is addressing fundamental challenges, including irresponsible nuclear rhetoric, a lack of respect for international law, as well as the rapid and opaque expansion of some nuclear arsenals and a persistent stalemate in reaching new agreements, such as on fissile materials for nuclear weapons.

Chair,

The nuclear-weapon States — and especially the three largest arsenals — have a particular responsibility. We call on them to pursue transparency and risk reduction measures, and enter into multilateral strategic stability talks.

Since the expiration of the New START Treaty, the world has been left without any reciprocal nuclear arms control agreements. It is of the utmost importance that discussions begin on new agreements, reflecting the rapidly-changing security environment. We urge Russia and China to accept the US invitation to hold such discussions towards our collective disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation objectives.

Chair,

We regret that the 2026 NPT Review Conference concluded without a consensus outcome document. Despite this, we draw positive signals from the sustained dialogue among the P5 and we remain committed to fulfilling our obligations and advancing our commitments across all three pillars of the Treaty. As we begin the next NPT review cycle, it is imperative that the



P5 continue the conversation on strategic risk reduction, transparency, and commitments against nuclear testing. We note their ongoing conversations under the P5 Process as a positive indication of potential further cooperation.

As tensions continue to rise globally, and nuclear risks increase concurrently, it is more important than ever to find common ground on measures to prevent nuclear war, increase transparency and accountability, and build confidence and trust. These steps are not a replacement, or prerequisite, for disarmament. They lay the crucial groundwork for long-awaited arms control and disarmament progress.

Thank you, Chair.