

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MS. GERGANA KARADJOVA,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA TO THE UN IN NEW YORK  
HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF BULGARIA  
TO THE ELEVENTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE NON-  
PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (NPT) IN 2026  
MAIN COMMITTEE II**

*Mr. Chair,*

Bulgaria aligns with the statement made by the European Union. I would like to highlight a few additional elements.

Bulgaria is a party to all major international treaties that form the global nuclear non-proliferation architecture, and is committed to the universalization and full implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Bulgaria does not develop, stockpile, import or export weapons of mass destruction of any kind.

We strongly believe that the use, threat of use and the proliferation of nuclear weapons are all incompatible with fundamental principles of the rules-based international order. This conviction of ours retains its strength and validity as a value in the face of the negative transformations of the international security environment and international stability, that we all witness today.

*Mr. Chair,*

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards system is a vital component of the NPT and key in addressing the proliferation risks. Bulgaria firmly supports IAEA's mandate and its objective, independent, and professional work in nuclear verification and safeguards implementation.

It has been already four years since the illegal occupation by the Russian Federation of the Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP), that is causing permanent risk to nuclear safety and security in Ukraine and the wider region, and is effectively challenging the implementation of IAEA safeguards under Ukraine's Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol. Bulgaria greatly appreciates IAEA's efforts aimed at constant monitoring and reporting on the nuclear safety, security, and safeguard situation in Ukraine. We repeat our calls on Russia to instantly return the management and control of the ZNPP to its rightful owner Ukraine, and reiterate our unwavering support for a just and lasting peace, based on the UN Charter and international law.

The military escalation in the Middle East, Iran's indiscriminate military strikes against countries in the region, and the ongoing risk of nuclear proliferation threaten global security and stability. Iran must never acquire nuclear weapons. Bulgaria supports all diplomatic efforts to achieve a lasting solution to the Iranian nuclear issue, which is only possible through negotiations and in accordance with the reinstated UN Security Council resolutions. Tehran must resume full cooperation with the IAEA and fully comply with its obligations under the NPT and the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA, so

that the Agency is able to exclude the diversion of nuclear material and ascertain the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme.

The DPRK must return to full compliance with the NPT as a non-nuclear-weapon state and resume implementation of its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA, bring into force an Additional Protocol, and sign and ratify the CTBT without delay. It is imperative that Pyongyang engage in a meaningful diplomatic process to achieve the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula.

In the face of the ever-growing risk of nuclear materials falling into the hands of malicious non-state actors, Bulgaria is determined to work closely with other States to effectively implement UNSCR 1540(2004). In this regard we fully support international initiatives to counter WMD proliferation, and actively participate in the Global Forum to Prevent Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism and the Proliferation Security Initiative.

We also recognize the importance of nuclear-weapon-free zones in strengthening the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, and we support further establishment of such zones based on the agreement of all states in the regions concerned.

*Mr. Chair,*

Bulgaria will spare no effort to counter the global proliferation challenges and the threats to international peace and security, while promoting the benefits of the peaceful use of nuclear science and technologies. These benefits can be best protected and guaranteed by clear, robust, and transparent multilateral export control regimes that ensure the safety and legitimacy of the international trade in such goods and technologies.

In conclusion, we once again welcome the present opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the NPT as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, and to work together with all States towards constructive outcome of the Conference.

*Thank you, Mr. Chair.*