



# IRELAND

The 11<sup>th</sup> Review Conference of the Parties on the Treaty on  
the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

New York

27 April – 22 May 2026

General Debate Statement by Ireland

*Check against delivery*

President,

We align with the statements of the European Union, New Agenda Coalition and Vienna Group of 10. We wish you well in your important role.

Ireland has been closely associated with the NPT since its inception. Resolutions initiated by Ireland laid the path to the negotiation of the Treaty. Since then, we have consistently advocated for its provisions to be honoured and implemented. We maintain our attachment to the Treaty, to its three pillars, and to the promise of a world free of nuclear weapons. It is a core element of our security. And, collectively, it represents our shared commitment towards a peaceful world.

President,

The NPT was born of tension and in the midst of crisis.

It provides the agreed global framework to address the threat of nuclear weapons.

The Treaty rests on the shared understanding that we must confront the devastating power of nuclear weapons. At the heart of its ‘Grand Bargain’ is the understanding that greater security is not achieved through the possession of ever greater numbers of nuclear weapons.

Even over the course of this review cycle, we have seen the widespread modernisation of nuclear arsenals; the rapid and opaque build-up of nuclear weapons contrary to Article VI; and an absence of progress on disarmament obligations and related commitments, and increased associated risk.

Despite the challenges we face, the NPT has had its successes. It has paved the way for arms control agreements, vastly reducing the numbers of strategic weapons, and has been key to limiting the number of states who possess nuclear weapons.

Today, those achievements are at risk. We see no progress towards disarmament while we see proliferation risks multiply.

This Conference must safeguard, revive and build upon those earlier successes. Together we must use this opportunity to make real progress towards the ultimate promise of the Treaty: a world free of nuclear weapons.

President,

In the coming weeks we must demonstrate the necessary political will to advance the implementation of the NPT, to strengthen the international disarmament architecture, to tackle proliferation, to pursue reductions in nuclear arsenals, and to reinforce impartial, expert institutions, including the IAEA, on which we all rely.

In doing so, we must never lose sight of the unspeakable humanitarian consequences of these weapons, whether used intentionally or unintentionally, and guard closely against their normalisation. Instead, we must uphold the taboo against nuclear weapons – including the norm against testing.

In a contested security environment we are witness to increasingly casual discourse about nuclear weapons. That discourse matters.

Threats of the use of nuclear weapons are unacceptable and must stop.

We condemn Russia's threats to use nuclear weapons in its illegal war of aggression in Ukraine.

We are concerned at the nature and extent of Iran's nuclear programme.

We are troubled by the erosion of the norm that nuclear facilities should not be targeted in conflict.

We regret the expiry of arms control frameworks and the lack of trust and political will to revive and renew them.

We are all collectively less secure as a result.

Our work will not be easy. It is shaped by the global context in which it takes place; its outcome should not be determined by it. The challenges we face demand our urgent and ongoing collective action.

President,

Ireland will play its role to support you, in seeking the flexibility and collective ambition to assert the NPT as that core element of international peace and security.

We should remain ambitious. The reaffirmation of our commitment to the full implementation of the NPT, to its three pillars and to successive undertakings on its full and balanced implementation should be the floor of that ambition, not the ceiling.

Ireland will focus in particular on the need to enhance transparency and accountability in the Review Cycle. During the current cycle States Parties, on a cross-regional basis, have emphasised the need for progress in this area. It is time to create the mechanisms within the review cycle for a meaningful interactive dialogue based around the promise of Article VI of the Treaty. This is a modest step, but it is long overdue. Agreement would be an important investment in strengthening and restoring trust in the Treaty.

President,

The moment requires political will and courage. Out of tension and in the midst of crisis we negotiated and agreed the NPT. Today's challenges call us to commit once more to the hard work of diplomacy: to strengthen the NPT and to foster trust. That way we can make progress towards the core promise of the NPT – general and complete disarmament – crucial to the Grand Bargain which binds us.

Thank you.

*770 words*