



IRELAND

The 11th Review Conference of the Parties on the Treaty on
the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

New York

27 April – 22 May 2026

Main Committee 1 Statement by Ireland

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Chair,

Congratulations on assuming your role. We align with the statements of the European Union, the New Agenda Coalition, the States Parties of the TPNW, and Switzerland on behalf of a group of states.

We are meeting at a time of great geopolitical upheaval, strain on international law, and nuclear dangers. The promise of Article VI and its related commitments remain unfulfilled, and is in retreat.

Increased reliance on nuclear weapons and suggestion of their indefinite possession threaten to erode the effectiveness of the Treaty.

Chair,

We condemn Russia's reckless nuclear threats and rhetoric in its illegal war of aggression against Ukraine. All nuclear threats, whether implicit or explicit, are unacceptable. This Review Conference should be clear on this.

We deeply regret the expiry of the New START Treaty, which leaves the world without any legal limits on the number of strategic nuclear weapons, or systems of mutual inspection and monitoring. To guard against a rapid nuclear arms race, we call for urgent dialogue on a successor agreement. In seeking reductions to nuclear arsenals, those with the largest stockpiles should engage urgently, actively and constructively as a means of building trust and increasing confidence.

We are deeply concerned about the rapid and opaque expansion in nuclear arsenals, which are inconsistent with NPT's disarmament commitments.

The norm against nuclear testing must be upheld. Any weakening of that norm, or resumption of explosive nuclear weapons testing, would be a serious regression with grave humanitarian, environmental and security consequences. It must be avoided at all costs.

The NPT's preamble charges us 'to make every effort to avert the danger' of a nuclear war. We must make tangible and demonstrable progress on reducing the risk posed by nuclear weapons. This demands unilateral, plurilateral and multilateral measures. Efforts to reduce nuclear risk should also deal with the challenges posed by new and emerging technologies, in particular the need to retain human control over nuclear weapons, and their control systems, pending their elimination.

The devastating humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons must both inform and give urgency to our work. Our response to the dangers posed by these weapons, and the risk of nuclear war, must be based on the latest scientific research and modelling. In building a better global understanding of how these consequences impact humanity and our environment, we welcome the ongoing work of the independent UN Scientific Panel on the effects of nuclear war.

Chair,

An ineffectual Article VI means a weakened Treaty. A weakened Treaty weakens our collective security. Article VI is a persistent and urgent obligation. We call on all NWS to use this Conference to clearly state their active commitment to Article VI and associated NPT commitments.

One way of demonstrating that commitment to Article VI is to take action on enhanced Transparency and Accountability. Over this Review Cycle, we have seen the overwhelming demand to make progress on this issue: more than 150 States Parties made reference to it at the Third Preparatory Committee. There is a particular demand to understand the nuclear-weapons States' implementation of Article VI.

We have worked with our partners, including New Zealand and Switzerland, the New Agenda Coalition, and within the European Union, to advance constructive proposals, which allocate dedicated time for interactive dialogue on comprehensible and comparable information from the nuclear-weapons States. While it would be a modest proposal to improve how our Treaty works, it presents a rare area of convergence at a time when avenues for progress are in short supply. Success on this issue would send a badly needed political message, and we call for constructive willingness from all States Parties to achieve that.

Thank you.