



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 2

Statement by Ireland

Check against delivery

Chair,

Congratulations on your election. Ireland aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

The success of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in limiting proliferation has served as a crucial pillar of international security. That success, however, is under significant strain. In the context of a general hollowing out of international law and attacks on multilateralism, we are seeing a weakening of non-proliferation norms. The increased salience of nuclear weapons is underpinned by the presumption they provide increased security.

Our task must be to show the political will to reassert the value of the NPT. Its strength derives from its near universality, and through the engagement of States Parties on the full implementation of its three inter-dependent and mutually reinforcing pillars.

Chair,

During this Review Cycle, we have seen multiple instances where nuclear facilities have been put at risk, with the potential for severe and widespread consequences beyond state boundaries. We recall the seven Pillars of Nuclear Safety and Security and the Five Concrete Principles, as outlined by the IAEA. Nuclear safety and security apply in all circumstances, including in armed conflict. Attacks or threats of attack against peaceful nuclear facilities are outside the principles of the UN Charter and international law, including relevant IAEA General Conference resolutions.

We reiterate our support for the crucial, impartial and expert work of the IAEA, often in challenging circumstances, on which we rely.

Chair,

We condemn in the strongest possible terms Russia's continued reckless actions and nuclear threats during its war of aggression against Ukraine. Russia poses serious risks to Ukrainian nuclear facilities, including at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant where the situation remains precarious.

Ireland has been clear that Iran must never acquire nuclear weapons, and that a lasting and durable solution to the Iranian nuclear issues lies through dialogue and diplomacy. The JCPOA showed that, when all relevant parties are engaged, Iran's nuclear activities can be verifiably limited.

Iran must fulfil its legal obligations under the NPT, and engage fully with the IAEA.

Ireland remains deeply concerned about the conflict in the Middle East and the Gulf. We hope the ceasefire in the Gulf can be maintained and negotiations can be resumed to bring a permanent end to the conflict. We continue to call for dialogue and diplomacy and for all parties to uphold international law, including the protection of civilians.

The DPRK can never be recognised as a nuclear weapon state. Its unlawful nuclear and ballistic missile activities must stop, and the DPRK should immediately undertake steps towards the complete and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula.

Chair,

Ireland is a long-standing supporter of the establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction, which continues to be an integral part of the 1995 indefinite extension of the NPT. We call for its full implementation.

Chair,

We call on all States who have not yet done so to adopt the Comprehensive Safeguard Agreements, the Additional Protocol, which represent the IAEA's verification standard under the NPT's Article III. Adherence to these international commitments, and transparency in their implementation, is crucial to prevent proliferation.

Ireland underlines the important contribution of export control regimes to counter proliferation while facilitating the peaceful use of the atom, as envisaged in the NPT.

Chair,

Rhetoric and actions that promote proliferation leave this Treaty weaker and us all less safe. All State Parties joined the NPT with the shared understanding that there cannot be any justification for the proliferation of nuclear weapons. All State Parties committed to pursue policies fully compatible with the NPT. Any reversals are unacceptable.

We must work together to achieve real progress for the advancement of international peace and security – and have the opportunity to do so at this Conference.

Thank you.

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