



The statement of Mauritania

by Mr. El Hadj Lehbib Mohamedou, First Counselor

Permanent Mission of Mauritania to the United Nations

The General Debate of the 11th Review Conference of the Parties to  
the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons

27 April -22 May 2026, New York

Mr. President, Ambassador Do Hung Viet

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the 11th Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons. I seize the occasion to express Mauritania's full confidence that under your able leadership, this Rev-Con will make the tangible progress it aims for and be a successful session.

My delegation supports the statements delivered by Uganda, Nigeria, Egypt , respectively on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, the African group , and the Group of Arab States and, and Oman in its capacity as the President of the 7<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and I

would like to make the following remarks on my national capacity.

Mr. President

There is no doubt that the NPT has contributed greatly to making our world safer and more prosperous since its first entered into force in 1970, over fifty years ago. Thanks to its 3 pillars of nonproliferation, disarmament, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, this makes it the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime.

It has not only helped prevent additional states from acquiring nuclear weapons, but it enabled dramatic reductions in nuclear stockpiles and laid down the environment for cooperation on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Yet, this positive landscape is not to be taken for granted, as tremendous challenges are increasingly facing the utmost goal of freeing the world from nuclear weapons, especially the uncertainty and fragility of peace caused by the growing international tensions and the polarized world resulting from, which make of nuclear disarmament a must.

Therefore, the Nuclear-Weapon States must start without further delay the implementation of their obligations and dismantle their nuclear arsenal and adhere to the principle of no first use of nuclear weapons and the negative security assurances pending the full, irreversible and verifiable nuclear disarmament.

It is equally crucial to strengthen the non-proliferation regime through multilateral negotiations and comprehensive, universal, and non-discriminatory agreements to attain the larger objective of nuclear

disarmament, in full compliance with the ICJ conclusion on the obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion, negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

Mauritania reiterates its position on the inalienable rights of states to benefit from nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in full compliance with the comprehensive safeguards agreement with the IAEA and the Aps and commends the crucial role the agency is playing under the technical cooperation programmes, a useful mechanism through which it transfers nuclear technology and helps countries, specially developed countries in addressing key development priorities

Mauritania fully believes in the establishment of zones free of NWs as an effective way to achieve the goals of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation,

that's why we joined the "Pelindaba Treaty" that established the nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa, opened for signature on April 1996 and entered into force on July 2009, along our full engagement in the process aiming at establishing a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in accordance with General Assembly decision 73/546 of 2018, following which six sessions of the conference dedicated to the goal of freeing the Middle East from NWs and WMDs were held successfully, including the fifth session under the presidency of my country Mauritania held in November 2024.

While Mauritania reiterates its commitment to the goal of the conference to advance regional and global peace and security, we think that the establishment of such a zone with all Middle-Eastern parties, including Israel, on board is an indispensable step towards the

universality of the NPT and the advancement of non-proliferation and we are confident that the current session of the conference under the Omani presidency will continue to deliver with great success.

Mr. President

To avoid the failure of the previous two review conferences, states parties to the treaty should demonstrate political will and good faith during the upcoming days to reach a consensus on a set of commitments and principles to ensure nuclear disarmament and achieve the universality of the treaty, building on confidence-building measures and nuclear risk reductions that should not halt or replace the utmost goal of nuclear disarmament.

I thank you,