



*The Permanent Mission of Portugal
to the United Nations*



PORTUGAL
United Nations Security Council
2027/2028

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

Main Committee III (peaceful uses)

New York, 5 May 2026

Statement by Portugal

Delivered by Mr. Miguel Alegre,
Political Officer (Disarmament), Permanent Mission of Portugal to the UN in New York

Chair,

Portugal aligns with the statement of the European Union and wishes to make a few remarks in its national capacity.

When drafting and negotiating the NPT, our diplomatic predecessors understood the enormous potential of the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology.

At that time, they were thinking mostly of energy production and power generation.

They could not yet predict the useful applications that this technology may have: from cancer diagnosis to treatment, from water management to crop resilience.

Still, they had a prescient legal instinct. On the one hand, the Treaty recognized the inalienable right of States Parties to peacefully develop this energy, thereby enshrining non-discriminatory and equitable access to its benefits. On the other hand, it laid out strict conditions for such development: compliance with non-proliferation, adherence to the IAEA's safeguards system and guarantees of safety and security.

While Portugal chose not to include nuclear power in its energy mix, we acknowledge that States may decide that this is the appropriate technology to decarbonize their economies, thereby combatting climate change. We also recognize the value of nuclear technology in the attainment of the SDGs.

Portugal wishes to offer 10 points for consideration.



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First, the Conference should reaffirm the centrality of the IAEA across three dimensions: safeguards, nuclear safety and security, and cooperation. Regarding the last, we must acknowledge the Agency's Technical Cooperation Program, which should be supported and adequately funded.

Second, we recognize that the Director-General's seven flagship initiatives have revitalized the Agency's work. For its part, Portugal is proud to be involved in Rays of Hope, ZODIAC, NUTEC Plastics and the Marie Curie Fellowship.

Third, equitable access to nuclear science and technology does not refer only to State-to-State relations. Technical cooperation should include the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through STEM.

Fourth, we must uphold the Agency's seven pillars for ensuring nuclear safety and security in armed conflicts. Apart from the negative radiological consequences, attacking nuclear power plants may contravene international law, in the circumstances foreseen by the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions.

Fifth, as a coastal country, Portugal supports dialogue on maritime transport of nuclear materials as well as confidence-building measures in this regard. The Action Plan adopted at the 2010 NPT RevCon already envisaged such dialogue.

Sixth, we encourage all States to establish national frameworks on nuclear safety and security. They should address the deployment of new technologies for the entire fuel cycle, including related concepts of small modular reactors. A strong, fully independent and trusted regulator can also be crucial in this regard.

Seventh, we encourage States concerned, on a voluntary basis, to minimize Highly Enriched Uranium in civilian stocks and use Low Enriched Uranium, where technically and economically feasible.

Eighth, effective export control regimes play an important part in enabling peaceful nuclear cooperation, while at the same time preventing proliferation risks.

Ninth, our discussions must not ignore the issue of radioactive waste treatment, focusing on practical technologies that contribute to stable and long-term solutions, reducing risks to people and environment.

Tenth, the safeguards system and the principle of verifiability underpin these discussions. They guarantee the peaceful nature of nuclear technology, and therefore must be supported.

I thank you.

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