



*The Permanent Mission of Portugal  
to the United Nations*



**PORTUGAL**  
United Nations Security Council  
2027/2028

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

### **Main Committee I (disarmament)**

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.

Nuclear disarmament is not a dream nor an aspiration.

It is an obligation under international law enshrined in the NPT.

This Treaty – which remains the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament architecture – is realistic about the way in which to fulfil this obligation.

It proposes a phased approach of good faith negotiations leading pragmatic but irreversible and verifiable steps towards reducing arsenals, whether they be strategic or non-strategic, deployed or non-deployed.

Despite the Treaty's balanced and reasonable norms, the pursuit of nuclear disarmament is undoubtedly facing challenges.

Strategic rivalry, irresponsible nuclear rhetoric, opacity, arsenals' expansion or the demise of important arms controls agreements, including the expiration of the NEW Start Treaty, are all eroding trust and increasing risks.

The emergence of technologies such as Artificial Intelligence complicates the scenario even further.

But there are steps to reverse this trend and to get back on track with the implementation of the NPT. Portugal wishes to offer a 10-point roadmap.



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First, a new agreement on a legally binding framework which limits the largest nuclear arsenals is needed.

Second, greater transparency is required, including in the context of the Treaty's review process. Improved reporting quality by nuclear-weapon States as well as a more structured analysis of national reports, possibly with a peer-to-peer methodology, could prove beneficial.

Third, independent and impartial verification of disarmament obligations is a priority. In this regard, we welcome the establishment of the UN Group of Scientific and Technical Experts (GSTE).

Fourth, NPT States Parties should build a common understanding of the oft-forgotten third principle of disarmament – irreversibility – and its application.

Fifth, the Conference on Disarmament must launch negotiations with a view to adopted a treaty banning the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons (FMCT). This is a credible path to pragmatically move towards nuclear disarmament.

Sixth, the CTBT must enter into force without delay. We call on Annex II States to ratify it as soon as possible, and we urge all States to strengthen their cooperation with the CTBTO.

Seventh, nuclear-weapon States should pursue discussions on concrete risk reduction and other confidence-building measures.

Eighth, when it comes to issues pertaining to AI, it is important that commitments are made on maintaining human control over decisions to use nuclear weapons.

Ninth, the legitimate interest of non-nuclear-weapon States in receiving negative security assurances must be recognized.

Tenth, all States should invest in disarmament education, and promote the participation of young persons in reflections about disarmament.

Chair,

These 10 points do not need to be an unattainable mirage. They are practical and concrete steps towards effective nuclear disarmament, and we hope they can be taken into consideration on the work of this Main Committee.

I thank you.

[468 words]