



Republic of Rwanda  
**Permanent Mission of Rwanda  
to The United Nations**

**STATEMENT BY  
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**AT THE ELEVENTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE TREATY ON  
THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS  
GENERAL DEBATE**

**NEW YORK, 27 APRIL to 22 MAY 2026**

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**Mr. President,**

Thank you for giving me the floor. My delegation thanks you for your leadership and assures you of Rwanda's constructive engagement.

Rwanda aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Group and speaks in its national capacity.



**In this Review**, Rwanda begins with a direct question, grounded in the deliberation of the last Review Conference:

**Who are we speaking to and who is prepared to act?**

Because while we meet and deliberate, nuclear risks do not pause. They grow. They evolve. They are increasingly normalized.

And we must ask: **who benefits from this status quo? Certainly not the 8.3 billion people whose lives remain at stake.**

8.3 billion people remain exposed to the risks posed by nuclear weapons held by a few.

**Rwanda is of the view that, as Member States, we hold both the key and the padlock.**

We can choose to unlock ourselves from this threat or continue to lock future generations into permanent insecurity.

For Rwanda, this is not an option.

**This is a test of our political will.**



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The urgency of this moment has already been recognized in the Pact for the Future, where Member States committed to reducing nuclear risks and advancing disarmament. The question before us is whether we will implement those commitments or simply reaffirm them.

In an era of advanced nuclear capability, continuing with business as usual is not neutrality it is complicity. And let us be clear: no State, regardless of power or geography, will be shielded from the consequences of failure.

**Mr. President,**

Nuclear weapons remain among the gravest threats to humanity and peaceful coexistence. As the United Nations marks its 80th anniversary, we must ask whether we are honoring its founding purpose or drifting away from it.

**Today,** that purpose is under strain. Conflicts persist. Trust among States is declining. And the global disarmament architecture is



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steadily eroding. Meanwhile, technological advancements are outpacing our collective ability to regulate them.

Nuclear disarmament is not optional, nor is it indefinite. The total elimination of nuclear weapons remains the only absolute guarantee against their use or threat of use.

Rwanda remains firmly committed to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. **But commitment must be matched by credibility and credibility requires implementation.**

**Mr. President,**

**We must be candid:** disarmament continues to be deferred. Commitments under Article VI remain unfulfilled, while nuclear arsenals are not only maintained but modernized and, in some cases, expanded.



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**This contradiction cannot be ignored.** It weakens trust, undermines the Treaty, and raises a fundamental question: are we preserving the NPT or hollowing it out?

There is also a persistent narrative that security derives from possession. Rwanda rejects this premise. True collective security cannot be built on the indefinite retention of weapons capable of catastrophic destruction.

Those with the greatest capabilities therefore carry the greatest responsibility to lead both in word and in action.

We must therefore ask: are we genuinely managing risks or normalizing them?

Rwanda believes the current trajectory is unsustainable.



**Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones demonstrate that alternatives are not only possible—they are effective. In this regard, Rwanda reaffirms its strong support for the Treaty of Pelindaba, which reflects Africa’s clear and principled rejection of nuclear weapons.**

Mr. President,

We must also rebalance priorities. Nuclear technology must not be defined solely by its destructive capacity. Its peaceful applications hold transformative potential.

**Rwanda underscores the fundamental importance of Article IV of the NPT. The inalienable right of all States Parties to develop and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, without discrimination, must be fully respected.**

This is not a secondary issue it is central to the Treaty’s legitimacy.



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We therefore call for a clear shift: away from doctrines of deterrence based on destruction, and toward nuclear science in service of development in health, energy, agriculture, and climate resilience.

In this regard, we commend the International Atomic Energy Agency for its vital role in advancing safe and peaceful nuclear applications.

**Mr. President,**

In conclusion, the credibility of the NPT will not be judged by reaffirmations but by results.

Rwanda hope that the 2026 Review Conference must not repeat past cycles of unmet expectations. We must aim to deliver measurable progress, restore balance across all three pillars, and rebuild trust in the Treaty's effectiveness.



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Because ultimately, the choice before us is not complex:

Do we continue to defend a system that tolerates permanent nuclear risk or do we act decisively to eliminate it?

For Rwanda, the answer is clear. The time for gradualism without results has passed.

I thank you.