



27 April 2026

Statement by H.E. Dr. Riyad Mansour, Minister and Permanent Representative of the State of Palestine to the United Nations before the Eleventh Review Conference of the Parties of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Thank you Mr. President,

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you for presiding over the Eleventh Review Conference of the Parties of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Be assured, Mr. President of my delegation's full support.

The State of Palestine aligns itself with the statements made by Egypt on behalf of the Arab Group and Uganda on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. President,

Humanity finds itself living under a nuclear sword; inching closer and closer to our necks. Threatening our mere existence, our planet, and life as we know it.

Peoples around the world are all living in fear, engulfed by terror, subsisting under the perpetual "crushing burden of armament."

It feels that we are minutes away from a disaster, but we know that we are one miscalculation away from abolishment, and one accident away from annihilation.

If humanity does not put an end to nuclear weapons—nuclear weapons may very well one day put an end to humanity.

This is why, Mr. President, this Review Conference should bring about genuine progress especially when it comes to nuclear disarmament.

It should reinforce the dividing line between our capacity to build and our capacity to destroy.

The Non-Proliferation Treaty is the enduring cornerstone of the disarmament regime.

Its full implementation is both the measure and the vehicle for disarmament, non-proliferation, and peaceful uses—its three mutually reinforcing pillars, which should be pursued together, and with equal determination, in a time-bound manner.

Mr. President,

The indefinite extension of the Treaty was never meant and could never mean indefinite acceptance of the existence of nuclear weapons and indefinite delaying of full, complete, irreversible, and verifiable nuclear disarmament.

The State of Palestine reiterates that nuclear weapons, their use and threat of use are, and have always been, illegal, as they violate, by their very essence, the fundamental principles of humanity and distinction.

Nuclear deterrence is an oxymoron.

Peace and stability cannot arise by the threat of assured and mutual destruction.

Nuclear deterrence is not a sane, safe, or sustainable model.

We recall that the conclusion of negotiations leading to disarmament is not an equivocation but a legal obligation clearly stated by the ICJ, which requires concrete and time-bound actions by the nuclear weapon States to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons in accordance with their nuclear disarmament legal obligations and commitments and most importantly what morality and humanity demand.

Mr. President,

As there can be no justification for the exceptional status granted to nuclear weapons, there can be no justification for Israeli exceptionalism in our region.

We reject the presence of nuclear weapons in our region.

Our region should be free of nuclear weapons, full stop.

This dangerous precedent continues to loom over the future of our region.

The State of Palestine stresses that this Review must further the implementation of the 1995 resolution on establishing a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, which is an integral part of the package that led to the indefinite extension of the Treaty and whose objectives are yet to be realized.

This is a recognition of the significance of our region, given its history and geography, and the conflicts it is a witness to.

For the past decades our concessions have been met by obstruction, our patience by intransigence, and fundamental commitments by disregard.

We thus welcome the successful convening of the six sessions of the Conference on the Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons. We reiterate that the Conference is open to all invited Parties and operates by consensus.

Those who decide to exclude themselves cannot blame others for their so-called exclusion.

We call on the three co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution to uphold their obligations. This is indispensable for regional and international peace and security and for the credibility of their calls for nuclear non-proliferation in our region.

Mr. President,

The Treaty was a negotiated product of finely tuned compromises; an accepted balance of responsibilities and obligations for which all Parties could be held accountable and that could be measured, monitored, and strengthened to advance disarmament while promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

The treaty must be strengthened not undermined.

The only effective remedy against the threat nuclear weapons pose on all humanity is ridding the world of these weapons. The only effective remedy against nuclear proliferation is complete nuclear disarmament.

What happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki did unfortunately not stop the nuclear weapons race but rather accelerated it. May the memory of the victims and the suffering of the survivors finally guide us on a wiser path, away from such horrors. Thank you.