

*Permanent Observer Mission
of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations*



البعثة المراقبة الدائمة
لدولة فلسطين
لدى الأمم المتحدة

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Statement by Loureen Sayej, Second Secretary, before the Main Committee I of Eleventh Review Conference of the Parties of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Thank you Mr. Chair,

Allow me to congratulate you for chairing the Main Committee One and assure you of Palestine's full support.

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

For over 56 years the NPT has sought the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. 56 years since the Nuclear-Weapons States and Non-Nuclear Weapon States got into a legally binding contract to conduct multilateral negotiations on effective measures for complete and full disarmament.

Mr. Chair,

Compliance with Article VI (6) of the NPT is neither optional nor conditional. Likewise, the possession of nuclear weapons is not a conferred legal right; it is not an entitlement and most certainly not indefinite. In fact, nuclear weapons have been and will always be illegal and their existence is, therefore, temporary.

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 NWS 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. We recall that the elimination of nuclear weapons is a matter of international priority and requires collective and inclusive efforts.

On this premise, the State of Palestine calls on all Parties, particularly Nuclear-Weapon States, to implement their obligations and unassuming commitments, fully and effectively, under the NPT, the 1995 decision, and the action plan of 2010, among others.

The State of Palestine reaffirms the urgent need for conclusion of a universal, unconditional, irrevocable, non-discriminatory and legally binding instrument to assure all Non-Nuclear Weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances as a matter of high priority. In this regards, the State of Palestine hopes that the conclusion of this Conference includes unequivocal reaffirmations as well as concrete actions on effective measures for the total disarmament and elimination of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chair,

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. The State of Palestine was among the first States to have joined the treaty. We recall the significance of achieving universal adherence to the Treaty, especially by the NWS and their special responsibility, and others which have not acceded to the NPT and continue to operate unsafeguarded nuclear facilities, to sign and ratify it. The State of Palestine is committed to its implementation and is engaging constructively in preparation for the First Review Conference of the TPNW in 2026 towards achieving a world free of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chair,

The use or threat of use of nuclear weapons has insidiously seeped into our political, military, and diplomatic doctrines. It is exacerbated by justifications legitimizing the existence of nuclear weapons as a matter of so-called “nuclear deterrence” and unabated modernization of nuclear weapons, their delivery systems, and infrastructure, including integrating AI control, coupled with public pronouncements and preparations suggesting the possible resumption of nuclear weapon testing, in violation the commitments stated under the NPT.

We recall that the only existential security threat that we have is the very existence of nuclear weapons. We shall not deflect from this fact. It is at the core of the disarmament machinery and at the core of this Treaty.

We reaffirm that nuclear deterrence is an oxymoron; it is not a sane, safe, or sustainable model. Peace and stability will not arise by the threat of assured and mutual destruction. International security is national security and cannot be achieved under the crushing burden of nuclear weapons.

The State of Palestine will work towards ensuring that the conclusion of this Conference includes unequivocal reaffirmations as well as concrete actions for new multilateral negotiations on effective measures for the total disarmament and elimination of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chair,

It is not within the purview of this Conference to assess whether Nuclear -Weapon States are acting responsibly or irresponsibly. The mere existence of nuclear weapons is irresponsible. Such dichotomy, we warn, underestimates the half -century sustained efforts of formulating and implementing the most extraordinary international disarmament machinery.

Finally, the strength of the Treaty lies in its totality; it lies in the political, moral, and common will to move together and to act quickly, as for each day that passes, disarmament becomes more pressing and the possibilities become more distant. The world’s hopes for peace rest on our efforts, here in these United Nations, to produce a successful outcome. It is an obligation that we must pursue and a moral, political, and a historic test that we cannot afford to fail.