

ZIMBABWE STATEMENT DELIVERED DURING THE MAIN COMMITTEE I (DISARMAMENT) SESSION OF THE 2026 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS: UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES; 30 APRIL 2026

Zimbabwe aligns itself with the statements delivered by the Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the NPT and by the African Group. We add the following remarks in our national capacity.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) remains the cornerstone of efforts to eliminate weapons of mass destruction. This objective, first articulated in Section 5(c) of United Nations General Assembly Resolution Number One, adopted 80 years ago, called for concrete proposals for the total elimination of atomic weapons and all other weapons adaptable to mass destruction.

As the General Assembly pronounced through the First Special Session Devoted to Disarmament, in 1978, the nuclear arms race runs counter to efforts to establish international relations based on peaceful coexistence and trust between all States. SSOD-1 further underscored that removing the threat of a nuclear war is the most acute and urgent task, as nuclear weapons pose the greatest danger to the survival of civilisation.

Zimbabwe reiterates that, the choice confronting humankind today, as in 1946 and in 1978, is either disarmament or annihilation. There is no viable alternative to States Parties taking concrete steps towards the total

elimination of nuclear weapons. A nuclear war should never be fought, because it can never be won.

Zimbabwe calls for the full, effective and urgent implementation of the obligation of nuclear disarmament under Article VI of the Treaty and in line with the relevant agreed provisions in the 1995 principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament; as well as the 13 Practical Steps agreed to in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference. We further reiterate the agreements reached in the Treaty's 2010 Action Plan on nuclear disarmament.

We are concerned that the ongoing qualitative and quantitative nuclear arms race, which appears to be underway, runs counter to the principle of irreversibility to apply to nuclear disarmament, nuclear and other related arms control and reduction measures.

Zimbabwe calls on Nuclear-Weapon States to adhere to Action 5 of the 2010 Action Plan, on the further diminishing of the role and significance of nuclear weapons in all military and security concepts, doctrines and policies. Instead of increasing the salience of nuclear weapons, we call on Nuclear-Weapon States to discuss policies that could prevent the use of nuclear weapons and eventually lead to their elimination, lessen the danger of nuclear war and contribute to the non-proliferation and disarmament of nuclear weapons.

We reiterate Action 8 of the 2010 Action Plan in which all Nuclear-Weapon States committed to fully respect their existing commitments with regard to security assurances. We implore all Nuclear-Weapon States that have

not yet done so to extend security assurances to Non-Nuclear-Weapon States Parties to the Treaty. Zimbabwe calls for effective international arrangements to assure Non-Nuclear-Weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

In line with Action 21 of the 2010 Action Plan, we encourage all Nuclear-Weapon States to agree as soon as possible on a standard reporting form and to determine appropriate reporting intervals for the purpose of voluntarily providing standard information in line with the NPT review process. We call for the further development of verification capabilities that will be required to provide assurance of compliance with nuclear disarmament agreements.

Let me conclude by calling upon all States Parties to reaffirm that the ultimate objective of the efforts of States in the disarmament process is general and complete disarmament under effective international control, of which nuclear disarmament remains the highest disarmament priority of the United Nations.

We are hopeful that the 2026 NPT Review Conference will see a resolute, irreversible and firm commitment to the track of nuclear disarmament.