

ZIMBABWE STATEMENT DELIVERED DURING THE MAIN COMMITTEE II (NON-PROLIFERATION) OF THE 2026 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS: UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES; 05 MAY 2026

Zimbabwe aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the NPT. The following remarks are delivered in our national capacity.

Zimbabwe calls upon all States Parties to promote universal adherence to the Treaty, and not to undertake any actions that could negatively affect prospects for its universalisation.

We further reiterate the call by previous NPT Review Conferences, for the application of IAEA comprehensive safeguards to all source or special fissionable material in all peaceful nuclear activities of States Parties, in accordance with the provisions of Article III of the Treaty.

We underscore the importance of complying with non-proliferation obligations, addressing all compliance matters to uphold the Treaty's integrity and the authority of the safeguards system.

Zimbabwe calls upon all States Parties to observe the legitimate right of all States Parties, in particular developing States, to full access to nuclear material, equipment and technological information for peaceful purposes. We further encourage States with the necessary capabilities to facilitate the transfer of such technology

and materials, to enhance international cooperation, in conformity with Articles I, II, III and IV of the Treaty, and to eliminate any undue constraints inconsistent with its provisions.

In line with the 2010 Action Plan, we call on all Nuclear-Weapon States to place, as soon as practicable, fissile material designated by each of them as no longer required for military purposes, under the IAEA or other relevant international verification and arrangements. Such measures are essential to ensure that such material is irreversibly removed from military programmes, and used exclusively for peaceful purposes.

Zimbabwe reaffirms that the IAEA is the sole competent authority responsible for verifying the fulfilment of safeguards obligations under the Treaty, with a view to preventing the diversion of nuclear material and technology from peaceful uses to nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. We further support the development of appropriate legally binding verification arrangements, within the context of IAEA, to ensure the verifiable and irreversible removal of fissile material from nuclear weapons, while underscoring the statutory role of the IAEA in advancing nuclear disarmament.

Zimbabwe underscores that the implementation of IAEA safeguards should be done in a manner designed to comply with Article IV of the NPT, and not to hamper the economic or technological

development of the Parties or international cooperation in the field of peaceful nuclear activities.

Being a State Party to the Treaty of Pelindaba, which established the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, Zimbabwe takes this opportunity to reiterate its unwavering commitment to the fundamental principles of:-

- the total renunciation of;
- the prevention of stationing of; and
- the prohibition of the testing of;
- nuclear explosive devices.

We view the provisions of the Treaty of Pelindaba as having assumed the character of peremptory norms of international law from which no derogation is permitted. Our call is that this must be urgently escalated to a universal peremptory norm.

In line with this aspiration, Mr. Chair, we implore all remaining regions to establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free zones. Specifically, Zimbabwe calls for concrete progress towards the implementation of the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conferences' Resolution on the Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction. We underscore that the 1995 Resolution remains valid until its goals and objectives have been achieved. We call upon the five Nuclear-Weapon-States to reaffirm their commitment to the full implementation of the 1995 Resolution. We

further call on all States in the Middle East that have not yet done so to accede to the Treaty as Non-Nuclear-Weapon States, so as to achieve its universality at an early date.

We invite those States Parties with the relevant expertise to enhance the provision of support and capacity building for developing nations to expand and modernise their national capabilities to detect, deter and disrupt illicit trafficking in nuclear materials.

We conclude by reaffirming Zimbabwe's commitment to ensure the non-proliferation of nuclear materials, including through the context of the NPT, the IAEA, as well the United Nations Security Council's 1540 Committee.