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**STATEMENT BY**  
**GHANA**  
**AT THE**  
**THIRD MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE**  
**PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

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**GENERAL DEBATE**

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3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025  
Trusteeship Council,  
United Nations Headquarters  
New York

**Mr. President,**

1. I would like to begin by congratulating you on your election as President of the Third Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. You can count on the full support and cooperation of Ghana's delegation as you lead this important meeting.
2. This Third Meeting takes place at a crucial moment in history, when escalating global tensions, shifting alliances and persisting conflicts unbound the real risks associated with the threat posed by nuclear weapons. The risk of nuclear conflict is elevated and remains ever-present, and the urgency for multilateral efforts to eliminate those weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery is undeniable.
3. Ghana is proud to stand with all nations here today, committed to ensuring the survival and well-being of humanity through the prohibition and eventual elimination of nuclear weapons.

**Mr. President,**

4. Nuclear weapons are the most lethal and inhumane instruments of destruction ever conceived by humankind. Their unique nature, inflicting extreme devastation, long-lasting environmental harm, and catastrophic human suffering, sets them apart from all other weapons. A nuclear detonation would transcend borders, cause global climatic disruptions, activate widespread famine, and set-off irreversible damage to ecosystems.

5. While the world has not seen the use of nuclear weapons since the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, their destructive legacy still looms. The suffering endured by the people of those cities and the lingering health and environmental impacts serve as a stark reminder of the human cost of nuclear warfare. While there have been numerous accidents involving nuclear weapons over the years, none has ever detonated by accident. However, the proliferation of these weapons opens the door to an unthinkable catastrophe. The current geopolitical environment, with rising nuclear rhetoric and expanding military spending on nuclear arsenals, heightens the

risk of miscalculation, miscommunication, or accidental escalation. We cannot afford to allow nuclear deterrence to be a false sense of security.

**Mr. President,**

6. The humanitarian consequences of nuclear war are not confined to any one region. Africa, despite its geographic distance from the immediate hotspots of nuclear conflict, is not immune to the repercussions of nuclear weapons. Africa bears a unique historical connection to nuclear issues, having witnessed the devastating consequences of nuclear testing in the Sahara Desert.
7. Ghana played a key role in the events leading to the establishment of the Pelindaba Treaty, which created a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa. This was a significant achievement, reflecting Africa's strong commitment to nuclear non-proliferation. This commitment should be recognized as part of the broader international responsibility to ensure a world free from the threat of nuclear conflict. The entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) in 2021

marked a pivotal moment in the global effort to eliminate nuclear weapons. For too long, the world has been held hostage by the existence of these weapons of mass destruction.

8. The TPNW offers a tangible pathway forward, and Ghana remains committed to its principles. We signed the Treaty in September 2017, participated in the First Meeting of State Parties in 2022, and attended the Africa Regional Seminar on the TPNW held in Pretoria, South Africa, in 2022. Currently, we are working steadily towards completing the internal procedures for the ratification of this critical instrument, reinforcing our commitment to a world free of nuclear weapons and the application of Article 18 of the Treaty, which ensures the complementarity of the Treaty with other international agreements, such as the Pelindaba Treaty of 2009.
9. As we gather today, we must not lose sight of the growing global consensus that nuclear war is too devastating to be considered a viable option for settling any contested dispute between or among States. International law, through instruments such as the TPNW, offers a framework for collective action. Yet, we must

continue to mobilize efforts at all levels, governments, civil society, and the international community, to ensure that nuclear disarmament is not just an ideal but a reality.

**Mr. President,**

10. In conclusion, the risks to humanity posed by the use of nuclear weapons cannot be ignored. As we continue our efforts to implement the TPNW, we must remain resolute in our goal to achieve a world free from the threat of nuclear weapons. This is not just a goal for our time but for the generations that will follow.
11. I thank you, Mr. President.