

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR TAONGA MUSHAYAVANHU  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ZIMBABWE TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS THIRD MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO  
THE TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS  
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK: 3 – 7  
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Mr. President,

Allow me to extend my congratulations on your election. Zimbabwe stands firmly behind your leadership as we chart the path toward a world free of nuclear weapons.

Zimbabwe remains unwavering in its commitment to the total, irreversible, and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons. We commend progress toward universalizing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and reaffirm our dedication to its objectives.

Mr. President,

The repeated failures of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) Review Conferences threaten to erode trust in the global disarmament framework. We urge all States Parties to the TPNW to actively engage in NPT processes ahead of the 2026 Review Conference. A third consecutive failure would

undermine the credibility of the NPT itself. The TPNW's clear-sighted focus on nuclear abolition must guide these discussions to reinvigorate disarmament efforts.

As a signatory to the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty—the Pelindaba Treaty—Zimbabwe urges all remaining regions to establish similar nuclear-weapon-free zones. Regional commitments are critical stepping stones toward global disarmament.

Mr. President,

In alignment with our stance, Zimbabwe co-sponsored key resolutions in the 79th UN General Assembly, including those addressing nuclear war effects and scientific research and the comprehensive study of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones. These initiatives hold immense potential to drive denuclearization forward.

Pending total elimination, we call on all nuclear-armed states to provide legally binding, universal, unconditional, and non-discriminatory negative security assurances to non-nuclear states. The disarmament obligations under Article VI of the NPT must be honoured. Transparency and accountability in reducing and ultimately eliminating nuclear arsenals are imperative.

We remain deeply concerned by the continued entrenchment of nuclear deterrence in military doctrines. The modernization and expansion of nuclear arsenals contradict global calls for prohibition. The time to break from these outdated paradigms is now.

We further urge all remaining states to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)—a crucial step toward ending nuclear testing and its catastrophic humanitarian and environmental consequences.

Mr. President,

Zimbabwe applauds the inclusive approach of the TPNW, fostering collaboration between states, civil society, scientists, parliamentarians, youth, and affected communities.

We take pride in the recognition of Ms. Edwick Madzimore as a laureate of the 2025 Nuclear-Free Future Awards. Her advocacy amplifies the voices of women, particularly those impacted by colonialism and war. We celebrate her achievement and encourage all communities to persist in demanding the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

We also commend Austria's leadership in coordinating discussions on the security concerns of states under the TPNW. The "Security Concerns of States" report underscores the fundamental flaws of nuclear deterrence, demonstrating that its risks far outweigh any perceived benefits. Zimbabwe fully supports the inclusion of non-nuclear states' security concerns in international security dialogues. Nuclear risk reduction must be verifiable and urgent while we work toward total elimination.

Mr. President,

Finally, as we advocate for a nuclear-free world, we emphasize the need to redirect nuclear science toward development—in energy, health, water, and agriculture. Let nuclear technology serve peace and prosperity, not destruction. This is how it can truly contribute to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Zimbabwe stands resolute that a world without nuclear weapons is not just possible it is necessary.

I thank you.