



National Statement 2024 Substantive Session - General Exchange of Views

United Nations Disarmament Commission

7 April 2025

Statement by Mr Sean Minehan, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations

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Thank you Chair, Australia congratulates Minister José Pereira on his appointment as Chair of this session of the UN Disarmament Commission and thanks Paraguay for its leadership.

I preface my statement by noting, as Australia's national elections have been called for 3 May, the Australian Government is currently operating under caretaker conventions. These conventions aim to ensure that the government's actions do not bind an incoming government and limit its freedom of action.

Chair

Australia is committed to the objective of a world without nuclear weapons.

We are committed to working constructively within the global non-proliferation and disarmament architecture to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, reduce the risk of their use and build pathways towards their elimination.

The best pathway to advance nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament is to ensure progress and action on international agreements, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty.

Developing credible nuclear disarmament verification tools and processes are essential to achieving a world free from nuclear weapons. Verification measures provide States with the necessary assurances that others are complying with their obligations,



increasing confidence in efforts towards disarmament, and building trust between States. The global membership of the UNDC enables this Commission to continue to play an important role in global efforts towards verification.

Chair

In Working Group II last year, we heard from many States about the significant opportunities and complex challenges presented by emerging technologies.

We can see that many emerging technologies share similar risks and opportunities, which are discussed in both UNDC and in long-standing specialised forums.

We can also see there may be shared ways of managing these risks and opportunities.

Building on the helpful exchange on specific emerging technologies last year, we think that this Working Group should consider pivoting its discussion to an output focused on general consensus-based principles.

Last year's discussions showed there are cross-cutting issues across the emerging technology landscape. We believe the UNDC could consolidate common threads through cross-cutting recommendations which can be used as a helpful reference for emerging technologies.

For example, Australia and many other States consider the development and use of emerging military technologies should be **responsible** and **consistent with international law**, especially international humanitarian law.

Australia wants to see the UNDC make recommendations which constitute a helpful, rather than duplicative, contribution. Accordingly, this approach is without prejudice to the more specific work being undertaken in specialised forums, relating to particular technologies.

Chair

The challenging security environment demands that we make progress on all these issues.



In doing so, we must recognise the value of including diverse perspectives and working cooperatively to bridge divides.

Australia urges all delegations to focus on our shared goals and interests. There has never been a more important time for the UNDC to achieve a positive outcome.

Thank you.