



**Statement by**  
**Ambassador Norberto Moretti**  
**Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil**  
**at the General Debate of the 2025 Session**  
**of the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC)**

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Madam High Representative,

Mr. Chairman,

The UNDC is a curious animal. It has had different incarnations, under different mandates. In its original form, it predates SSOD-I, the NPT and most other disarmament

bodies. It was created in 1952, by resolution 502 (VI) of the Security Council.

While this first iteration of the UNDC was later considered to have been ineffective, the preambular paragraphs of resolution 502 (VI) are still instructive today. It reveals something of what the atmosphere of the time was -- with certain provocative parallels to our own time.

Its very first paragraph reads: "Moved by anxiety at the general lack of confidence plaguing the world and leading to the burden of increasing armaments and the fear of war". The frankness of the language might surprise us, yet the substance is all too familiar.

Caught between World War II and the beginning of the Cold War, the delegates of 1952 were living in a world of low trust and fear of war. As are we today.

Yet, differently from us, that anxiety "moved" them into creative action by establishing an ambitious new body to work on disarmament. While this first UNDC did not prosper, it kick started a series of other initiatives, from the NPT to SSOD-I. They both remain as some of the greatest landmarks in disarmament that we have today.

PP 2 is, in some ways, even more interesting. It states: "Desiring to lift from the peoples of the world this fear and thus to liberate new energies and resources for positive programmes of reconstruction and development". Once again, the ability of the diplomats of 1952 to speak plainly about their issues is remarkable.

They recognized clearly that arms buildups were incompatible with development and prosperity. That concern was at the origin of the establishment of the

UNDC. The same sentiment was echoed by President Lula at the General Debate of the 79th General Assembly, when he denounced the increase in global military spending and stated that "these resources could have been used to combat hunger and address climate change".

Mr. President,

As in 1952, we are at a crossroads. Our world is dangerous, yet it does present us with a choice. One option is simply stating that no disarmament is possible until the "security environment" allows it. Yet this is not the choice our predecessors here made. Faced with a hostile environment, they chose to take action. We can and should do the same.

Some question the value of the UNDC nowadays; yet we would argue that it can be more useful than ever, if used correctly.

It can be useful in three ways:

First, it is our only universal forum that can make recommendations on nuclear disarmament. In a world where an increasing number of States are in possession of nuclear weapons, there is value in having a truly universal conversation on nuclear disarmament.

Second, it can help to re-energize progress in other stalled processes. Agreement on Working Group I, no matter how modest, would serve as a powerful signal about our ability to advance nuclear disarmament. This could help build momentum towards the NPT Review Conference and boost other regimes, such as the CTBT.

Lastly, this can be an important forum for confidence building across a range of disarmament topics. It allows us to explore new topics, as we are currently doing with new technologies in Working Group II, and find convergences that we can later take to more specialized fora.

Mr. President,

Last year, Brazil argued for a concise set of Confidence Building Measures on Nuclear Disarmament in Working Group I. We should take that discussion forward this year and work on a list of recommendations, modeled on the 1988 guidelines on verification, which could be adopted before the NPT Review Conference in 2026.

If we can get agreement on confidence building measures in Working Group I and conclude our discussions

on new technologies in Working Group II, we will have delivered the most successful cycle of the UNDC since 1999.

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It would contribute to meet the goal of putting disarmament back on track and would bring us closer to our original purpose of pursuing disarmament as a means to refocus our energies on promoting sustainable development.

I thank you.