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**STATEMENT BY
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**DURING THE
PLENARY (GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS)
OF THE
2025 SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISARMAMENT
COMMISSION**

7th – 25th April 2025
Conference Room 2
United Nations Headquarters,
New York

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation joins previous speakers in warmly congratulating you on your assumption of the leadership of this session. We assure you and the Vice-Chairs as well as the Chairs of the Working Groups of our full support and cooperation.

2. As we enter the second year of the current three-year cycle, Ghana remains committed to contributing constructively to a successful and substantive outcome. We also align ourselves with the statements delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Group and wish to make the following remarks in our national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

3. The complex global situation we find ourselves in today is not an excuse for paralysis. History teaches us that conflict often emerges when the cost of aggression appears low and the memory of past devastation fades. As George Santayana warned in *The Life of Reason* (1905), *“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”* This enduring truth was echoed by J. Robert Oppenheimer, who, witnessing the first detonation of a nuclear weapon in 1945, recalled a verse from the Bhagavad Gita: *“Now I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds.”*

4. These voices, from the past and alive today in our memories, reminds us that disarmament is not a luxury reserved for calm moments, it is the imperative need upon which the foundations of durable peace is built.

Prevention must be our guiding principle, for it is far less costly than responding to catastrophe.

5. In this spirit, Ghana reaffirms the enduring relevance and purpose of the United Nations Disarmament Commission as the sole specialized and deliberative body with universal membership, mandated to consider specific disarmament matters and make concrete recommendations to the General Assembly. Despite the vital role of the Commission in fostering dialogue and consensus, the challenges before us are formidable. Political inertia, weakened consensus, financial constraints, and a fragile global security landscape persist. Nevertheless, the UNDC's universality remains its greatest strength, providing a space where every Member State, has an equal voice in shaping the disarmament agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

6. Ghana underscores the centrality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as the cornerstone of the global disarmament and non-proliferation regime. The balanced implementation of its three mutually reinforcing pillars, that is, nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, remains critical to advancing our collective goals.

7. We regret the lack of full implementation of commitments from the 1995, 2000, and 2010 NPT Review Conferences. This has eroded trust, deepened frustration among non-nuclear-weapon states, and raised

questions about the credibility of the review process. Ghana urges nuclear-weapon states to recommit to disarmament, refrain from further modernization of their arsenals, and take concrete steps guided by the principles of transparency, irreversibility, and verifiability. In our capacity as Chair of the third Preparatory Committee for the 2026 NPT Review Conference, Ghana is committed to fostering inclusive, constructive dialogue aimed at restoring confidence and strengthening the Treaty's implementation.

8. We also reaffirm the essential role of the IAEA in ensuring compliance with full-scope safeguards under the non-proliferation regime.

Mr. Chairman,

9. We acknowledge the contributions of other key disarmament frameworks, including the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and the Conference on Disarmament (CD). We support the revitalization of the Special Sessions of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament (SSODs), particularly efforts toward convening SSOD-IV, as called for in Action 26(a) of the 2024 Pact for the Future.

10. Encouragingly, the CD achieved a breakthrough this year with the consensus adoption of Decision CD/2443, approving a programme of work that includes the establishment of subsidiary bodies. Adopted during its third

plenary meeting, this marks the first such early-year progress since 1996. We urge the CD to maintain this momentum and adopt a balanced programme of work to address its four core agenda items: cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament; prevention of nuclear war; prevention of an arms race in outer space; international agreements to secure non-nuclear weapon states against the use or threat of the use of nuclear weapons; new types of weapons of mass destruction, radiological weapons, global disarmament programme and transparency in armaments. We also call on the remaining Annex II States to ratify the CTBT without delay to enable its long-overdue entry into force.

11. This year marks 80 years since the first use and testing of nuclear weapons, a solemn reminder of the devastating humanitarian consequences witnessed in Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and by victims of nuclear testing worldwide. In this context, we welcome the Political Declaration adopted at the Third Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW, held in March 2025 under the Presidency of Kazakhstan. The Declaration reaffirmed the collective resolve to eliminate nuclear weapons and set the first Review Conference for December 2026. Ghana views the TPNW as a vital complement to the NPT and firmly supports its humanitarian rationale and legal framework.

12. Equally important are regional nuclear-weapon-free zones, which demonstrate the feasibility and political will for denuclearization. They significantly enhance global and regional security, yet their effectiveness is weakened when negative security assurances are made conditional or

absent altogether. In this regard, Ghana reiterates its unwavering support for the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, an objective first endorsed by consensus at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference and reaffirmed in subsequent review cycles. Advancing this goal remains essential to reinforcing the credibility of the NPT and addressing long-standing regional security concerns.

Mr. Chairman,

13. Ghana stresses the urgent need to address the security implications of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, hypersonic systems, autonomous weapons, and cyber capabilities. These technologies risk lowering the threshold for the use of force and destabilizing already fragile environments. We encourage the UNDC to explore frameworks that ensure compliance with international humanitarian law and maintain meaningful human control over autonomous systems.

14. Cybersecurity is especially critical to nuclear and conventional disarmament. The weaponization of digital infrastructure could compromise strategic stability and command-and-control systems. Ghana supports a transparent, inclusive approach to norm-setting in cyberspace, in line with the recommendations of the Open-Ended Working Group.

15. In conclusion, while the disarmament landscape is challenging, the UNDC's inclusive nature gives it a unique advantage. Ghana believes that progress is not only possible, but also necessary. Let us not wait for another catastrophe to spur action. Let us use this forum, this moment, to make

meaningful, incremental, and irreversible strides toward the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the responsible governance of emerging technologies.

Thank you.