

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



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

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

1. My delegation joins previous speakers in warmly congratulating you, members of the Bureau and working groups on your assumption of the leadership of this session. We assure you of our full support and cooperation.
2. Rwanda aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the African Group and we would like to make the following remarks in our national capacity.

Mr. Chair,

3. Rwanda reaffirms its longstanding commitment to nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, and the ultimate realization of a world free of nuclear weapons.
4. Over the years, and particularly taking into account its evolution since 1952, the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) has been an important platform for achieving critical consensus on principles, guidelines, and recommendations despite the prolonged periods of stagnation.
5. Unfortunately, a world without national nuclear weapons and other major weapons capable of mass destruction remains a distant goal, one that seems increasingly unattainable. We emphasize the importance of tangible progress toward fully implementing Article VI of the NPT, particularly through the overall reduction of the global nuclear weapons

stockpile, while recognizing the special responsibility of states with the largest nuclear arsenals.

Mr. Chair,

6. Achieving the objectives of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation requires a multifaceted approach, including strengthening existing arms control agreements, fostering international cooperation through diplomacy, enhancing verification and monitoring mechanisms, promoting disarmament education and awareness, addressing the root causes of proliferation, and engaging in multilateralism.

Furthermore, It is imperative to ensure that nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear security efforts do not infringe upon the inalienable right of States to develop, research, and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Mr. Chair,

9 . As we engage in discussions on emerging technologies within the context of international security, it is crucial to acknowledge their dual nature. While these technologies have the potential to revolutionize industries, optimize processes, and enhance efficiency, their dual-use characteristics also raise concerns about proliferation and potential misuse for harmful purposes. This creates substantial ethical, security, and environmental challenges. The risks and complexities associated with these technologies highlight the pressing need for responsible governance and international collaboration to ensure their development and deployment are managed effectively. We hope that our deliberations will lead to a common understanding to achieve a meaningful outcome on this issue.

Mr. Chair,

10. I would like to conclude by reiterating the consolidation of multilateralism and international cooperation remain fundamental elements in providing universal, sustainable, and pragmatic responses to the global threats of proliferation. Political will and a collective positive attitude can lead to change. There is still time to be innovative and ambitious in reshaping global security and creating a world free of nuclear weapons."

I Thank you for your kind attention.