

**Statement by the Brazilian Deputy Permanent Representative,  
Ambassador Norberto Moretti,  
at the United Nations Disarmament Commission's General Debate  
*09 April 2026***

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Mr. Chair, distinguished colleagues,

Brazil congratulates the members of the Bureau on their election. Throughout this week, the vice-chairs and the rapporteur have carried out the very challenging task of trying to preserve the work of the Disarmament Commission. Your efforts are much appreciated. My delegation is also grateful for the work undertaken by the Paraguayan chairship in 2025.

I cannot begin but by expressing serious concern at the difficulty in finding Member States willing to assume positions in the UNDC Bureau. Obviously, this is no fault of any individual delegation. Rather, it demonstrates the fatigue and skepticism that is currently prevalent among States.

The regrettable situation in which we found ourselves during the organizational meeting reinforces this sentiment. Instead of finalizing the UNDC three-year cycle, according with the mandate approved, we ended up paralyzed in a disturbing procedural debate.

On this, allow me to be very clear: the rule of consensus must not be used to obstruct the fulfilment of General Assembly mandates. Sooner rather than later, efforts to turn UNDC's practice of consensus into collective failure will only lead to abandoning the practice. To the detriment of all.

Mr. Chair,

The international environment has deteriorated on unprecedented scale since the last session. However, we had hopes that we could still somehow use this moment to reflect on paths to build more confidence in topics that do need our attention.

Three weeks to the beginning of the XI NPT Review Conference, my delegation was ready to continue to work

on a confidence-building approach to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation – especially considering how trust has but disappeared. Dialogue and transparency must be brought back to central stage.

We also deemed crucial to prioritize discussions on recommendations aimed at rebuilding confidence among nuclear weapons states and reaffirming their existing obligations.

In any case, my delegation was and is ready to work on measures to support risk reduction as steps towards disarmament. We were also prepared to engage in strengthening transparency and accountability of nuclear weapons states. We were also keenly interested in fostering technical and scientific exchanges on nuclear disarmament verification.

Progress could have been made in confidence-building measures, capacity-building, and in meeting legal obligations of all States under international humanitarian law and human rights law.

Sadly, we were deprived from the opportunity of having these exchanges and voicing our position in a formal setting. I must painfully acknowledge that my delegation placed too much hope in wisdom and responsibility.

Mr. Chair,

On emerging technologies, object of the Working Group II, again I recall one simple fact: the United Nations is the right forum to discuss this issue, including the challenges arising from expanding AI applications.

Brazil attaches great importance to the impact of new technologies on international peace and security. We should be able to develop recommendations that ensure that their use benefits humanity rather than further risks its demise.

Building upon our discussions in 2024 and 2025, Brazil was willing to address the governance gaps and support the work of specialized fora.

As to the use of AI for military purposes, we believe that it is both imperative and urgent that we all act responsibly. This implies recognizing the growing challenges posed by applications, and ensuring that humans retain full control and agency over military systems.

Mr. Chair,

In Brazil's statement originally prepared for this session, we encouraged all Member States to set aside their differences and work towards shared goals. We were not being naïve; rather, we had chosen to be optimistic. We did so even during the bleakest periods of history, including during the Cold War. For optimism to have any chance, however, we must reinstate a minimum of rationality, responsibility, political will and technical expertise, as well as the basic principles of multilateral diplomacy.

Thank you.