

General Debate Statement  
UNGA76 – First Committee  
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Statement delivered by  
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to the United Nations

Slovenia congratulates you on your assumption as Chair of the First Committee and assures you and the Bureau of our full support.

Slovenia associates itself with the general statement by the European Union and the following remarks are made in a national capacity.

Chair,

One of current complex challenges is the undeniable fact that the global non-proliferation and disarmament architecture is under pressure. The recent five-year **extension of the New START Treaty** represents one of rare positive developments in recent years. We hope that it will provide necessary space to strengthen and modernize arms control regime. Slovenia finds this essential not only because of the needed advancement on critical issues of global peace and security, but also because one of our foreign policy guiding principles is the promotion of the universality of international instruments and the implementation of their letter and spirit.

This is particularly relevant for the **Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**. We should spare no efforts to work constructively towards a successful outcome of the Tenth NPT Review Conference. We have to strengthen the Treaty across all of its three pillars. Additionally, Slovenia, as a country with a fully-fledged civilian nuclear program, believes that the **third pillar of NPT** in

particular needs further attention and visibility. As a newly elected member of the **IAEA Board of Governors** for the period 2021-2023, we are therefore looking forward to working closely with all Board members to further strengthen the contribution of the Agency to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

As far as the disarmament pillar of the NPT is concerned, Slovenia believes that the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons, as envisioned in Article VI of the Treaty, can be achieved only through a progressive approach, which must be effective, irreversible, verifiable and universal. This is also why we must not lose sight of another key milestone on the path of nuclear disarmament, which is the entry into force of the **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty**. We therefore call on all states that have not yet done so to commit to signing and ratifying the Treaty as soon as possible.

Chair,

Slovenia would like to renew its strong call on the **DPRK** to engage in dialogue with the United States and the Republic of Korea in order to enable steps toward complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization. We also support the intensive diplomatic efforts focused on the preservation of the **JCPoA**. In this connection, it is crucial that the Iranian side returns to the negotiations in Vienna as soon as possible. Moreover, we also urge Iran to come back to full compliance of its commitments under the JCPoA without delay.

Turning to the **Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)**, we would like to call on Syria in view of its use of chemical weapons against its own population on several confirmed occasions, to disclose and destroy all of chemical weapons, and to cooperate fully with the OPCW Technical Secretariat, including by granting access to all relevant sites. We condemn the use of the novichok nerve agent on Russian territory, the circumstances of which have not yet been duly investigated, and continue to call on Russia to provide a credible explanation of this incident. We would also like to assure, that as a member of the Partnership Against Impunity for the Use of the Chemical Weapons, Slovenia will continue to extend its full support to the OPCW.

My country continues to support efforts aimed at preventing arms race in **outer space**. In view of our national contribution for the report of the UN Secretary-General on "Reducing space threats through responsible behavior", we are looking forward to further elaboration of the issue during this year's session of the First Committee, given its importance for strengthening space security and ensuring stability in a pragmatic manner.

Concerning **cyber issues**, Slovenia welcomes the achievements of the Open-Ended Working Group and the Group of Governmental Experts, respectively. While these reports have noted that additional norms could be developed over time, they have underlined that this does not exclude efforts to implement the already existing norms. We believe that the implementation of existing norms can be supported by the establishment of a Program of Action to Advance Responsible State Behaviour in Cyberspace (PoA). We are ready to work further on this proposal.

Before concluding, let me say as well that the upcoming Sixth Review Conference of the **Convention of Certain Conventional Weapons** must not fall short of the mounting expectations. These include finding common ground on the complex issue of emerging technologies in the area of **Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)**. In this context, the work of GGE is essential, and we will continue to support and contribute to it, particularly in view of developing the mechanisms that will maximize the positive benefits of technological advances while minimizing the risks.

Finally, let me highlight an indispensable component of the global arms control architecture, which is the **Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**. Slovenia as a country with longstanding commitment to mine action and the goal of a world free of landmines therefore calls on all States that have not yet done so to adhere to the Convention without further delay. I would also like to use this opportunity to reconfirm my country's continued support, including financial one, to the Implementation Support Unit of the Convention.