

First Committee, 76th Session of the UN General Assembly

Thematic Debate 1 to 4

National Statement of Ireland

Ireland aligns itself with the EU statement.

The NPT remains the cornerstone of the Disarmament and Non Proliferation architecture. At the Review Conference, Ireland expects tangible progress across all three pillars, with a focus on disarmament where progress is unacceptably slow. Article VI and past consensus outcomes provide a framework to achieve a world without nuclear weapons and must be honoured and fully implemented.

The entry into force of the TPNW was a landmark moment for nuclear disarmament. We look forward to an open and inclusive first Meeting of States Parties in 2022, setting out concrete plans for the full implementation of the Treaty's humanitarian-centred objectives.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the CTBT, which has established a strong global norm against nuclear testing. The Treaty's entry into force is essential and Ireland calls on the eight remaining Annex 2 States to join without delay or precondition.

Ireland supports the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction. We were encouraged by the adoption of a political declaration at the 2019 Conference and hope further progress can be made at the Conference later this year.

Chair,

Ireland strongly supports the JCPOA, and urges all sides to return to Vienna to conclude talks, and return to the full and effective implementation of the agreement.

Ireland is seriously concerned by DPRK's ongoing nuclear and ballistic missile-related activities. Ireland urges DPRK to abandon these activities in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner.

Chair,

Ireland is committed to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, to the preservation of a safe, secure and sustainable space environment, and its peaceful use on an equitable, mutually acceptable basis for all. Ireland stresses the importance of conducting space activities in accordance with international law.

Chair,

Strengthening the international non-proliferation regime is key for Ireland, and we recognise export control regimes as central to countering the spread and use of WMD.

Ireland reaffirms our support for the CWC and the BTWC. We are committed to a successful outcome at the BTWC MSP and the Ninth RevCon. Ireland is fully committed to upholding the international prohibition against chemical weapons and to hold accountable those responsible for their use.

Chair,

Addressing the far-reaching effects of explosive weapons in populated areas is a priority for Ireland. We are leading a diplomatic process in Geneva to elaborate a political declaration on this critical issue. We have made good progress and are determined to finalise a declaration that will bring positive and lasting behavioural change.

Ireland unequivocally supports the comprehensive prohibitions against anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions. We welcome the adoption of the Lausanne Action Plan by the Second Review Conference of the CCM. Ireland welcomes measures taken by the ATT and UN PoA to address the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons. We look forward to the implementation of the decision at the ATT CSP to undertake a mapping of synergies with complementary instruments.

At the upcoming CCW Review Conference, Ireland will support the universalisation of the Convention and its protocols. We will seek progress on Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines (MOTAPM) and IEDs, the continued applicability and relevance of Protocol III, with particular regard for the reported use of air-delivered incendiary weapons, and to bolster the implementation of Protocol V.

The CCW must remain responsive to emerging challenges. We remain concerned about the considerable ethical, moral and legal dilemmas posed by autonomous weapon systems. Systems that do not incorporate human control must not be developed, deployed or used. Ireland is engaged at the GGE and committed to achieving an ambitious outcome.

Thank you.