



Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations

19 East 47th Street, New York, NY 10017



Please check against delivery

**STATEMENT BY GHANA
DURING THE
FIRST COMMITTEE GENERAL DEBATE ON
DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AT THE 77TH
SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**3rd October 2022
United Nations HQ
New York**

Mr. Chairman,

1. As we join other delegations in congratulating you and the other members of the Bureau on your well-deserved election, we do so with a keen awareness of the onerous responsibility this Committee has to assume, especially at a moment in history when the war against Ukraine, as well as unfolding uncontrolled geo-strategic actions, could throw our world further away from the collective goals of disarmament and security.
2. I therefore wish you great success in leading us during this session and assure you of my delegation's cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

3. Ghana associates herself with the statements delivered by the Non-aligned Movement and the African Group and makes the following additional remarks in her national capacity.
4. As a peace-loving Member State, Ghana's participation in this Committee has always been aimed at ensuring that, together, we make a meaningful effort in addressing the egregious threats to international peace and security.
5. We therefore urge all delegations during this Session to make genuine efforts to re-energise the UN's disarmament machinery, address the escalating threats to international security and the attendant rise in global military expenditures,

and respond to the despair that several delegations continue to have over the work we do.

6. The current situation portrays grave inconsistencies between declarations by some States during pertinent disarmament negotiations and discourse and their track record and eventual actions on the ground. Myopic interests appear to have superseded the knowledge that the ramifications of conflicts and other drivers of insecurity go beyond the borders of the points of origin and the fact that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.

Mr. Chairman,

7. These impediments, notwithstanding, Ghana reaffirms her commitment to multilateralism and to uphold the international arms control architecture, disarmament, and nonproliferation instruments, which have been painstakingly crafted.
8. We continue to recognise the essential work of the Conference on Disarmament, and that of the Disarmament Commission and, in that regard, welcome the convening of the UNDC in April 2022. We also reiterate the importance of existing disarmament treaties and reiterate our call on all Member States to commit and adhere to the NPT, the Treaty on the Prohibition

of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), the Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT), the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), Security Council Resolution 1540 and the applicable Nuclear Weapon Free Zones (NWFZ).

9. In respect of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) we hold the view that we have no choice but to move past the disappointment of the failure to reach consensus at two (2) consecutive Review Conferences on the implementation of the NPT.
10. We implore all Member States to commit to the implementation of the three pillars of the NPT in their entirety and maintain our call on Nuclear-Weapon States to fulfill their multilateral legal obligations on nuclear disarmament and to implement their unequivocal undertaking in 2000, further reiterated in 2010, towards the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals.
11. Likewise, Ghana believes that the entry into force, on 22nd January, 2021, of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) would contribute to furthering the agreed global objective of total elimination of nuclear weapons, as the only legally binding global treaty that outlaw's nuclear weapons and addresses the existing loopholes in international law regarding

the development, testing, production, acquisition, possession, stockpiling, use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

12. In respect of the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty, we entreat the remaining eight (8) Annex II States that hold the entry into force of the Treaty in their hands to accede to it without further delay.
13. We, also, reaffirm our longstanding position that non-proliferation policies should not undermine the inalienable right of States to acquire, have access to, import or export nuclear material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes. We stress that peaceful development of nuclear technology, must be conducted under IAEA supervision and in full compliance with its safeguards, additional protocols and verification regimes. Meanwhile, goals of peaceful uses should not be misused for proliferation purposes.
14. Ghana further reasserts her full support for the work of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), including its Secretariat. The international community must forge consensus towards the establishment of a verification regime for the Biological Weapons Convention in view of recent global developments, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Chair,

15. The establishment of Nuclear Weapon Free Zones (NWFZ) around the world, including the Treaty of Pelindaba, remain an important mechanism in the

disarmament and non-proliferation regime. We are, therefore, encouraged by the convening of the First and Second Sessions of the conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in 2019 and 2021, respectively and urge, the continuous engagement of all stakeholders towards the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East in line with the 1995 and 2015 outcomes of the NPT.

Mr. Chair,

16. Ghana considers the diversion, illicit trade and the unauthorized use of small arms and light weapons ammunition as a serious impediment to peace, stability, development, and the budding democracy in most parts of Africa. The upsurge in organized crime, terrorism, conflict, communal violence, banditry and violent extremism in the Sahel Region and parts of West Africa are fueled by the availability and the easy access to not just Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) but their ammunition. We, reiterate, in this regard, the continued relevance of the UNPOA and its ITI, the ATT, the Anti-Personnel Landmine Ban Convention (APLC), the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCCW) in multilateral efforts to prevent the illicit acquisition, proliferation and misuse of conventional weapons.

17. Accordingly, we welcome the outcome of the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States (BMS8) on the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in all its aspect. We believe that its decision to establish a standing dedicated fellowship training programme on SALWs would be of great benefit to our region.
18. Ghana takes note of the progress made in the context of the Open-Ended-Working-Group on the developments in the Field of Information Communication Technology in the Context of International Security. We are encouraged by the consensual adoption of its outcome document and hopeful that the work of the OEWG would make a meaningful impact on furthering the development of rules, norms and principles of responsible behaviour of States.
19. Meanwhile, Ghana remains concerned over the negative implications of the development and deployment of anti-ballistic missile (ABM) defense systems and threat of weaponization of outer space. These threats to outer space, which is a common heritage of humankind requires urgent renewed focus in ensuring safety for our common good.
20. **In conclusion, Mr. Chair,** Ghana calls on Member States to be mindful of immersing others in an avalanche of proposed resolutions, while their actions give course to doubt their commitment to international peace. Multilateral

negotiating mechanisms must not be taken for granted. In this regard, Ghana considers the Secretary-General's Disarmament Agenda, focusing on "*Disarmament to Save Humanity*", "*Disarmament that Saves lives*", and "*Disarmament for Future Generations*" as an important approach and a good basis for repositioning arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation issues at the center of the United Nations activities. Indeed, we all have a duty to support ongoing work on multilateral platforms as a sound basis for achieving international peace and security

21. I thank you.