

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine at the First Committee Thematic Debate
under Cluster I ‘Nuclear Weapons’
(17 October 2022, New York)**

Mr.Chair,

The delegation of Ukraine aligns itself with the statement delivered by the delegation of the European Union. Now we would like to make the following remarks in our national capacity.

Today is the 236th day of a full-scale invasion unleashed by terrorist Russia against my country.

Critical infrastructure facilities, public and residential areas, even schools and hospitals are under regular missiles’ and drones’ attacks. Thousands of educational and medical institutions, water and electricity networks were damaged and destroyed. Throughout the last weeks Russia intensified its attacks both against critical infrastructure and residential areas in different regions of Ukraine. As a result of attacks by Iranian combat unmanned aerial vehicles on Kyiv this morning, 4 people were killed. Among them a pregnant woman who expected a child. All these attacks are desperate actions of the country, who is losing its war against Ukraine.

Mr.Chair,

Ukraine consistently supports a multilateral approach to disarmament and international security agenda. We recognize the difficulties in the implementation of the existing international treaties and in bringing others into force. Nevertheless, my country remains fully committed to maintaining and further strengthening the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

We share the view that the use of nuclear weapons is the most serious threat ever faced by humankind. For many years, Ukraine has been consistent in its call for fostering the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and step up efforts in nuclear disarmament.

Ukraine continues to render its support to effective implementation and universalization of NPT as a fundamental element of the global nuclear nonproliferation regime.

However, since 2014 the issue of the NPT efficacy and integrity has become much more complicated. Russian military aggression against Ukraine provoked dangerous imbalance in the existing international arms control and non-proliferation architecture, undermined the effectiveness and reliability of WMD non-proliferation regimes.

By occupying the Crimea in a blatant violation of the UN Charter and a number of international agreements, including the Budapest Memorandum, Russia has demonstrated that the legal obligations of a nuclear power to respect independence and sovereignty of non-nuclear state as well as to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity are worth nothing.

The non-proliferation regime was undermined as Russia de-facto expanded the geographic area of its nuclear arms deployment after the occupation of Crimea. Moreover, Moscow has already shelled missiles, capable to deliver nuclear warheads, over the Ukrainian cities from the territory of Belarus.

Today, Russia is threatening to use nuclear weapons. Earlier, this year Russia also raised nuclear alert levels, which undermine the credibility of its commitment to the January 2022 declaration.

Mr.Chair,

Ukraine strongly condemns the recent intercontinental ballistic missile launch conducted by the DPRK and the series of other ballistic missile launches conducted by the Pyongyang throughout 2022 in blatant violation of relevant Security Council's resolutions.

We urge the DPRK to fully implement and respect all UN Security Council resolutions related to its weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and ballistic missile programmes, immediately return to compliance with the NPT, and the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, including by signing and ratifying the Additional Protocol thereto, as well as the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty. The DPRK must abandon all nuclear and any other existing WMD and ballistic missile programs in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner.

The issue of the JCPOA remains to be of international concern and is still depends on Iran's compliance with its nuclear-related commitments.

The universalization and the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty remains one of the key objectives of the multilateral efforts in the area of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We support the signing of the Treaty and its ratification by all States. Nuclear test moratorium voluntarily declared by different states plays a necessary, but insufficient role as it will never replace the legally binding nature of the CTBT. Therefore, Ukraine calls upon the States, which have yet to sign or ratify the CTBT to do so without delay.

One of the important elements of non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament is the Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT). Ukraine continues to support the need to negotiate and conclude such a Treaty, which will be essential both to constrain nuclear proliferation and to advance the goal of nuclear disarmament. We deeply regret that there is still a deadlock within the Conference on Disarmament and would welcome the resumption of its activities on the FMCT as soon as possible.

In conclusion, Mr.Chair, erosion of the existing world order, continuous breaches and unaddressed violations of international law along continue to weaken global security architecture as a whole. It is crucial to find practical ways to ensure that the international legal norms related to non-proliferation and arms control do not remain on paper but also properly enforced and fully respected. The international community should act united and decisively in preventing any attempts and countering every action to endanger the relevant international instruments through either aggressive policy, violation of State's sovereignty and territorial integrity or through blocking important decisions to be adopted by the UN or its bodies.

Thank you.