

Statement by

**HE Mr Boštjan Malovrh, Ambassador,**

**Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations**

at the

**General Debate**

**UNGA77 – First Committee**

New York, 12 October 2022

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

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

Mr. Chair,

The current complex challenges in geo-political arena are the undeniable fact. The global non-proliferation and disarmament architecture are under enormous pressure and responsibility. The Russian Federation’s invasion of a sovereign country Ukraine is a gross violation of international law, including the UN Charter, and it severely undermines global security and stability.

We reiterate our strong condemnation of the unprovoked and unjustified aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. Furthermore, we strongly condemn the illegal referenda, which took place under military force. The result of referenda and the actions of annexation of the Ukrainian territories by Russia are gross violations of Ukrainian sovereignty and the UN Charter. The illegal annexation should be rejected and should not be recognized by the international community. The brutal war against Ukraine must stop.

Mr. Chair,

We genuinely need a huge step forward to have some progress on the global peace and security agenda. The promotion of the universality of international treaties and the implementation of their letter and spirit should be our foreign policy guiding principles.

We regret that the 10th Review Conference of NPT did not conclude with the adoption of an outcome document. Nonetheless, the legally binding obligations of the NPT and commitments from the past Review Conferences remain valid. In line with an Article VI of the NPT, we must continue our goal towards a world free of nuclear weapons. This can be achieved through the effective, irreversible, verifiable and universal approach.

Slovenia, as a country with a fully fletched civilian nuclear program and as an elected member of the IAEA Board of Governors for the period 2021-2023, looks forward to strengthening further the contribution of the Agency for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Furthermore, we must not lose sight of another key milestone on the chosen path of nuclear disarmament, which is elimination of nuclear testing. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is making a steady progress toward universalization and we welcome that. As every year, we continue to urge all States to sign and ratify Treaty without further delay, and we urge particularly the remaining eight States listed in Annex 2 to ratify the Treaty.

Mr. Chair,

Slovenia has repeatedly expressed its support for the JCPoA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action). The nuclear deal is a vital part of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and needs to be preserved. We therefore call on Iran to act in accordance with the JCPoA and return to its full implementation. We also encourage Iran to cooperate completely with the IAEA to resolve all outstanding safeguards issues.

Slovenia commends the transparent manner in which Australia, UK and the US have approached the potential acquisition of conventionally armed and nuclear powered submarines by Australia. We expect the AUKUS partners will continue to pursue their goals together with the IAEA Secretariat and in full respect of their international obligations. We welcome the report on the IAEA safeguards in relation to AUKUS issued on 9th of September this year by the Director General of the IAEA.

Mr. Chair,

The DPRK's unlawful lunches of ballistic missiles this year are against the UN Security Council resolutions and undermine the regional and international peace and security. Slovenia would like to renew its urgent call on the DPRK to engage in dialogue with interested parties in order to enable steps toward complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization. We also call on DPRK to engage in negotiations aimed at returning to compliance with its obligations under UN Security Council resolutions.

Turning to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the Biological weapons Convention (BTWC), we would like expressing our commitments to contribute to a successful outcome of the 9th Review Conference of the BTWC and the 5th Review Conference of the CWC. We would like to stress the importance we attach to universal adherence of the Biological Weapons Convention.

Slovenia as a member of the Partnership against Impunity for the Use of the Chemical Weapons will continue to extend its active support to the OPCW. Let me also be clear that Slovenia fully supports the UN Secretary-General's Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons.

Concerning cyber issues, we welcome the achievements of the Open-Ended Working Group and the Group of Governmental Experts, respectively. We are also supporting the proposal on the forthcoming resolution to establish a Programme of Action to Advance Responsible State Behaviour in Cyberspace (Cyber PoA).

Mr. Chair,

The importance of gender-disarmament nexus is growing. In accordance with the UN Security Council Resolution 1325, we are committed to support gender diversity and the equal, full and effective participation and leadership of women in the work of disarmament, non-proliferations and arms control policies.

Finally, let me highlight an indispensable component of the global arms control architecture, which is the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. Slovenia is a country with longstanding commitment to mine action and to the goal of a world free of landmines. I reconfirm my country's continued support, including financial one, to the Implementation Support Unit of the Convention.

In the same vain, I would also like to praise an important achievement, launched by Ireland in the area of Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences arising from the use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas.

Thank you.

