

Statement by

**HE Mr Boštjan Malovrh, Ambassador,**

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

at the

**Thematic debate on Nuclear Weapons**

**UNGA77 – First Committee**

New York, 17 October 2022

Mr. Chair,

Slovenia associates with the statement delivered by the European Union. The following remarks are made in our national capacity.

Today's thematic discussion on nuclear weapons is taking place in a complex and chilling geopolitical setting. A full-fledged war is taking place in Europe. A nuclear-armed state invaded a non-nuclear armed state in violation of previously granted security assurance. Slovenia, once again, strongly condemns the unprovoked and unjustifiable war of Russia against Ukraine. The Russian threat of using nuclear weapons is dangerous, irresponsible and unacceptable. It goes against the commitments of P5 Nuclear Weapons States declaration this January 2022.

Mr. Chair,

We call on Russia to refrain from making any threats with nuclear weapons and to de-alert status of its nuclear forces. Furthermore, we would like to remind that any armed attack on and threat against nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful purposes constitutes a clear violation of the principles of the UN Charter and international law, including the IAEA's nuclear safety standards and nuclear security guidance.

Mr. Chair,

As already stated by Slovenia during the General Debate we regret not having achieved consensus on the outcome document of the 10th Review Conference of the NPT last August. Slovenia reaffirms its full support to the NPT and its three mutually reinforcing pillars: nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We underline that the NPT is a cornerstone of international efforts on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. The goal of a world free of nuclear weapons, as envisioned in Article VI of the Treaty, should continue to be a final objective, including through the full implementation of the 2010 Review Conference Action Plan.

Mr. Chair,

My country is concerned by the latest ballistic missiles launches conducted by the DPRK since September 2021. We join others in condemning the renewed activities in several nuclear sites in the DPRK as well as the intention to prepare for another nuclear test. Those actions are not incentive and conducive for the peace and stability in the region. Peace and security in the region can only be achieved by pursuing the goal of complete, verifiable, irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Mr. Chair,

This year, Slovenia joined the group of the Stockholm initiative for nuclear disarmament. As a state aligned to the Stockholm initiative, we stress the importance of taking actions to reduce the nuclear risk. We join others in calling on the nuclear weapon states to maximize transparency on their nuclear arsenals, take practical measures for further reduction to their arsenals and show nuclear restraint at the highest political level. Along those lines, we welcome the extension of the New START Treaty for additional 5 years. We also welcome the steady progress of the ratifications of the CTBT and we are committed to continue the promotion of universal adherence to and the entry into force of the CTBT.

Thank you.

