



S L O V A K I A

Statement

**by His Excellency
Ambassador Michal Mlynár**

**Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to
the United Nations in New York**

General Debate

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- *Check against the delivery* -

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to congratulate you on the assumption of your Chairmanship and wish you all the success.

Slovakia associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. The following remarks will be made in my national capacity. The full version of this statement will be posted online.

Mr. Chairman,

The international security environment and security architecture in Europe has been significantly degraded by the Russian Federation unprovoked and unjustifiable invasion of Ukraine. This aggression is a blatant violation of international law, notably the UN Charter and Slovakia condemns it in the strongest terms, including the involvement of Belarus.

We strongly condemn the Russian Federation illegal annexation of parts of Ukraine's territory based on falsified outcomes of pseudo-referenda that the Russian Federation organised at gunpoint in the occupied Ukrainian territory. We unequivocally reject these actions and we will not recognize them. Slovakia supports territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

Russian forces use all categories of conventional weapons in Ukraine very often in a manner that does not comply with International Humanitarian Law. Actions of Russian forces cause unspeakable suffering to innocent civilians, including children, destroy civilian objects and infrastructure and cause gross violations of international humanitarian law and human rights. Moreover, Russia's actions and illegal annexation pose serious and direct threats to the safety and security of Ukrainian nuclear facilities, and they further aggravate the nuclear safety and security situation at the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant. We urge the Russian Federation to immediately cease all actions against, and at the ZNPP and allow the competent Ukrainian authorities to regain full control.

Mr. Chairman,

When international order is under such enormous pressure and when existing norms, rules and principles of international law are violated, prospects for progress in disarmament and non-proliferation have become bleak.

Previous positive developments, such as the extension of the New START Treaty, Strategic Stability Dialogue between the US and the Russian Federation and the joint Statement of the Leaders of the Five Nuclear-Weapon States on Preventing Nuclear War and Avoiding Arms Races, are now overshadowed by the Russian

aggression in Ukraine. During the war the Russian Federation has decided to increase readiness of its nuclear forces and continue to use dangerous and escalatory nuclear rhetoric. These actions directly contradict the joint statement from January that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.

Despite these pessimistic prospects, it is nevertheless necessary to continue efforts with regard to future verifiable nuclear arms control arrangements. Under current circumstances the issue of strategic and nuclear risk reduction has also become highly important. We need to make every effort to revitalize the disarmament and non-proliferation.

Mr. Chairman,

We regret that the 10th NPT Review Conference failed to achieve consensus on the final document. Despite this setback, we are not utterly pessimistic. The fact that only one delegation blocked the consensus outcome means that the remaining state parties are willing to work constructively for the sake of upholding and strengthening the non-proliferation and disarmament regime.

Slovakia remains strongly committed to the NPT. Legally binding obligations enshrined in the Treaty and commitments from the past Review Conferences remain valid, and we need to implement and build on them during the new review cycle.

Slovakia supports progressive step-by-step approach to promote nuclear disarmament, which takes into account prevailing security environment.

Early entry into force of the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty should be our common objective. We call on all States that have not yet done so, in particular the remaining Annex II States, to sign and ratify the CTBT.

We support early commencement of negotiations on Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty in the Conference on Disarmament on the basis of the Shannon mandate. Until the conclusion of such a Treaty all States concerned should declare moratorium on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear devices.

Slovakia also welcomes various initiatives, which in a pragmatic manner promote dialogue on how to advance nuclear disarmament and facilitate implementation of the goals of the NPT, such as the Stockholm Initiative, NPDI or CEND.

Mr. Chairman

DPRK's nuclear and ballistic missile program is a serious threat to international peace and security. We are deeply concerned by the continued launches of

ballistic missiles in unprecedented numbers since the beginning of this year as well as DPRK's announcement of its updated law on nuclear policy specifying conditions for the use of nuclear weapons.

Slovakia supports the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action as an important element providing us with guarantees about exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program. We are concerned by Iran's continued actions inconsistent with the JCPOA. Nevertheless, we still hope that intensive diplomatic efforts within the JCPOA Joint Commission could form the basis for revitalizing of the JCPOA.

We also call on Iran to engage constructively with the IAEA on outstanding safeguards issues, as Comprehensive Safeguard Agreements are legally binding.

Mr. Chairman,

Slovakia strongly supports Chemical Weapons Convention. Any use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere, at any time and under any circumstances is unacceptable.

Since the beginning of aggression against Ukraine, the Russian Federation has disseminated disinformation concerning the CWC regime, when accusing Ukraine of violations of its provisions. Its military campaign has exposed many Ukrainians to toxic chemicals as a consequence of shelling of Ukrainian civil industrial infrastructure.

We also recall that the assassination attempt on Alexei Navalny on Russian soil in August 2020 is still not resolved.

Slovakia reaffirms its strong support for the Biological Weapons Convention and is fully committed to contributing to the success of forthcoming Ninth Review Conference. We are convinced that at the Consultative Meeting pursuant to Article V of the BWC it was credibly demonstrated to States Parties that the US and Ukraine cooperation and assistance has been for legitimate peaceful purpose and in accordance with Article X, and that Russian claims were unjustified. Hence, in our view there are no outstanding issues left and BWC State Parties should now constructively focus on the Ninth Review Conference.

Mr. Chairman,

As regards the outer space domain, Slovakia is committed to the prevention of an arms race in outer space and preservation of a safe, secure and sustainable space environment. We support the work of an Open-Ended Working Group on reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours.

We are concerned by the continued development and testing of anti-satellite weapons, including the risks associated with these weapons. We welcome the United States initiative and commitment not to conduct destructive direct-ascent anti-satellite missile tests and joining of other states. We would be willing to support universal norm in this regard.

Slovakia supports free, open, stable and secure cyberspace where human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law are observed. We support the proposal for a Programme of Action to Advance Responsible State Behaviour in Cyberspace as well as the proposed 1st Committee resolution.

Mr. Chairman,

The 1st Committee deliberations this year are held in very difficult times. Nevertheless, let me express hope that the 1st Committee will serve the needs of international community for the sake of disarmament, peace and security.

Thank you for your attention.