



Statement

Republic of Suriname to the United Nations

Thematic Debate: “Regional disarmament and security”

First Committee 79th Session United Nations General Assembly

28 October 2024 in New York

Madam Chair,

As we take the floor for the first time, let me extend our warmest congratulations to you and the Bureau on your election.

The Republic of Suriname aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished Representatives of Jamaica and Indonesia on behalf of CARICOM and NAM, respectively.

Suriname would like to make a few additional remarks, in its national capacity.

Madam Chair,

The reality of our world is that nuclear weapons continue to pose a grave threat to humanity and our planet. The catastrophic consequences of their potential use are unimaginable and unacceptable. In light of this, Suriname stands firmly committed to the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Suriname firmly believes that regional disarmament is not only essential for preventing conflicts but also a crucial element of broader sustainable development efforts. Our region, encompassing the Caribbean and South America, faces unique challenges, including drug trafficking and organized crime, which pose significant threats to our security. Strengthening cooperation on disarmament and security will enable us to address these challenges effectively.

As a State Party to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which establishes Latin America and the Caribbean as a nuclear-weapon-free zone, Suriname reaffirms its commitment to the complete elimination of nuclear threats in our region. We believe this treaty serves as an important foundation for advancing disarmament in our hemisphere and demonstrates our shared commitment to regional peace and security.

In addition, Suriname has endorsed key international arms control agreements, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), reflecting our commitment to global disarmament.

The Republic of Suriname acceded to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) in 1993, and in 2023 took concrete steps towards fulfilling its obligations by establishing the Suriname Non-Proliferation Authority (SNA). This Authority plays a crucial role in overseeing the monitoring and control of biological agents, developing national guidelines, and liaising with international organizations like the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA).

Madam Chair,

In today's unpredictable world, ensuring collective security requires urgent global actions. We must protect ourselves, our citizens, and our communities, against these threats. Suriname is fully committed to play its part in the global efforts to maintain our collective security by implementing our international obligations.

In this regard, the Republic of Suriname welcomes the adoption of the Pact of the Future. More importantly now is the time to ensure that its implementation yields meaningful outcomes for all. We urge all states to work together to realize the Pact's full potential for the benefit of all.

In conclusion, Suriname stands ready to work with all member states to promote disarmament and security globally. We urge the international community to transform commitments into actionable support, addressing the systemic challenges we face together. By fostering collaboration and inclusivity, we can build a safer, more peaceful future for our region and the world.

I thank you.