

Delegation from the Kingdom of Denmark
Position Paper for the General Assembly First Committee

The topics before the United Nations General Assembly First Committee are The Relationship between Disarmament and Development and The Role of Science and Technology in International Security and Disarmament. The Kingdom of Denmark recognizes the importance of these topics for the rise of international conflict has created growing concerns related to international security around the world. Therefore, Denmark, is grateful for the opportunity to cooperate with Member States to address these salient issues at our forthcoming conference.

I. Relationship between Disarmament and Development

The fear of “nuclear winter” is becoming more real as the days go on, with arising issues and tension emerging between current conflicts, like the war in Ukraine, and global nuclear powerhouses has caused the conversation about disarmament and development to become a relevant issue. According to the UNGA Agenda for Development resolution 51/240 defines development as the “multidimensional undertaking to achieve a higher quality of life for all people.” In other words, development refers to the opportunity of improving living standards and the overall well-being of individuals within their communities and nations. Disarmament and development are inextricably linked because efforts to reduce military capabilities and conflicts improve security while also freeing up resources critical for fostering long-term socioeconomic progress around the world. For example, the UN Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration (DDR) program aims to remove weapons from armed groups and provide them with the necessary resources to reintegrate into society as a civilian. This program not only gives the opportunity for ex-combatants to pursue a higher quality of life but also for those in the local community as violence in the area decreases. The relationship between these two notions is one of symbiosis, with disarmament efforts contributing to peace, stability, and security, which are important prerequisites for sustainable development. The most important part of this relation is the acknowledgement of the impact these two subjects have on each other as applying disarmament creates stability and makes space for financial resources like economic or social development.

On a global level relative to the relationship between disarmament and development, the NPT (Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons) of 1968 was one of the first international treaties that aimed to prevent the global spread of nuclear weapons. Specifically, the NPT prevents the allocation of nuclear weapons and technology, to create unity in the non-lethal uses of nuclear energy while further helping our goal to achieve general and complete nuclear disarmament. Additionally, The Declaration on the Right of 1986 to Development emphasizes the right of all individuals and peoples to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from development processes. The 1973 Copenhagen Declaration (CDS) reaffirms the commitment of the international community to eradicate poverty, promote full employment, and foster social integration, emphasizing the importance of equity, social justice, and human dignity in its efforts to create development. Furthermore, the 1995 Copenhagen Program of Action (CPOA) is a landmark commitment by the nations to promote a more inclusive and sustainable approach to development, grounded in principles of social justice, human rights, and solidarity. The UNGA resolution 75/43 passed in 2020 focuses on the intricate relationship between disarmament and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) such as health (SDG 8) and safe cities and communities (SDG10). Regionally, the European Union has financed over 130 projects focusing on non-proliferation, disarmament, and arms control worldwide to stop the proliferation of illicit weapons. Additionally, the 2010 Council of the European Union Decision 2010/430/CFSP founded the EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium created various think tanks that focus on the issues related to disarmament such as development. On the national level, Denmark has passed the 2003 Denmark Parliamentary Resolution B48 which prohibits the new development of any nuclear installations on Danish territory.

The Kingdom of Denmark believes that by addressing the underlying causes of conflict, we can promote a culture of peace and disarmament that will create a promising socio-political environment for Member States to thrive. First, incentives should be established to encourage nations to participate in sustainable development efforts, such as providing financial assistance, technology transfers, and capacity-building support to Member States transitioning their economy into a sustainable development model. Second, cooperative efforts, agreements between nations, and diplomatic engagements must be adopted to foster

stability, peace, and safety while solving the fundamental causes of conflict and encouraging equitable and inclusive growth for all nations. Member States may lead the way for a more prosperous, peaceful, and environmentally friendly future for generations to come by coordinating efforts to reduce military spending, incentivize sustainable development, and strengthen global cooperation in pursuit of the SDGs. Overall, the Kingdom of Denmark acknowledges the complex relationship between disarmament and development and believes that through international cooperation a higher quality of life can be achieved for all.

II. The Role of Science and Technology in International Security and Disarmament

The current fast paced nature of evolving technologies has created a significant risk to international security and disarmament as most of these technologies fall outside the scope of current international regulations, treaties, and laws. The rise of advanced technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), its use in autonomous weapons systems, hypersonic weapons, and the use of malware have directly weakened arms control systems by evading the controls and regulations that are already in place. Current regulations and arms control treaties do not include the type of emerging technologies that we are seeing today which has caused these technologies to continue to spread around the world with little to no regulations or control. Due to this growing problem, the General Assembly First Committee agrees that emerging technologies pose a threat to international security and disarmament and that the committee must manage the challenges and opportunities that rise with these technologies. The Kingdom of Denmark is committed to addressing the current challenges of emerging technologies and its role in international security and disarmament.

In relation to international security and disarmament, the role of science and technology have been addressed numerous times on the international stage because of their unique impact on peace and security. The 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) aimed to ensure the use of nuclear resources be in a peaceful manner and encouraged safeguards for monitoring and verification. Additionally, the 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) prohibits the testing of nuclear weapons or resources as well as creating the International Monitoring System (IMS) which monitors and verifies international compliance to the CTBT. Furthermore, the United Nations General Assembly (GA) passed resolution 61/55 in 2006 and resolution 72/28 in 2017 both titled "Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament" focusing on encouraging Member States to utilize scientific and technological advancements for disarmament purposes. The GA resolution 72/28 also requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the GA on current advancements in science and technology and their impact on international security and disarmament. Regionally, the EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium creates various think tanks that focus on implementing the EU's strategy against the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Nationally, the Kingdom of Denmark is committed to a world without nuclear weapons and has passed several legislations regarding nuclear materials. Among these legislations are the 1953 Act No. 94 implementing regulations on radioactive substances, the 1962 Act No. 170 regulating nuclear installations based on public safety concerns, and the 1976 Act No. 244 implementing safety and environmental initiatives regarding nuclear materials. Lastly, the 2003 Denmark Parliamentary Resolution B48 prohibits the development of new nuclear installations on Danish soil.

The Kingdom of Denmark understands the growing challenges around international security and disarmament in relation to emerging scientific and technological advancements. Denmark proposes a three-prong approach focusing on risk reduction, improving current monitoring systems, and increasing transparency regarding compliance otherwise referred to as RMT. The RMT (Risk reduction, Monitoring systems, and Transparency) approach promotes the utilization of technological advancements to safeguard international security and continue the disarmament process globally. The first step of risk reduction will focus on the actionable steps Member States can take to protect their citizens from nuclear disasters as well as prioritizing nuclear research in relation to risk reduction. The second step of improving monitoring systems to monitor emerging technologies and nuclear materials can prevent the illicit trafficking of these materials. The third step of transparency can provide reassurance to international peace and security to Member States as honest cooperation should decrease insecurities around nuclear materials. Utilizing the RMT approach, can provide actionable steps to address the SDG's 16 (peace and justice), 10 (reduced inequalities), 8 (economic growth), 3 (health), and 11 (safe cities and communities) at an international and national level. The Kingdom of Denmark is thoroughly committed to addressing the role new scientific and technological advancements has in relation to international security and disarmament and is looking forward to the potential resolutions that will be passed during session.