



Statement of Ireland

78th World Health Assembly

Item 18.1

The impact of chemicals, waste and pollution on human health

26th May 2025

**Thank you Chair,
Distinguished Colleagues,**

Ireland would like to thank the Marshall Islands, Samoa and Vanuatu for their efforts in promoting this resolution and for the open and transparent manner in which they have approached the process including their engagement with Member States.

Ireland notes that the resolution is de facto, a resumption of a long-standing mandate of the WHO, one that is critically important to WHO's wider work.

While there are undoubtedly diverging views among Member States on the utility of nuclear war vis-à-vis national security and defence, there can be little doubt that it is incumbent on us all to have a full, up-to-date understanding of the associated health impacts.

The original reports' underpinning this resolution emerged in the 1980s, at a heightened period of global tension and fears of nuclear conflict. We are once more in a time of heightened nuclear risk and rising geopolitical tensions.

This resolution will ensure that we have the most relevant information to hand, in line with the mandate of the WHO. It builds on existing, successful WHO initiatives of the past and is underpinned by the universal need for an independent, scientifically-grounded understanding of the health impacts of nuclear war.

Thank you