UN chief launching new global disarmament agenda

The UN chief is expected to launch a major new global disarmament agenda on Thursday, "that saves lives" in pursuit of a safer, more secure world.

United Nations <u>Secretary-General António Guterres</u> is expected to argue that a deteriorating, more complex and dangerous international security environment makes it imperative to bring disarmament "back to the centre" of what the UN does.

The agenda, entitled "Securing Our Common Future", will aim to promote arms control measures — covering conventional, nuclear and biological weapons — that will help bolster both national security in the 21st Century, as well as the world's collective security system.

The UN chief is expected to lay out three key priorites: disarmament to save humanity itself; an agenda that helps save the maximum number of lives; and the implementation of a disarmament framework which safeguards future generations.

Surveying the increasingly dangerous proliferation of nuclear weaponry, the UN chief is expected to say that the existential threat they pose, must lead to the "total elimination of nuclear weapons".

We will be reporting the speech in detail from Geneva, including LIVE COVERAGE, from 1430 GMT.