

UNGA 2026: ChatGPT's Favourite Words Peaked, and "Profound" Took Over

Eleven ceremonial words that AI chatbots overuse doubled in English UN General Debate speeches by 2025. We added the 2026 debate: the overall rate eased to 9.1 per 10,000 words, still about 50% above the pre-ChatGPT level, and *profound* spread to 45% of all statements.

1,061

English statements, 2015-2026, 2.05 million words

12.8 → 9.1

per 10,000 words, 2025 peak to 2026 (6.1 before ChatGPT)

76 : 39

countries up vs down, 2024-2026, each against itself

45%

of 2026 statements used "profound" (about 1 in 6 before)

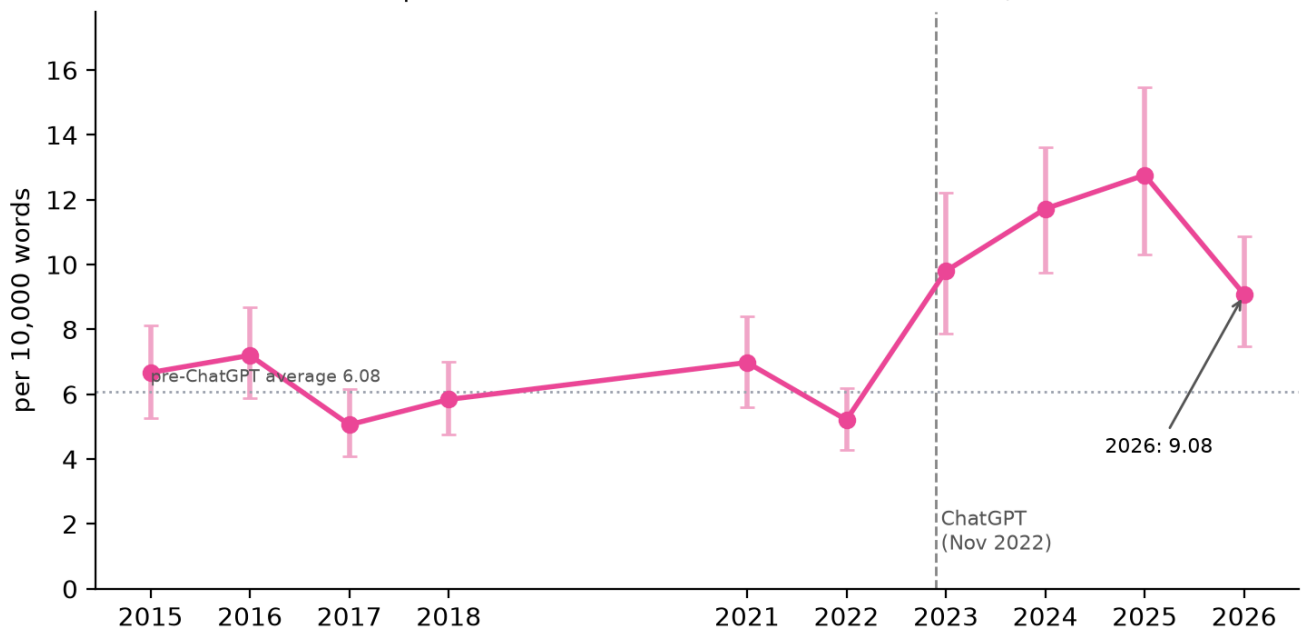
The news

Our first study, published on 17 September 2026, five days before the 81st General Debate opened, found that the ceremonial register language models favour had doubled at the UN podium. It predicted the 2026 rate would stay at or above the 2025 level. The 2026 statements show a partial pullback instead, and a rotation inside the vocabulary: the words most often named as AI tells cooled, while *profound* and *steadfast* kept climbing.

"The AI register at the UN peaked in 2025 and then started to rotate. The most talked-about words cooled, and profound moved into nearly half of all speeches. It never went back to where it was before ChatGPT."

Firat Mihci, computational linguist and founder, HumanizeMy.ai

AI-favoured speech words in UN General Debate statements, 2015-2026

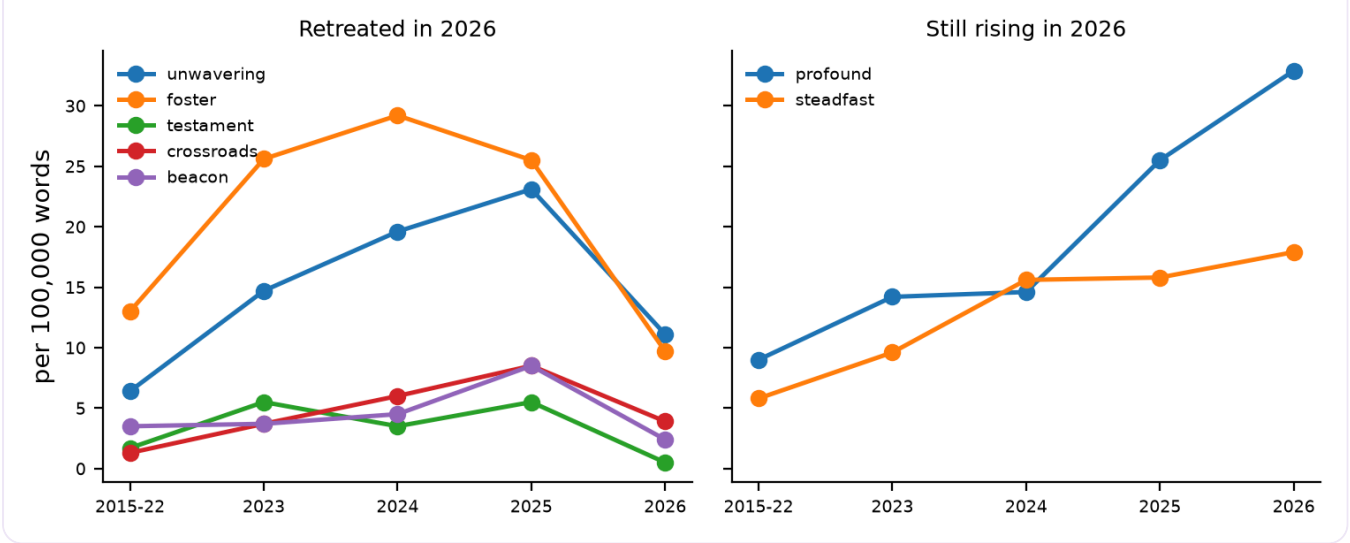


WHAT THE STUDY DOES NOT SAY

It does not identify any speech as AI-written and names no country or leader. It measures the language of the institution as a whole. Possible drivers: drafting with AI tools, AI translation, writers absorbing AI phrasing, and in 2026, writers avoiding words now widely flagged as AI tells.

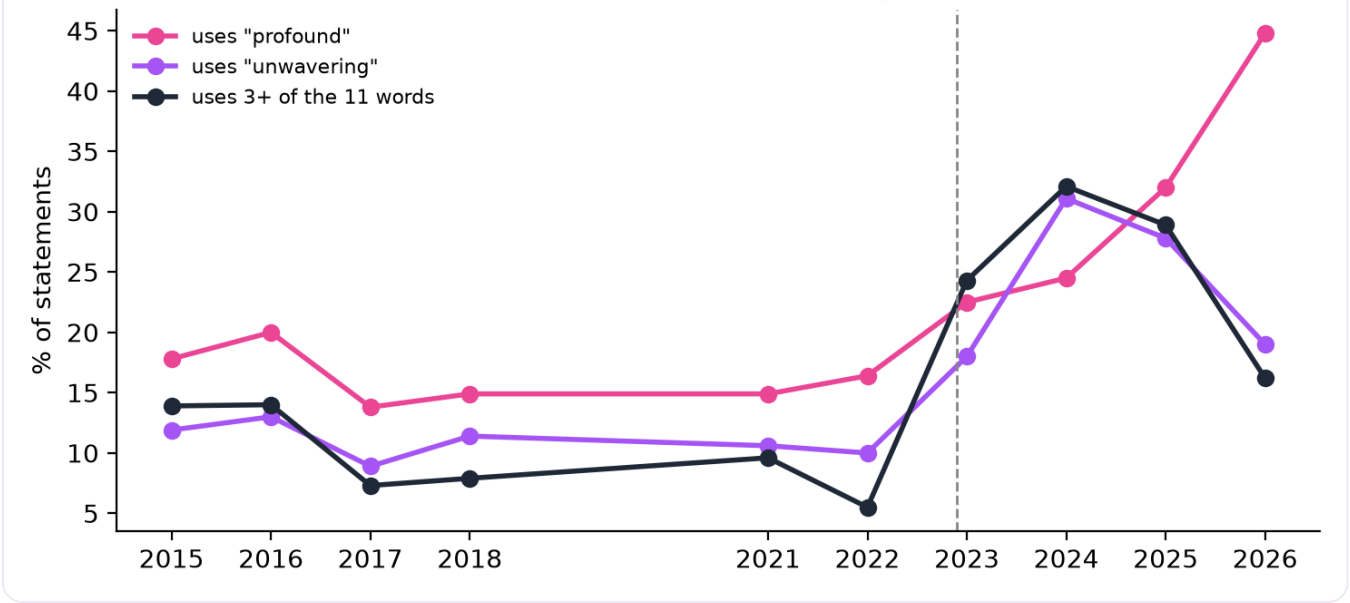
The vocabulary rotates

The vocabulary rotates: some words cooled, others kept climbing



Per 100,000 words	2015-22	2023	2024	2025	2026
profound	9.0	14.2	14.6	25.5	32.9
steadfast	5.8	9.6	15.6	15.8	17.9
unwavering	6.4	14.7	19.6	23.1	11.1
foster	13.0	25.6	29.2	25.5	9.7
crossroads	1.3	3.7	6.0	8.5	3.9
beacon	3.5	3.7	4.5	8.5	2.4
testament	1.7	5.5	3.5	5.5	0.5

Share of UN General Debate statements using AI-favoured words



Year by year

Year	Statements	Per 10k words	95% CI	“unwavering”	“profound”
2015	101	6.67	5.26 to 8.13	12%	18%
2016	100	7.20	5.89 to 8.69	13%	20%
2017	123	5.06	4.08 to 6.15	9%	14%
2018	114	5.84	4.75 to 6.99	11%	15%
2021	94	6.98	5.61 to 8.41	11%	15%
2022	110	5.21	4.29 to 6.20	10%	16%
2023	111	9.80	7.86 to 12.21	18%	22%
2024	106	11.72	9.76 to 13.63	31%	24%
2025	97	12.76	10.30 to 15.48	28%	32%
2026	105	9.08	7.47 to 10.86	19%	45%

Checks

Paired country test	Up	Down	Tie	p
Speech words, 2015-2022 vs 2024-2026	76	39	2	0.000717
Speech words, 2015-2022 vs 2026 alone	54	44	3	0.363
Speech words, 2024-2025 vs 2026	40	49	7	0.397
Placebo, 2015-2018 vs 2021-2022	55	53	8	0.923
Control words (peace, security, sovereignty...)	66	51	0	0.195
English-official states, 2015-2022 vs 2024-2026	37	16	0	0.00549

Method. Delegations' own English statements from gadebate.un.org, sessions 70-73 (2015-2018) and 76-81 (2021-2026); 2019 and 2020 are not available in comparable form. Only statements whose sole published text is English, at least 300 words. Eleven words fixed before counting (testament, unwavering, steadfast, resonate, beacon, embark, crossroads, profound, foster, robust, seamless); five words that rose before ChatGPT for topical reasons removed by a rule set in advance. Each country compared with its own earlier statements (at least 500 words in both periods).

Data trap avoided. The widely used UN General Debate Corpus translated its 2024 non-English statements with GPT-4o and transcribed 2025 from interpretation audio. This study uses the delegations' own texts, produced the same way every year.

LINKS

Study page: humanizemy.ai/research/un-general-assembly-2026-nlp

Preprint (version 2): doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.29604.64645

Data and code: github.com/humanizemyai/unga-ai-speech-nlp

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