NEW AGENDA EXPLANATION OF VOTE - BEFORE THE VOTE - L.42

Mr. Chairman

I take the floor on behalf of the countries of the New Agenda Coalition - Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa and Sweden - and refer to the draft resolution "A path to the total elimination of nuclear weapons"

Mr. Chairman,

One of the most significant outcomes of the 2000 NPT Review Conference was the unequivocal undertaking given by the nuclear weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, to which all parties to the NPT are committed under Article VI. Unfortunately, Resolution L.42 retains, in our view, a misinterpretation of that outcome.

Firstly, by placing the unequivocal undertaking of the nuclear weapons States in operative paragraph 3 sub-paragraph e), the resolution suggests that this undertaking is a step which remains to be taken.

Secondly, the placement of the unequivocal undertaking in operative paragraph 3 also creates a contextual linkage with general and complete disarmament which we cannot accept.

Mr. Chairman,

We appreciate that the sponsors of this resolution are committed to nuclear disarmament. We do not question that commitment. We consulted on this resolution and would have been able to accept a return to the language adopted in the resolution of 2000 as preambular paragraph 8 of that resolution correctly reflected the 2000 NPT Review Conference outcome. As this language was not used, the members of the New Agenda Coalition will abstain on this resolution.