Statement in explanation of vote before the vote on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/57/L.54, entitled “Compliance with arms limitation and disarmament and non-proliferation agreements”.

23 October 2002.

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the delegations of: South Africa and Mexico

- The delegations of the countries I have just mentioned will vote in favor of draft resolution L.54. The draft recognizes the fundamental importance that arms limitation, disarmament and non-proliferation objectives have for international peace and security.

- Observance by States of their obligations in this field, can only strengthen the prospects of peaceful co-existence and international cooperation.

- We note with appreciation that besides obligations by states parties to a treaty, the text recognizes other sources of obligation under international law, which transcend the contractual will.

- We are convinced that the new language that has been introduced in the preamble of this draft cannot change, modify or interpret the duties and obligations derived from the well established and accepted provisions of the law of the treaties, and other sources of international law, including international customary law.

- Additionally, we firmly believe in the progressive development of international law as the best way to promote international peace and security, especially in the field of arms limitation, disarmament and non-proliferation. We also strongly believe that this draft resolution, while lacking an explicit reference to it, only reinforces our conviction on the necessity to redouble our efforts to multilaterally strengthen the international legal architecture in this field, and that we should endeavor ourselves in ensuring a virtuous circle between compliance and the negotiation and conclusion of additional agreements on arms limitations, disarmament and non-proliferation.