Resolution A/C.1/57/L.10: New Zealand’s Explanation of Vote:

Mr Chairman,

New Zealand is a strong supporter of multilateralism. New Zealand’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, Honourable Phil Goff, said during this year’s General Assembly debate: “It is essential that we renew our commitment to multilateralism as the best way to address global problems”.

Despite our commitment to multilateralism, we are unable to support this resolution. There are elements in the text that are unconstructive and confrontational. Furthermore, the resolution does not acknowledge the effective and complementary role of bilateral and plurilateral approaches on disarmament in the operative paragraphs, and therefore in our view is unbalanced.

We had proposed language to the sponsors and if that language had been accepted we would have been in a position to support. It is our regret that a resolution on multilateralism cannot achieve the support of all Member States.