Mr. Chairman, I take the floor to on behalf of Australia, Canada and New Zealand to explain our abstention on L.11.

We need and welcome opportunities here to promote multilateralism in non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament. However, despite our firm, long-standing commitment to multilateral principles and approaches, we are disappointed that we again could not support this resolution.

Multilateralism is indeed a core principle in our work. It is not, though, the core principle, in the language of OP 1, implying that it is the only fundamental means. Our shared security system is rather the sum of many parts, involving a variety of multilateral, plurilateral, regional, bilateral and unilateral measures. All these are necessary in effective global non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament; none alone is sufficient.

Mr. Chair, we also have problems with the tone of parts of the resolution. Rather than advancing an inclusive vision of multilateralism, in our view, it continues to offer a restrictive and not universal interpretation. Such an approach risks harming the cause of those who believe in and support its value.

That is why we have been unable to support L.11, and have instead abstained.

We look forward to working constructively together next year to enhance the role and contribution of multilateralism and to developing a resolution that can be adopted without a vote.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.