STATEMENT

by

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On behalf of Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, and Sweden as members of the New Agenda Coalition (NAC)

Introduction of the resolution
"Towards a nuclear weapon free world: Accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments."
First Committee
United Nations General Assembly

New York
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- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -
Mr. Chairman,

I am speaking on behalf of the seven countries of the New Agenda Coalition, i.e. Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa and Sweden. I do so to introduce our resolution entitled "Towards a nuclear weapon free world: Accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments." (A/C.1/59/L.22)

If seriously pursued, nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing processes. Both are vital to international peace and security. And both are fundamental for upholding the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the cornerstone for both nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament.

With only a few months remaining before the upcoming NPT Review Conference and bearing in mind that the preparatory process was not able to produce substantive results, the situation looks rather bleak. We now need to generate and demonstrate strong support not only for non-proliferation but also for nuclear disarmament. And it is absolutely crucial that we join together to safeguard and implement agreements already made. And move ahead.

Mr. Chairman,

One overall purpose of our resolution is to uphold and safeguard the NPT in its entirety, together with the commitments made at the previous two Review Conferences, including the agreed steps towards nuclear disarmament. Agreements need to be implemented, or they risk falling apart. And implementation needs to be accelerated, or confidence in the regime risks being undermined. Concern for the future of the regime lies behind the resolution’s calls for full compliance with and implementation of commitments made. Moreover, our resolution goes beyond the NPT and addresses the entire UN membership.

It is also essential to utilize the remaining months before the NPT Review Conference to set in motion or accelerate the implementation
of such steps where we deem action is urgent and possible even in this relative short-term perspective.

Mr. Chairman,

Considering the overall state of affairs we have this year opted for a short, focused and operative resolution, rather than an omnibus. We have made an effort to be clear and to the point. In so doing we have also acted in the present reform-spirit. And we have largely relied on consensus language, much of it from the 2000 NPT Review Conference.

In conclusion: The New Agenda Coalition has made a very serious effort to arrive at a resolution which can generate broad support and bring the disarmament issues forward. We hope that other delegations will receive it in the same spirit and give it their support. We also welcome additional co-sponsors. The present situation calls for us to work together. To safeguard what we have achieved. And to move forward.