Mr Chairman,

I wish to take this opportunity to explain the vote of Brazil on Draft Resolution L.58, entitled “Renewed Determination towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons”.

Brazil voted in favour of the draft resolution because we believe its general thrust is compatible with the positions supported by the New Agenda Coalition. As an active member of the Coalition, we share the importance, as stated in OP1, that all States Parties to the NPT comply “with their obligations under all the articles of the Treaty”. Furthermore, in line with PP1, we believe that all States should take further practical steps and effective measures towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Even though we welcome concrete proposals and initiatives on nuclear disarmament, as expressed in PP9, such as the recent statement made by the P-5 at the II NPT PrepCom, last May, much remains to be done. As we stated at the general debate of this I Committee, so long as the States that possess nuclear weapons continue to believe that these weapons constitute a critical element of their security strategy, the goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons will remain elusive and distant.

I should also point out that the call for the universalization of the IAEA Additional Protocol in OP13 is a provision which we cannot support since the instrument is essentially voluntary in nature.

Thank you.