STATEMENT BEFORE THE VOTE

On behalf of the European Union

by

H.E. Mr Magnus Hellgren
Ambassador

on L.33 "African Nuclear-Weapon Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)"

General Assembly First Committee

United Nations
New York

October 2009

- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -
Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union on draft resolution L.33 entitled "African Nuclear-Weapon Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)."

The EU attaches great importance to the development and strengthening wherever possible of internationally recognised Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, based on arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region, in accordance with the 1999 UNDC guidelines. Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones enhance regional and global peace and security and are a means to promote nuclear disarmament, stability and confidence.

The EU therefore welcomes the entry into force of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, which came into effect with its 28th ratification on 15 July this year. We congratulate all African States on this important occasion.

Thank you.