Draft EOV on draft resolution (A/C.1/67/L.46 - Main sponsors Austria, Mexico and Norway) entitled “Taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations”

Egypt has always championed the cause of global nuclear disarmament. It has consistently presented proposals for how to achieve this objective individually, as well as through the groups it has the honor to belong to; including the Non-Aligned Movement and the New Agenda Coalition. Unfortunately, little has materialized in forwarding the cause of nuclear disarmament and we still live with the shadow of these heinous weapons. We thus support genuine multilateral efforts aimed at achieving global nuclear disarmament.

Egypt considers that the Conference on Disarmament (CD) is the single multilateral negotiating body on disarmament issues. We consider that attempts to progress on the program of work, and the issues before it, should be geared towards making the Conference on Disarmament work. Egypt believes that the lack of political will is the obstacle preventing the CD from adopting a comprehensive and balanced program of work, that would equally address its four core issues, especially nuclear disarmament.

Egypt decided to vote for draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.46/ as orally revised, as the new text reaffirms the role and functions of the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission, as set out in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, SSOD-I, given that Egypt strongly believes that the Conference on Disarmament, remains the single multilateral negotiating forum on disarmament.

Egypt has engaged actively in the consultation process with regards to this draft resolution. In light that Operative Clause 1 in the present draft resolution suggests that the objective of the established working group is geared for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons, Egypt has decided to vote for the draft as a reflection of its strong commitment to the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, while hereby restating nonetheless its principled position on the multilateral disarmament machinery.

Separately, we hold that if the whole disarmament machinery needs to be reviewed, we should not - as such - single out one part of the machinery and try to circumvent it accordingly. We hold that the proper venue to review the disarmament machinery is in SSOD-IV.

Egypt will thus continue to seek, within the CD, an early adoption of a comprehensive and balanced program of work that would allow the resumption of substantive work while dealing with all core issues on the agenda of the Conference, with the clear priority being to achieve nuclear disarmament.