67th session of the United Nations General Assembly  
First Committee  

Explanation of vote by  

Mr. Guy Pollard,  
Deputy Permanent Representative of the  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
to the Conference on Disarmament  

on behalf of France, the United Kingdom and the United States  

L46 “Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations”  

New York, 6 November 2012  

Mr. Chairman,  

I am speaking on behalf of France, the United Kingdom and the United States to explain our negative vote on draft resolution L46 “Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations”.  

Mr. Chairman,  

We see little value in this initiative to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations outside of the established fora. Despite recalling the role of SSOD I and the disarmament architecture, it seeks to circumvent these established mechanisms for dealing with these issues, i.e. UNDC and the CD, rather than tackling the problems they are currently facing and dealing with the causes of their impasse.  

It is also unclear how this fits into the existing NPT framework or furthers the goals of the NPT Action Plan that was agreed by consensus in 2010. In our view this roadmap of 64 actions offers the best way of taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations along with related issues. Organising a new process to discuss again the same issue may jeopardize the consensus we were able to achieve in 2010 and the momentum for the 2015 Review Conference. In addition this new process is solely focussed on nuclear disarmament whereas the NPT covers all three pillars in a balanced manner.  

Mr. Chairman,
We continue to hold grave concerns as to the preparatory aspects of this meeting, its rules of procedure and other working methods. In addition, given the stringent financial climate we currently are experiencing, we are also concerned at any additional budgetary impact this activity will have.

It is for these reasons that we are unable to support this resolution, the establishment of the OEWG and any outcome it may produce.

Thank you Mr Chairman.