Sixty-Ninth UNGA First Committee
Cluster One: Explanation of Vote Before the Vote

by

Ambassador Robert A. Wood
Alternate Representative
Delegation of the United States of America

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

L.21, Agenda Item 96 (bb)
“Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations”

New York, October 29, 2014

Mr. Chairman,

I am delivering an explanation of vote on behalf of France, the United Kingdom and the United States on draft resolution L.21: “Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations.”

Mr. Chairman,

Our view remains that we already have sufficient forums for discussion on taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, as recorded at the 1978 UN Special Session on Disarmament.

Moreover, as we stated last year, we have concerns over the consistency between this initiative and the NPT and its 2010 Action Plan adopted by consensus. The NPT is the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and the basis for our nuclear disarmament efforts. However, the 2010 NPT Action Plan did not receive a single mention in the final report of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG), and the urgency of negotiating a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty (FMCT), which is a clear priority for the international community, was diluted.

We view this major omission as reflecting a substantial and unwarranted focus on other parallel processes that detract from the consensus-based approach embodied in the 2010 Action Plan, which provides a realistic, balanced way forward on all
three NPT pillars. We still remain concerned by processes that solely focus on nuclear disarmament whereas the NPT covers all three pillars in a balanced manner.

It is for these reasons that we will vote against this resolution.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.