STATEMENT

by

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Nuclear Debate

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Mr Chairman,

My delegation stated its views on nuclear disarmament in our general debate statement last week. Let me now elaborate on some of the specific proposals in front of us.

Sweden is proud to be a co-sponsor of the resolution tabled by Austria on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. This resolution is identical with the statement delivered by Austria on behalf of 159 countries at the NPT Review Conference last spring, and follows in the tradition of similar statements delivered by South Africa, Switzerland and New Zealand. The resolution is fact-based and similar to the approach taken at the humanitarian conferences in Oslo, Nayarit and Vienna. It constitutes a baseline for the humanitarian perspective that all countries should be able to support.

We understand that some delegations have problems with the notion that it is in the interest of the very survival of humanity that nuclear weapons are never used again under any circumstances. But we ask ourselves, when would it be in the interest of humanity that nuclear weapons are used, under what circumstances? The resolution tries to forge consensus around the notion that it is in the interest of all states that use doesn't occur under any circumstances. Don't we all share this common interest?

Sweden believes that the consequences and the pledge resolutions should be
seen as two separate tracks which could be mutually reinforcing but don't have to be. The consequences resolution lays the foundation on substance which can be pursued through for example educational efforts in parts of the world where the humanitarian perspective on nuclear weapons hasn't yet taken hold. The pledge resolution on the other hand focuses on a way forward.

In Sweden's view possible ways forward should be pursued at this stage in an OEWG under the UNGA. An OEWG would be the appropriate modern, democratic and transparent forum in which to pursue multilateral nuclear disarmament.

There are currently two proposals on an OEWG on the table and we urge the co-sponsors to engage in close consultations so that the resolutions can be merged into one. Sweden stands ready to support the reestablishment of an OEWG with a strong mandate that would, for example, elaborate recommendations on legal and practical measures not dealt with elsewhere, including different legal options to prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons and risk reduction measures which are of particular importance in the current tense security environment. The participation in the OEWG and the agreements reached need to be as broad as possible to render concrete and effective results that can take us to the next level.

Sweden believes that there are many ways to pursue nuclear disarmament. Every unilateral, bilateral, plurilateral or multilateral measure help. The significance of a CTBT in force, a concluded FMCT, an implemented New Start and the negotiations of a follow up treaty including on non-strategic nuclear weapons, a safeguarded INF treaty, strong verification solutions, de-alerting and de-targeting of the nuclear forces are but a few measures that will make us safer and help us achieve and maintain a nuclear weapon free world. Sweden is proud to support Japan's resolution on United Action as well as the NAC-resolution on the importance of upholding and implementing nuclear disarmament obligations and commitments.

That non-proliferation and disarmament become even more important in an increasingly insecure world is something that will be discussed in the side-event organized by the Swedish MFA in cooperation with SIPRI in this room right after this session. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden Margot Wallström and former Director General of the IAEA Hans Blix will participate among others. A light lunch will be served outside the Vienna Café. We look forward to you joining us.

Thank you Mr Chairman.