General statement by Sweden before voting on Cluster 1 Nuclear Weapons  
– UNGA 70 First committee

Thank you Mr Chairperson,
On behalf of my delegation, I would like to make the following statement:

This year’s First committee has seen the tabling of a number of new resolutions, especially in the nuclear cluster.

While this is certainly a welcome development, these new initiatives also reflect worrying developments on the ground. Dissatisfaction is growing with the slow progress of nuclear disarmament. Plans are afoot to modernize nuclear arsenals. The inertia of the UN disarmament machinery continues. Insecurity is rising and tensions are increasing between nuclear powers.

It is against this background that States have provided initiatives and solutions that can increase security and bring us closer to a world free of nuclear weapons.

Given the amount of initiatives and resolutions, Sweden would like to give a brief principled outline of how we see the way ahead on nuclear disarmament, which also explains our positions on some resolutions new and old.

Mr Chairperson,

1. Human beings should be put at the heart of discussions on international security and disarmament.
2. Nuclear weapons have catastrophic humanitarian consequences and they must never be used again, under any circumstances. The only way to guarantee this is through their total elimination.

3. Disarmament is not progressing well and the UN disarmament machinery is still. New measures and initiatives are needed to move forward on disarmament. This would also serve to reinforce and revitalize existing structures and fora.

4. New measures should be concrete and aimed at achieving results on the ground - fewer nuclear weapons. It is thus important that nuclear weapons possessors participate in these efforts, as is their obligation.

5. An Open-Ended Working Group on nuclear disarmament would be a suitable modern, inclusive and democratic forum to discuss new instruments. An OEWG should have a strong mandate, building upon previous OEWGs and providing added value compared to existing fora. Thus being able to take us forward and achieving a real difference.

6. An OEWG could elaborate recommendations on issues not dealt with elsewhere such as risk reduction, a ban on the use of nuclear weapons or other practical, technical and legal instruments or arrangements.

7. A ban or convention on nuclear weapons is not the only way available to achieve global zero.

With this I conclude the statement and Sweden will return with specific comments on some resolutions at a later stage. Thank you.