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Explanation of vote on draft resolution L.41
“Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations”

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Mr. Chairman,

Morocco abstained on draft resolution L.41 "Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations" and would like, in this regard, to clarify the following:

1. Morocco has always insisted that nuclear weapons should not remain the only WMDs that are not prohibited by an international legal instrument.

2. Morocco did not participate in the vote on the report and recommendations of the OEWG in Geneva as the vote was not the best option before participating Member States.

3. Despite of that Morocco welcomed the report and called for a real dialogue on the recommendations and proposals it contains. As the report was adopted by a vote in Geneva, Morocco was hopping that such dialogue would provide Member States with another opportunity to try and rebuild consensus on effective disarmament measures taking into account the report.

Unfortunately, we came to the conclusion that there was no willingness to engage in such dialogue as efforts to push forward one single recommendation was confronted with similar efforts to push back on that recommendation. The result is not surprising: another vote in a series that started last year and that would add to our division on nuclear disarmament.
4. Moreover, we took advantage of the only round of consultations on L.41 to suggest that the proposed conference conduct its work on the basis of consensus to ensure a more inclusive process. This was not accommodated.

5. If the adoption of this resolution is confirmed at the GA Plenary, Member States would be moving straight to a negotiating conference without any appropriate preparatory work. Such preparatory process could serve once again as a forum for developing a shared understanding on what kind of a treaty or legal measure would help us better with achieving our common objective of nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Morocco made it clear from the beginning that neither rejecting the work of the OEWG nor rushing with one specific recommendation was appropriate.

6. Some of the cosponsors of the draft resolution have been consistently denying any possible impact of the proposed treaty on existing mechanisms including the NPT. This could be true if they agree that such treaty would have no impact at all. We don't agree and we have maintained that this process and the way it's being handled will affect the NPT review process and the possibilities of working together all of us. Such effects needed and still need to be addressed instead of being simply dismissed.

7. Morocco would like at the same time to make it very clear that for nuclear disarmament to move forward in a collective and effective manner, nuclear-weapon States need to comply with their obligations and live up to their commitments and undertakings in particular. The starting point is definitely the implementation of all agreed measures. Continued push back on verifiable multilateral processes and reinterpretation of Article VI in a manner that makes its objectives unachievable, are not viable and will continue feeding the factors of division leading to the erosion of the NPT credibility and authority.

8. Morocco remains committed to the total elimination of nuclear weapons through a comprehensive but patient and effective process. The GA should continue considering such process in a manner that moves us forward without putting at risk our achievements and undermining existing mechanisms.

9. At the same time, in striving to move forward nuclear disarmament, all efforts should be made to preserve the integrity of the Disarmament machinery while exploring all means of enhancing its efficiency. The preparatory process for SSOD IV offers us the opportunity to review and improve the work of this machinery.

10. But it remains important and urgent for the Conference on Disarmament to start at the earliest substantive work on the items under its Agenda.

Thank you

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