Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations - Explanation of Position on behalf of the following states: Albania, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Turkey

Mr. Chairperson,

- While we have a shared vision of attaining global zero, it is with regret that we note the significant differences that have emerged on how best to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations.
- We are concerned that to start a process towards a nuclear weapon prohibition treaty now, without the support of nuclear weapon states and a large number of other countries with specific security interests, would be premature.
- Further, we believe such a measure will:
  - be ineffective in eliminating nuclear weapons;
  - have potentially adverse consequences for regional and global security;
  - not advance implementation of Article VI of the NPT; and
  - impact negatively on the NPT review process, making a consensus outcome in 2020 all the more difficult.
- In our assessment, a prohibition treaty would only engage those states that are already bound by the NPT and would likely mirror existing obligations, without any mechanism to ensure any new treaty obligations were being fulfilled.
- We need all states to work in unison if our goal is effective, verifiable and irreversible nuclear disarmament to which our countries are fully committed. For all the reasons we have listed, we could not vote in favour of this resolution.

Thank you.