Explaination of Vote on draft resolutions entitled
“Nuclear Disarmament Verification” contained in documents L.57/Rev.1

I have requested the floor to explain my delegation's vote on the resolution titled "nuclear disarmament verification" contained in document L.57/Rev.1.

Pakistan remains committed to the achievement of a nuclear weapons free world through the conclusion of a universal, verifiable and non-discriminatory, comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons. Pakistan supports the commencement of negotiations towards this end in the Conference on Disarmament.

We recognize that the process of multilateral nuclear disarmament involving the reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons would be a complex undertaking. Verification would be an essential and key component of this process, whose credibility would rest to a large degree on an effective and independent verification mechanism to be agreed during the negotiations process.

The negotiation of a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention needs to be undertaken in a holistic manner, and not pursued in a piecemeal fashion. Nonetheless, we see the value of undertaking some expert work on the issue of verification in a representative forum that includes all relevant stakeholders.

In our view, the most suitable forum for this work would have been the CD. The CD's rules of procedure and past precedent permit the creation of a subsidiary body for this purpose. We had given an amendment to the sponsors to this effect. The sponsors of the resolution have however chosen to task a 25-member GGE, and not the CD, to undertake this work. My delegation, has therefore, been constrained to abstain on the resolution.

Nonetheless, Pakistan hopes to be part of the GGE that will be established pursuant to this resolution.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.