Mr. Chair,

I am taking the floor for an explanation of vote regarding draft resolution L.64 entitled “Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament”. Since its introduction, Switzerland has voted in favor of this resolution. While confirming its positive vote, my delegation would like to underline the following elements:

The resolution underlines the strong support for taking urgent and effective measures to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons. We consider this fully consistent with the Treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT), the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In this context, we would see value in explicit references to NPT outcome documents in this resolution.

Switzerland shares the view that additional legal instruments are required to achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons. Exchanges at the 2013 HLM and subsequent discussions have highlighted that different approaches are possible to reach this objective and that the negotiation of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons is not the only option. In our view, the Conference on Disarmament, as foreseen by the resolution, is the appropriate forum to negotiate such a Convention.

Irrespective of current developments, we hope that the high-level international conference, to be convened no later than 2018, will offer the opportunity to take stock of developments and progress made since the 2013 HLM as well as to discuss the way forward. In doing so, we should act in an inclusive manner and with the objective of uniting the UN membership with regard to the shared goal of nuclear disarmament.

Thank you.