Mr. Chair,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of Brazil, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa and my own country, Egypt. In this regard, this is an excellent opportunity to introduce the annual resolution of the New Agenda Coalition (NAC) titled “Towards a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World: Accelerating the Implementation of Nuclear Disarmament Commitments”, and we hope it retains the traditional support of the international community.

As mentioned in the NAC statement during the General Debate, the catastrophic humanitarian consequences and the risks associated with the very existence of nuclear weapons will remain as long as those weapons exist.

This year’s NAC resolution focuses on a number of issues related to nuclear disarmament which are of paramount importance for the achievement and maintenance of a world free of nuclear weapons, in accordance with the legal obligations of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Mr. Chair,

The draft resolution emphasizes the compelling evidence presented at the Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons which detailed the catastrophic consequences that would result from a nuclear weapon detonation, reaching well-beyond national borders and jeopardizing also the sustainable Development Goals.

The draft resolution welcomes the Open-Ended Working Group established pursuant to UNGA resolution 70/33 of 11 December 2015 entitled ‘Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations’ as well as the report submitted on its work pursuant to this resolution.

It reiterates that each article of the NPT is binding on all States parties, and in all circumstances and that all States parties should be held fully accountable with respect to strict compliance with their obligations under the Treaty. It also calls upon all States parties to comply fully with commitments and obligations made at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences. It further reiterates the need for all states at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law, and calls upon Member States to give due prominence to the humanitarian imperatives, which underpin nuclear disarmament, and to the urgency of achieving this ultimate goal.

The draft resolution recalls the reaffirmation of the continued validity of the practical steps agreed to in the Final document of the 2000 Review Conference of the NPT, including the unequivocal undertaking of the nuclear-weapon States
to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, to which all States parties are committed under article VI of the Treaty. It also recalls the commitment made by the nuclear-weapon States to accelerate concrete progress on the measures leading to nuclear disarmament and calls upon the nuclear-weapon States to take all steps necessary to accelerate the fulfillment of their commitments.

It also calls upon the nuclear-weapon States to fulfill their commitment to undertake further efforts to reduce and ultimately eliminate all types of nuclear weapons, deployed and non-deployed, including through unilateral, regional and multilateral measures in a verifiable and transparent manner.

It encourages the nuclear-weapons States and those States party to the regional alliances that include nuclear-weapon States to make concrete reductions in the role and significance of nuclear weapons in all military concepts, doctrines and policies pending their total elimination. It also encourages all States possessing nuclear weapons that are part of regional alliances that include nuclear-weapon States to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in their collective security doctrines, pending their total elimination.

The draft resolution further underlines the recognition by States parties to the NPT of the legitimate interest of non-nuclear weapon States in constraining the nuclear-weapon States in development and qualitative improvement of their nuclear weapons and in ending the development of advanced new types of nuclear weapons, and calls upon the nuclear-weapon States to take steps in this regard.

The draft resolution encourages additional steps by all nuclear-weapon States in accordance with their previous commitments and obligations on nuclear disarmament to ensure the irreversible removal of all fissile material designated as no longer required for military purposes. It also calls upon all States to support, within the context of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the development of appropriate nuclear disarmament verification capabilities and legally binding verification arrangements, thereby ensuring that such material remains permanently outside military programs in a verifiable manner.

It calls upon all States Parties to the NPT to work towards the full implementation of the resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty, which is inextricably linked to the indefinite extension of the Treaty. It further expresses disappointment and deep concern at the lack of a substantive outcome of the 2015 NPT Review Conference, including on the process to establish the Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and all other Weapons of Mass Destruction as contained in the 1995 Middle East resolution, which remains valid until fully implemented.

The draft resolution stresses the fundamental role of the NPT in achieving nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, and it further calls upon all States parties to promote the universality of the Treaty, and urges, in this regard, India, Israel and Pakistan to accede to the Treaty as non-nuclear-weapon States
promptly and without conditions; and to place all of their nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards.

The draft resolution also urges the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to fulfill its commitments under the Six-Party Talks, including the September 2005 joint statement, to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs, to re-accede, at an early date, to the NPT, and to adhere to its IAEA safeguards agreement, with a view to achieving the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula in a peaceful manner, and reaffirms its support to the Six-Party talks.

It urges all States to work together to overcome obstacles within the international disarmament machinery that are inhibiting efforts to advance the cause of nuclear disarmament in a multilateral context, and urges the Conference on Disarmament to commence, without delay, substantive work that advances the agenda of nuclear disarmament, particularly, through multilateral negotiations.

It urges the nuclear-weapon States to implement their nuclear disarmament obligations and commitments, both qualitative and quantitative, in a manner that enables the States parties to regularly monitor progress, including through a standard detailed reporting format, thereby enhancing confidence and trust not only among the nuclear-weapon States but also between the nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear weapons States.

It urges further the nuclear-weapon States to include in their reports to the first Preparatory Committee next year of the Review Cycle for the 2020 Review Conference of the NPT concrete and detailed information concerning implementation of their obligations and commitments on nuclear disarmament.

The draft resolution also urges States to pursue multilateral negotiations without delay in good faith on effective measures for the achievement and maintenance of a nuclear-weapon-free world, in keeping with the spirit and purpose of General Assembly resolution 1 (1) of 24 January 1946 and Article VI of the NPT, and welcomes in this regard current endeavors towards the achievement and maintenance of a nuclear-weapons-free world.

Mr. Chair,

Taking due note of recent endeavours on multilateral nuclear disarmament, the NAC Resolution seeks to uphold existing legal obligations and previous commitments agreed by consensus. We therefore believe this resolution is drafted in a manner that all States should be able to support. To this end, we further encourage all States to show their commitment to nuclear disarmament by supporting the resolution.