31 10.2017

Explanation of Vote by Switzerland and Sweden on L.57 entitled “Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or threat of use of nuclear weapons”.

Mr. Chair,

I am taking the floor for an explanation of vote by Sweden and Switzerland regarding draft resolution L.57 entitled “Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or threat of use of nuclear weapons”.

Our delegations abstained on the separate vote on op2. This position is motivated by the new formulation of this paragraph.

The language contained in that paragraph could be interpreted to mean that multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations in the general sense could be undertaken under the Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons. It is our understanding that only negotiations on aspects directly relevant to its implementation should be undertaken under the prohibition treaty. The UN General Assembly has established processes and bodies for multilateral disarmament negotiations, including on nuclear disarmament, and that these decisions remain valid.

In this context, let me underline that in our assessments about the Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons, Sweden and Switzerland will pay particular attention whether the treaty complements and reinforces existing instruments, bodies and processes. Interpretation of the treaty by its States Parties to ensure that this consideration is met would constitute a positive signal.