2019 UNGA First Committee

Explanation of Vote, After the Vote on
L.47, “Joint Courses of Action and Future-oriented Dialogue
towards a world without nuclear weapons”

by

Mr. John Bravaco, Acting Head of Delegation
United States of America

November 4, 2019

Madame Chair,

The United States abstained on draft resolution L.47, Japan’s “Joint Courses of Action and Future-oriented Dialogue towards a world without nuclear weapons.”

Madame Chair,

While we could not support a number of elements in L.47, we want to take this opportunity to thank Japan for streamlining the text and refocusing it on the future. We also note with satisfaction that L.47, perhaps unique in any resolution before this Committee, encourages states to conduct a candid dialogue on the relationship between nuclear disarmament and security. We stand ready to engage in such a refreshing and realistic endeavor.

Madame Chair,

For decades, Japan has been a leader on both nuclear and conventional weapons disarmament matters. Through L.47, Japan continues its long tradition of seeking to build disarmament bridges under difficult geopolitical circumstances, and set the stage for a positive NPT Review Conference next spring. We applaud Japan’s efforts to try to strike the right balance through L.47. We hope that future iterations of L.47 will contribute further to reducing divisions on nuclear disarmament matters as opposed to widening them, something we all wish to avoid.

Thank you, Madame Chair.