STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CUBA TO THE FIRST COMMITTEE ON THE RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO. NEW YORK, 25 OCTOBER 2002

Mr. Chairman:

I have the honor to inform that the Government of the Republic of Cuba deposited its instruments of ratification of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, known as Treaty of Tlatelolco.

The Government of the Republic of Cuba also deposited the instruments of ratification of all the amendments to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, approved in resolutions 267 (E-V), 268 (XII) and 290 (E-VII) of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The instruments of ratification of the Treaty and all its amendments were submitted for its deposit to the Government of Mexico, in its capacity as Depositary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, on Wednesday 23 October 2002, in Mexico City.

On 8 November, an official ceremony will be held for the signature of the act of deposit in Mexico City.

With the deposit of the instruments of ratification by Cuba, the Zone of Application of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, as described in Article 4 of the Treaty, enters fully into force and our region fulfills the establishment of the first inhabited Nuclear-Weapon- Free Zone on the planet.

Cuba signed the Treaty of Tlatelolco on 25 March 1995, thus expressing its political will and commitment to the application of that legal instrument. That was essentially a solidarity act with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, although the United States, the only nuclear power in the Americas, maintained a hostility policy against Cuba, strengthened its economic, commercial and financial blockade, reinforced its campaign against the country and maintained by force and against the will of the Cuban people the illegal occupation of a part of the national territory.
At the time of ratifying the Treaty of Tlatelolco, these obstacles continue to be present and they have even been increased. Nevertheless, contrary to the interest of the world-wide superpower to make prevail unilateralism in the solution of international conflicts, Cuba, once more, demonstrates its commitment with the promotion, strengthening and consolidation of multilateralism and the international treaties in disarmament and arms control.

The ratification of the Treaty of Tlatelolco reaffirms Cuba’s attachment and respect to the principle of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons within a global context. That is, the implementation of measures in this regard only constitutes an intermediate step forward in the process for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Cuba’s step forward implies, in addition, an important contribution to the regional efforts in favor of nuclear disarmament, international peace and security.

On the other hand, just as it was also announced by the Minister of Foreign Relations of the Republic of Cuba in the debate of the United Nations General Assembly of last 14 September, Cuba will deposit its accession instruments to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and thus, will become a State Part of such Treaty.

Thank you very much