JOINT EXPLANATION OF VOTE FOR UNGA FIRST COMMITTEE: DRAFT RESOLUTION (L.13/Rev 2):
TOWARDS A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE WORLD:
ACCELERATING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT COMMITMENTS

Madam Chair,

I am speaking on behalf of France, the United Kingdom and the United States.

This draft resolution contains many elements that are not acceptable to France, the United Kingdom and the United States. The title still does not reflect the progress being made towards nuclear disarmament. The content of the draft resolution does not take due account of a full range of obligations on the part of all states towards nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, or the most pressing contemporary challenges to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and global security.

France, the United Kingdom and the United States remain fully committed to meeting our obligations, as strictly provided for under Article VI of the NPT. We have taken significant measures on nuclear
disarmament ourselves, and support nuclear weapons reduction worldwide. Unfortunately, this draft resolution takes account neither of the concrete progress that has been made in this regard nor of the current on-going efforts undertaken by our three countries. For example, it does not mention the dismantling of fissile nuclear material production facilities for weapon purposes or the reductions of nuclear arsenals including those pursued under the Moscow Treaty on Strategic Offensive Reductions. Furthermore, this resolution does not mention our countries’ public commitment made on several occasions this year to begin negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty as a matter of high priority.

We are committed to exploring ways to achieve further progress under Article VI of the NPT and to strengthen the global non-proliferation regime. We continue to believe that the international community must take responsibility and address the serious current threats posed to peace and security by proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. We hope that ongoing dialogue
among States parties will help lead to a future strengthening of the NPT. We are convinced that this resolution remains divisive.