Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of my delegation, I have the honour to introduce to the Committee, for the eleventh consecutive year, a draft resolution, distributed by the Secretariat as document L.36, entitled “Follow-up to the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons.”

2. My delegation wishes to express it appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report as contained in document A/62/165, submitted under item 98(w) of the provisional agenda of the General Assembly. My delegation also extends its appreciation to those delegations that have submitted the information requested pursuant to resolution 61/83 (2006).

Mr. Chairman,

3. International efforts aimed at addressing the threats posed by nuclear weapons have thus far been premised on two mutually reinforcing approaches; disarmament - with the ultimate goal of the elimination of such weapons and arms control - aimed at reducing or mitigating the risks inherent to such weapons, including stemming the proliferation of sensitive goods, materials and technology. However, in light of the current impasse currently afflicting international disarmament and arms-control negotiations, my delegation is of the view that the international community must not lose its focus on achieving the total elimination of nuclear weapons whilst at the same time, curbing the spread or proliferation of sensitive goods, materials and technology.
4. In this connection, my delegation remains convinced that the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality and Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons constitutes a significant milestone in international efforts aimed at achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation by lending a powerful moral argument for the total elimination of such weapons. Furthermore, my delegation wishes to reiterate the unambiguous exhortation of the Opinion in that all Member States are obliged to “pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control”.

5. Given the multitude complexities surrounding international disarmament negotiations at present, it is imperative that we muster the requisite political will and moral courage to break through the current impasse with a view to achieving the goal of total elimination of nuclear weapons. Thus, with a view to achieving the broadest support possible, the important decisions of the International Court of Justice have been retained in their existing form, specifically in Operative Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the draft resolution, accompanied by the necessary technical updates.

6. On a related note, my delegation is of the view that in supporting the draft resolution, Member States would also be reaffirming their continued commitment to the multilateral processes in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation and that such expressions of commitment would go a long way towards dispelling the notion that nuclear disarmament could best be achieved through unilateral or bilateral efforts alone.

Mr. Chairman,

7. In concluding, my delegation reiterates its conviction that the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons remains a significant contribution in the field of nuclear disarmament and lends much weight to the moral argument calling for the total elimination of such heinous weapons. We believe Member States share this same conviction and we are confident that the draft resolution will continue to receive the support of a wide majority of delegations assembled here.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

NEW YORK

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