First Committee  
27 October 2010  

Explanation of Vote on A/C.1/65/L.26  
Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons  

Statement by Mr Paul Wilson  
Deputy Permanent Representative of Australia to the Conference on Disarmament  

(Check against delivery)  

Mr Chairman  

Australia does not support the resolution “Convention on the Prohibition of the use of Nuclear Weapons” (L.26). However, this does not diminish in any way the strong commitment Australia has made to the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons or our determination to continue to contribute to practical initiatives which are intended to help realise this ambition.  

We note that the resolution calls on the CD to commence negotiations on a Convention on the Prohibition of the use of Nuclear Weapons. Like all member states, Australia is dedicated to returning the CD to work. And like the majority of CD members, we see negotiation of a verifiable FMCT as the priority for the CD.  

Moreover, we firmly believe that early entry into force of the CTBT and the immediate commencement and early conclusion of negotiation on an FMCT on the basis of the Shannon Mandate are essential steps to achieve nuclear disarmament and should be pursued with vigour and determination.  

We will work with CD members to have the CD commence negotiations on an FMCT in 2011 as well as undertaking substantive discussion on the CD’s other core issues.
Thankyou.