L.43: United action towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons

Explanation of vote

Statement by Dell Higgin
Ambassador for Disarmament

26 October 2010

As delivered
Mr Chairman,

I take the floor in regard to resolution L.43, entitled "United action towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons", tabled by Japan. New Zealand supported the resolution in recognition of our strong agreement with its overall intention and thrust. We are pleased that in a number of instances the resolution seeks to reinforce the May 2010 NPT Review Conference outcome which, in the view of my government, provides a clear outline for our work in the short term to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world.

There are two aspects of the resolution on which New Zealand wishes to comment. The first is the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems, an issue upon which my delegation places considerable importance. Given the NPT Review Conference's call on the nuclear-weapon States in this regard, we would have liked to have seen the retention of language from previous years which called upon the nuclear-weapon States to "consider further reducing the operational status of nuclear weapons systems in ways that promote international stability and security."

Likewise, the text on negative security assurances could have more closely reflected the relevant language in the NPT Review Conference's outcome document.