I have the honour to speak on behalf of the seven members of the New Agenda Coalition: Brazil, Egypt, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden and my own country, Ireland.

I wish to refer to the draft resolution presented by the New Agenda Coalition, A/C.1/65/L.25, entitled “Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments”. The Committee will shortly take action on this draft resolution.

As is well known, the members of the New Agenda Coalition are firmly committed to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in all its aspects. This is clear from the text of our resolution, which welcomes in its entirety the adoption by the NPT Review Conference in May of a substantive final document. It also reaffirms that nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing processes, and calls on all States to comply fully with all commitments made regarding nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation.

However, as the Committee is well aware, the specific focus and raison d'être of the NAC is nuclear disarmament. We make no apology for this. We believe that the implementation of disarmament commitments has been neglected over many years. As we said in our statement in the general debate, it was dissatisfaction with the lack of progress on nuclear disarmament in the aftermath of the NPT 1995 Review and Extension Conference that led to the establishment of the New Agenda Coalition in Dublin in 1998 and continues to inform our work today. The lack of satisfactory implementation of the practical steps of 2000, and the calling of some of those steps into question, was a major disappointment to us, as was the failure of the 2005 Review Conference.

We therefore welcome the adoption by this year’s NPT Review Conference of a substantive outcome with conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions on all three pillars of the Treaty and on the Middle East.

We believe that the true test of the value of the RevCon outcome will be the implementation of the commitments undertaken. The resolution underlines the importance of early progress and encourages the taking of various steps in this regard.

We believe that early engagement and substantive progress in implementation of the steps agreed at the RevCon would be an important signal of the seriousness with which nuclear-weapon States view their undertakings and of their commitment to implement the action plan on nuclear disarmament. Providing information on activities undertaken is an important means of increasing confidence, and we encourage all nuclear-weapon States to do this.

The draft resolution also reiterates our long-held views on issues such as the importance of the NPT and its universalisation, as well as the fulfilment of past commitments.

We have consulted with the nuclear-weapon States and with a large number of non-nuclear-weapon States regarding the text of the draft resolution. We have received a great many comments and observations. Several of
these have been incorporated in the text of the draft resolution. However, given the group’s focus on nuclear disarmament, we were unable to include some proposals which would have expanded the scope of the resolution into other areas, or which would have represented a departure from our positions on matters of principle.

We encourage all Member States to support the draft resolution. We hope that, in line with the broader trends in international affairs in the area of nuclear disarmament, the growth which has been seen in recent years in support for our resolution will be continued this year.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.