Mr. Chair,

I am taking the floor regarding draft resolution L.21 entitled “Convention on the Prohibition of Use of Nuclear Weapons”. Switzerland has not supported this resolution thus maintaining its position of previous years regarding this text.

Our position is explained in particular by the absence of any reference to the international nuclear non-proliferation regime in this resolution. Switzerland remains of the view that a resolution which aims at prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons should contain an appropriate reference to the pertinence and viability of the international non-proliferation regime.

We reiterate that any use of nuclear weapons, be it intentional or accidental, would have catastrophic humanitarian consequences. Preventing further the use of nuclear weapons thus remains a key challenge for the international community.

In the absence of a respective legally binding instrument, all States possessing nuclear weapons are encouraged to take practical measures making the use of nuclear weapons less probable. This should include to refrain from further building up nuclear arsenals and to diminish the role of nuclear weapons.

Switzerland remains ready to continue the dialogue with the authors of this resolution with a view to evolve the text of the resolution so it can generate broader support.

Thank you.