BRAZIL - EXPLANATION OF VOTE - UNGA FIRST COMMITTEE - 4 NOV 2013

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

The Brazilian delegation abstained in the voting of draft resolution A/C.1/68/L.43, entitled "United action towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons". While we share with the co-sponsors the ultimate goal of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, we believe the draft resolution could greatly benefit from adjustments that would reflect a resolve to pursue such objective in more assertive and unequivocal terms, helping to overcome the current status quo in the field of nuclear disarmament.

It is our view that the text fails to adequately take stock of the "compliance deficit" that continues to exist with regard to nuclear-weapon States implementing their obligations under article VI of the NPT. On the contrary, reiterative language welcoming recent nuclear-weapon States' actions would suggest that effective, concrete steps are being taken in nuclear disarmament. We know well that this is not the case.

We also view with concern language that seems to invoke preconditions for the promotion of nuclear disarmament, such as the enhancement of international peace and security. For Brazil, it is precisely the irreversible and verifiable dismantlement of nuclear weapons that would provide for the elimination of one of the greatest sources of mistrust and instability.

On OP8, we believe that explicit mention should be made to those States under Annex II, whose ratification of the CTBT is required in order for the treaty to enter into force.

On OP9, we regret that no reference is made to the need of a fissile material treaty (FMT) serving both disarmament and non-proliferation objectives, and to the fact that this can only be done by dealing with the existing stocks of fissile material.

OP 12 of the draft resolution should, in line with Action 7 of the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, express support for the immediate commencement of discussions within the Conference on Disarmament of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, not excluding an international legally binding agreement.

With regard to OP17, my delegation would like to recall that the Additional Protocol is an instrument of a voluntary nature, celebrated between a member State and the IAEA. The language used the paragraph would have benefited from the relevant passages of the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, which noted: (i) that it is the sovereign decision of any State to conclude an additional protocol; and (ii) that additional protocols should be universally applied once the complete elimination of nuclear weapons has been achieved.