Mr. Chairman,

I (Spain) am speaking on behalf of Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Moldova, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and my own country Spain.

1. Last year our delegations voted in favor of resolution 67/39 and took part in the HLM on nuclear disarmament on September 26th. However, this year, regrettably, we cannot give our support to draft resolution L6.rev1 since not all the positions expressed in the HLM and in other fora were taken into account and reflected in this follow-up resolution. For this reason we have decided to abstain.

2. We believe in a world free of nuclear weapons and consider that disarmament and non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing goals that should be pursued through successive and gradual steps, involving all nuclear weapon States in this process.

3. We would like to stress the fundamental role we attach to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and to its complete implementation. We should now direct our efforts towards moving forward with the implementation of the Action Plan adopted by the States Parties of the NPT Review Conference in May 2010, with a view to a successful 2015 Review Conference. In this context, we see the convening of another review conference in 2018 as set out by the resolution, as parallel and possibly distracting our focus from the NPT review in 2015.

4. We appreciate the reference to the NPT in the preambular part of the resolution but the emphasis is only on one of the pillars. In our view, nuclear disarmament is directly linked to the strengthening of the Non-Proliferation regime, and therefore there should not be selective approach to NPT obligations. Achieving progress in these commonly shared goals requires the early entry into force of the Comprehensive-Test-Ban Treaty and the commencement of negotiations of a Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices.

5. We agree that the Conference on Disarmament should start work as soon as possible. However, we would not see a Nuclear Weapons Convention as the first priority in the CD. We should rather aim at a comprehensive and balanced Programme of Work, including CD's four core issues. As agreed in the SSOD-I, the CD would be a single negotiating body in disarmament affairs and it is unclear to us whether the Conference in 2018 would be in contradiction with that consensual decision. We believe in a cooperative and inclusive approach in order to make real progress in Nuclear Disarmament.
6. Finally, we share the concern of the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons yet banning nuclear weapons will not guarantee their elimination. Only by recognizing both the security and humanitarian dimensions of nuclear weapons we will be able to achieve our goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.