Mr. President,

I am taking the floor for an explanation of vote regarding draft resolution L.6.rev.1 entitled "Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament".

Last year, the UN General Assembly responded to the lack of progress on nuclear disarmament by taking a number of initiatives, including the convening of a high-level meeting (HLM) of the United Nations General Assembly on nuclear disarmament. This event, held on 26 September 2013, was attended at senior political level and saw strong expression of support for renewed efforts towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. The HLM proved to be an event of particular significance and this delegation deems important to build upon the momentum created at this meeting. Switzerland remains convinced that, in taking this process forward, we should aim at acting in a collective and inclusive way and at uniting the UN membership in pursuit of the shared goal of nuclear disarmament. In this respect, Switzerland’s positive vote should be seen as a constructive step to seek the common ground in full coherence with its position on other resolutions on the subject matter.

While voting in favour of this resolution, my delegation would like to also underline the following points of substance.

The resolution welcomes the convening of the HLM and underlines the strong support expressed on this occasion for taking urgent and effective measures to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons. In doing so, we see the resolution as fully consistent with the broad support expressed at the HLM that the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT) with all its three pillars constitutes the cornerstone of efforts towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In this context, we would have liked to see explicit references also to the NPT outcome documents including the Action Plan 2010. Referring to Article VI of the NPT, the resolution calls for urgent compliance with the legal obligations and the fulfillment of the commitments undertaken on nuclear disarmament. We firmly believe that nuclear disarmament will only become a reality if all States possessing nuclear weapons move resolutely in this direction and fully commit themselves to this objective.
As nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing and inherently linked, any new case of proliferation of nuclear weapons would put at risk further progress on nuclear disarmament. Hence, the resolution’s call for urgent compliance with the legal obligations and the fulfillment of the commitments undertaken on nuclear disarmament extends also to the need for strict compliance with non-proliferation obligations.

Furthermore, this delegation does not see a comprehensive nuclear convention as the only option for achieving and maintaining a world without nuclear weapons. The exchanges at the HLM indicated that different approaches are possible when seeking to fulfill this objective. This fact is also underscored by the report of the Open-Ended Working Group on nuclear disarmament that met earlier this year. The developments of several building blocks may be necessary before a nuclear weapons convention can become a reality. In this regard, Switzerland welcomes the opportunity provided by the resolution for States to submit to the Secretary-General their views with regard to achieving the total elimination of nuclear weapons. In its response, it will, among other things, further spell out its views on the different approaches toward a world without nuclear weapons.

Finally, we see the UN High Level International Conference to be convened in 2018 as a General Assembly meeting which will offer the opportunity to take stock of and to give new impetus to the efforts towards achieving a world without nuclear weapons. We also welcome that the resolution calls for negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament, reaffirming thereby the pivotal role of the CD as the single permanent multilateral negotiating body.

Thank you.