Mr. President,

I am taking the floor for an explanation of vote regarding draft resolution L.15 entitled “Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament”.

The High-level Meeting (HLM) of the United Nations General Assembly on nuclear disarmament held on 26 September 2013 proved to be an event of particular significance. Attended at senior political level, it marked strong support for renewed efforts towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. Deeming it important to build upon the momentum created at the meeting, Switzerland voted in favor of the resolution on the follow-up to the HLM when submitted in 2013 as well as in 2014.

While confirming its favorable vote this year, my delegation would like to underline the following points:

Switzerland remains convinced that, in taking the HLM process forward, we should act in a collective and inclusive way and aim at uniting the UN membership in pursuit of the shared goal of nuclear disarmament. In this context, Switzerland would see value in a deeper exchange between the authors of the resolution and other States during the drafting process with a view to overcoming outstanding differences.

The HLM follow-up 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 see value in explicit references also to the NPT Review Conferences outcome doc-
documents or other developments linked with the Treaty’s review cycle. 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 to the objective of nuclear disarmament.

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 convention on nuclear weapons 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 reach this objective. This is also underscored by the report of the Open-Ended Working Group on nuclear disarmament that met in 2013. We share the view that additional legal instruments are needed to achieve and maintain a nuclear weapon free world, and we would be favourably disposed towards the elaboration of any set of effective legal measures. This should be done in an inclusive manner, and we hope for a constructive engagement by all States.

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.