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.

Switzerland is still 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 importance of the international non-proliferation regime.

The Conferences in Oslo, Nayarit and Vienna on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons have underscored that the probability of a deliberate, accidental or unintended nuclear explosion is underestimated, and that the consequences of any nuclear detonation would be catastrophic in humanitarian terms as well surpass any response capacity. In this context, taking further steps to prevent any use of nuclear weapons, including the strengthening of the norm of no use of nuclear weapons, remains a key challenge for the international community.

In the absence of a legally binding instrument addressing this issue, all States possessing nuclear weapons are encouraged to take practical measures so that the use of such weapons becomes ever more inconceivable. This should include notably refraining from building-up or modernizing nuclear arsenals further, reducing the level of alert of nuclear weapons and diminishing the role of nuclear weapons in national doctrine.

Switzerland stays ready to continue the dialogue with the authors of this resolution with a view to evolve the text of the resolution so that it can benefit from broader support.
Many of the comments I have expressed regarding draft resolution L.21 also apply to draft resolution L.20 entitled reducing nuclear danger. We also hope that the latter resolution will evolve in order to meet our concerns.

Thank you.