Mr Chair,

I take the floor to explain New Zealand’s vote on resolution L38, entitled “Humanitarian Pledge for the Prohibition and Elimination of Nuclear Weapons” on which New Zealand has voted ‘yes’.

Whilst New Zealand has not itself endorsed this Pledge, we have no doubt that those who have done so are deeply concerned about the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and motivated by the need to prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons. Whilst supporters of the Pledge have not made clear the particular course they intend to pursue in doing this, New Zealand welcomes all efforts intended to advance implementation of Article VI of the NPT and make progress on legally effective measures towards nuclear disarmament. We would not wish by our vote on this resolution to suggest otherwise.