Brazil voted in favor of draft resolution L.46, entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty" because of our shared understanding that the CTBT is an important nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation measure and in light of our continuous support for the Treaty's early entry into force.

We must, however, point out our frustration at the inability of this draft resolution to reflect the hard won consensus on the topic of the modernization of nuclear weapons in the Final Declarations of the Article XIV Conferences of 2013 and 2015. Those declarations called all countries to "refrain from (...) the development and use of new nuclear weapon technologies and any action that would undermine the object and purpose" of the Treaty. The significance of these declarations cannot be overstated, as they were endorsed by all signatory states taking part in the Conferences.

This specific passage touches upon what is perhaps the main challenge to the Treaty's effectiveness, even before its entry into force. Qualitative nuclear arms race and vertical proliferation undermine the core objectives of the Treaty and its role as a nuclear disarmament instrument. The reliance of States possessing nuclear weapons on subcritical tests to further modernize their nuclear arsenals contradicts the spirit and letter of the CTBT and must be addressed clearly and emphatically by all those who support the Treaty.

Brazil expects that this issue will be adequately addressed in next year's resolution, particularly considering that 2016 marks the 20th anniversary of the opening for signature of the CTBT. This should result in renewed determination and efforts not only to ensure the Treaty's early entry into force, but also its continued relevance in the pursuit of the common objective of a world free of nuclear weapons. We call on all States to continue working towards this end.