Statement made by the Delegation of the Republic of Djibouti

By Mr. Djama Mahmoud ALI, Conseiller, Permanent Mission of Djibouti to the UN offices in Geneva

Chair person.

All the 165 countries present here expressed their deep concern about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. Djibouti joins the concerns expressed.

Chair person,

Past experience from the use and testing of nuclear weapons has amply demonstrated the unacceptable humanitarian consequences caused by the immense, uncontrollable destructive capability and indiscriminate nature of these weapons.

Discussions that took place at the first and second Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons convened respectively by Norway in March 2013 and by Mexico in February of this year, have allowed us to deepen our collective understanding of those Consequences.

Chair person,

The key message from experts and international organizations, who addressed this conference yesterday, was that no State or international body could address the immediate humanitarian emergency caused by a nuclear weapon detonation or provide adequate assistance to victims.

We firmly believe that it is in the interests of all States take steps which aim to further broaden and deepen the understanding of this matter, and we welcome civil society’s ongoing engagement. This work is essential, because the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons affect not only governments, but each and every citizen of our interconnected world. They have deep implications for human survival; for our environment; for socio-economic development; for our economies; and for the health of future generations. For these reasons, we firmly believe that awareness of the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons must underpin all approaches and efforts towards nuclear disarmament.

Chair person

The First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-1) stressed in 1978 that “nuclear weapons pose the greatest danger to mankind and to the survival of civilisation.” These expressions of profound concern remain as compelling as ever. In spite of this, the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons have not been at the core of nuclear
disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation deliberations for many years. We are therefore encouraged that this issue is now well established on the global agenda.