

Explanation of Vote on Decision A/C.1/59/L15	27.10.04
"UN Conference to identify ways of Eliminating Nuclear Dangers in the context of nuclear disarmament"	

Mr. Chairman

- I would like to explain our vote on the decision L 15
- Like Mexico, which brought forward this decision, Germany also sympathises with the sense of urgency and the disappointment at the slow pace of progress which underlies the proposal to convene the UN conference.
- We reaffirm our determination to contribute to the implementation of Art. VI of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty. The NPT is the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and essential foundation for the pursuits of nuclear disarmament.
- We particularly stress the need for the full implementation of the 13 practical steps for the systematic and progressive efforts to implement Art. VI of the NPT as agreed at the 2000 NPT-Review Conference.
- The implementation of these thirteen steps requires focused efforts. nothing should detract from the obligations undertaken by the parties to the NPT.
- Thus we consider the pursuit of these efforts within the context of the NPT process leading up to the next Review Conference in 2005 of key importance
- Likewise we deem it of utmost urgency to overcome the deadlock in the work of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. Germany calls for the immediate start of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on the basis of the report of the special coordinator and the mandate therein of a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally verifiable Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices.
- In light of these priorities and with a view not to undermine the NPT-process and the Conference on Disarmament, the single multilateral negotiating forum, we do not consider it appropriate, at this juncture, to convene a United Nations Conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers in the context of nuclear disarmament.
- Therefore we were not in a position to support the decision. However, contrary to last year, we have, recognising the concerns underlying the decision, decided not to vote against but to abstain.

Thank you.