

Explanation of vote on A/C.1/59/L.22 : "Towards a nuclear weapon free world a new agenda : accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments", on behalf of the United Kingdom, the United States of America and France.

Mr. Chairman,

I take the floor on behalf of the United Kingdom, the United States of America and France to explain our vote against resolution L.22 "Towards a nuclear weapons free world a new agenda : accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments".

This resolution has been tabled over a number of years and contains important elements that we support. However, when the resolution was tabled last year, we were sorry to find that the text contained many elements that did not command consensus and were not acceptable to the United Kingdom, the United States of America and France.

We noted that this year text takes a more pragmatic approach. Nevertheless, certain elements are not acceptable to us. The new title of the resolution does not reflect the progress which is being made towards nuclear disarmament. The content of the resolution does not take due account of the full range of obligations of all of us towards nuclear non proliferation and disarmament.

As we stated in our explanation of vote on this resolution last year, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and France remain fully committed to meeting our obligations under article VI of the nuclear non proliferation Treaty. We have taken significant measures on nuclear disarmament ourselves and support nuclear weapons reductions worldwide. Unfortunately, this resolution does not take sufficient account of the progress that has been made in this regard. Although last year resolution had mentioned the Moscow Treaty, this is not the case this year. This despite the fact that the Treaty commits the United States and Russia to reduce their nuclear arsenals by several thousand warheads over the next decade.

Mr. Chairman,

Our nuclear disarmament and non proliferation commitments remain steadfast and rooted in the NPT. As we turn our attention to the forthcoming review conference here in New York in the Spring, we hope that ongoing dialogue among state parties will help ensure that progress will follow previous review conferences and lead to the further strengthening of this cornerstone of the global non proliferation and disarmament regime.

Thank you Mr. Chairman