

***Explanation of Vote of delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran on
Draft resolution L.13/Rev.2***

Thank you Madam Chair,

I have taken the floor to explain the position of my delegation on the draft resolution L.13/rev.2 entitled "Towards a nuclear-free world: Accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments".

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects which was originally drafted to be in force for 25 years. The 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference decided to extend the Treaty in a package of agreements and commitments in particular the nuclear-weapon States' obligations of "systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goals of eliminating those weapons" and the Middle East Resolution. As a follow-up to these disarmament obligations, the 2000 NPT Review Conference agreed by consensus on the 13 practical steps for the systematic and progressive efforts to implement article VI of the NPT and paragraphs 3 and 4 (c) of the 1995 Decision on "Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament".

However, eleven years after the indefinite extension of the NPT and thirty-six years since the Treaty entered into force, the nuclear disarmament obligations yet to be implemented. International community has on many occasions expressed its concern about the lack of progress by the Nuclear Weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament. Serious concerns also have been expressed over the development of new types of nuclear weapons which is in clear contravention of the undertakings provided by the Nuclear Weapons States at the time of the conclusion of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty that the Treaty would prevent the improvement of existing nuclear weapons and development of new types of nuclear weapons.

Based on its principled position, the Islamic Republic of Iran fully supports the total elimination of nuclear weapons leading to a nuclear-weapon-free world. In this context, last year my delegation introduced the resolution 60/72 which was called for "Follow up to nuclear disarmament obligations agreed in the 1995 and 2000 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons". In our view, nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects are mutually reinforcing. The inalienable rights of the States Party to the NPT must also be respected without any discrimination.

The GA resolution 60/72 urged the States Parties to the NPT to follow up the implementation of the nuclear disarmament obligations under the Treaty agreed in the 1995 and 2000 within the framework of the 2010 NPT Review Conference and its Preparatory Committee. We continue to vigorously pursue this recommendation and for this reason, my delegation supported the draft resolution L.13/Rev.2.

I thank you Madam Chair.