

**L.6: PROMOTION OF MULTILATERALISM IN THE AREA OF DISARMAMENT
AND NON-PROLIFERATION**

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Madam Chair

I take the floor on behalf of Australia, Canada and New Zealand to explain our abstention on L.6.

We are disappointed that once again we are unable to support this resolution. Our firm and unwavering commitment to multilateral principles and approaches in the field of disarmament and international security is well-established, and we have consistently advocated the benefit of multilateral processes in achieving progress on collective security issues.

However, the implication in OP1 that multilateralism constitutes *the* sole core means to pursue negotiations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation is not one with which we can agree. Effective progress on global disarmament and non-proliferation objectives requires a mutually reinforcing system of multilateral, plurilateral, regional, bilateral and unilateral measures working in tandem to achieve concrete results.

In our view, any assertion that multilateralism and multilaterally agreed solutions provide the *only* sustainable method of addressing disarmament and international security issues, sells short the potential of alternative approaches such as bilateral and regional measures to contribute to disarmament and peace-building efforts.

These reasons are why we have been unable to support L.6, and have instead abstained.

Thank you Madam Chair