

Mr. Chairman,

I take the floor on behalf of Australia, Canada and New Zealand to explain our abstention on L.13.

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 non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament is well known, and we have consistently advocated the benefit of multilateral processes in achieving progress on international security issues.

However, we cannot agree with the implication in OPs 1 and 2 that multilateralism constitutes *the* core principle in negotiations and resolving concerns in this field. Effective progress on global non-proliferation and disarmament objectives requires a mutually reinforcing system of multilateral, plurilateral, regional, bilateral and unilateral measures working in tandem to achieve concrete results. PP8 explicitly recognizes the complementarity of these measures, so why then do OPs 1 and 2 suggest that multilateral ones are somehow of greater importance than the others?

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

These are the reasons why we have been unable to support L.13, and have instead abstained.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

