

EXPLANATION OF VOTE - (BEFORE THE VOTE) - Resolution L.21 - Rev. 1

Mr Chairman,

I wish to take this opportunity to explain the vote of Brazil on Resolution L.21 entitled "Reducing Nuclear Danger".

My delegation will vote in favour of the resolution basically because we support the statement contained in PP4 that nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons are essential to remove the danger of nuclear war. We are also convinced that a review of nuclear doctrines, as called for in OP1, is indispensable to reduce the risks of unintentional and accidental use of nuclear weapons, including through de-alerting and de-targeting of such weapons.

Reducing the so-called "nuclear danger" cannot, however, in any way be a substitute to multilaterally agreed disarmament measures. Only irreversibility, transparency and verification would make disarmament measures fully consistent with the obligations under Article VI of the NPT and with the "13 practical steps" agreed upon by consensus at the 2000 NPT Review Conference.

My delegation, moreover, would like to qualify the view expressed in PP1 of the resolution that the use of nuclear weapons poses the most serious threat to mankind. It is our understanding that the mere existence of these weapons - before even their use - already constitutes a grave risk to the whole world. We therefore would have preferred the main thrust of the resolution to be more in line with PP4, which is rather straightforward in mentioning the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

Thank you