



MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA FRANCE AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES

**United Nations General Assembly
62nd Session - First Committee**

(New York, 8th October – 2nd November 2007)

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**Statement by Jean-François DOBELLE
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of France
To the Conference on Disarmament**

**Joint explanation of vote : Draft resolution (L27) :
Nuclear weapon free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas**

New York, 1st November 2007

(only the French text is official)

Mister Chairman,

I am speaking on behalf of the United Kingdom, the United States and France.

Mister Chairman,

We would like to emphasise the great importance we attach to the development of internationally recognised new nuclear-weapon-free zones, which could make an important contribution to regional and global security, provided they are supported by all States of the region concerned and by Nuclear Weapon States, are the subject of appropriate treaties, including comprehensive safeguards provided by the International Atomic Energy Agency and were satisfactorily concluded in consultation with the Nuclear Weapon States as set out in the 1999 UNDC guidelines. In this regard we want to recall that we continue to stand ready to resume consultations with the concerned States parties to Nuclear Weapon Free Zones Treaties to reach a mutually satisfactory outcome regarding the outstanding issues .

However, with regard to this draft resolution, we still believe it is contradictory to propose simultaneously the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone that would be composed largely of the high seas and yet to say that it would be fully consistent with applicable principles and rules of international law relating to the freedom of the high seas and the rights of passage through maritime space, including those of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. We question, therefore, whether the real goal of this draft resolution is in fact the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone covering the high seas. We do not believe that this ambiguity has been sufficiently clarified.

For that reason, we voted against the draft resolution again this year./