

28 October 2008
UN First Committee

Lithuania abstained on draft resolution A/C.1/63/L.5 entitled “Decreasing the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems”.

Lithuania is pleased with the steps taken by some states to reduce the operational status of their nuclear weapons systems, including de-targeting and reducing alert levels. At the same time Lithuania is cognizant of the fact that alert levels are commensurate with the prevailing security environment and for the time being deterrence remains a fundamental component of the defense strategy of NATO, of which Lithuania is a member.

Lithuania believes that ramifications of the changed political and security environment this year are significant. If they continue to deteriorate, next year Lithuania may consider reassessing its attitude towards the resolution on de-alerting.