

October 29, 2008

EXPLANATION OF VOTE

Draft Resolution L. 12 “Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction”

Mr. Chairman,

Our Delegation believes that the international community should focus its efforts on the very real problem of the proliferation of known types of WMD, both by states that willfully violate their commitments with respect to existing treaties and by terrorists. In the 60 years since the 1948 definition of WMD was set forth, no new types of WMD have appeared, not even on the horizon. The idea of new types of WMD beyond chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear remains entirely hypothetical. No useful purpose is served by diverting the attention and efforts of the international community away from existing threats to such hypothetical threats. For these reasons, the United States votes against this resolution.