

INTRODUCTION OF THE NAC FIRST COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

I welcome the opportunity to introduce the New Agenda Coalition's (NAC) First Committee resolution pertaining to nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation entitled "**Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments**". In this regard, I take the floor on behalf of the NAC Partners, namely Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, Sweden and my own country, South Africa.

Mr. Chairperson,

In the NAC's statement during the General Debate of this Committee on 6 October 2008, we stated that the only absolute guarantee against the use of nuclear weapons is their complete elimination and the assurance that they will never be produced again. In this regard, we emphasized that the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is of vital importance in order to achieve nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, as it remains the only international instrument that not only seeks to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, but that also contains the legal commitment for the elimination of these weapons.

The NAC resolution this year specifically focuses on the NPT and explicitly recognizes and seeks to underline the importance of the NPT and its universality to achieve nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. It also recalls the three decisions on "Strengthening the Review Process for the Treaty", "Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament" and "Extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons", as well as the resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference.

The resolution seeks to convey a specific message about the importance and need to implement commitments already made on nuclear disarmament, in particular the commitments stemming from the outcomes of the NPT Review Conferences in 1995 and 2000. The NAC Partners firmly believe that these outcomes contain a step-by-step process that outlines detailed elements in a balanced way in both the areas of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation that would reduce the threat posed by nuclear weapons, de-emphasize their importance and lead to their elimination.

Mr. Chairperson,

This year's resolution builds on previous NAC resolutions and presents an approach that emphasizes compliance with nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation commitments. It also reaffirms that the issues of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-

proliferation are mutually reinforcing processes requiring urgent irreversible progress on both fronts. As such, it reflects the NAC's view that efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons proliferation cannot be sustainable without equal efforts being made to eliminate nuclear weapons themselves.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Partners of the New Agenda Coalition believe that the resolution is drafted in a manner that all States should be able to support it, since it seeks to uphold previous commitments arrived at by consensus. We therefore encourage all States to show their consolidated commitment to nuclear disarmament by supporting the resolution.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.