Chairman,

I will keep my remarks brief. I would like to start by thanking you and your team for this very good revised draft of what was already a strong first draft of your Final Report. We note that you have made constructive efforts to reflect the initial responses to your first draft in a fair and balanced manner. We would like to thank you for incorporating almost all of the issues raised by my delegation, including important points in relation to collective human security. I have just two points to make on the current text:

Firstly, we note that the 3 paragraphs on Conclusions and Agreed Recommendations remain unchanged. We had proposed a slight adjustment to the second sentence in the original para 59, in the interests of balance. However, we understand that you are continuing to work towards general agreement on the recommendations and in the interests of promoting compromise and consensus, we can accept the current text. As we have already indicated, Ireland is among the group of 127 States which supports the urgent pursuit of an additional legal instrument. Therefore, I would like to reconfirm that Ireland supports the draft recommendations on the opening of negotiations on such an instrument. We agree with those who have said that this is clearly the majority view.
Secondly, turning now to the narrative part of the report, on which you have sought suggestions, we are pleased with enhanced focus on the current global context. In this regard, we would recall that, on a number of occasions during our earlier sessions, my delegation drew attention to increased threats of use and to the apparent worrying reduction in the norm around threat of use, a point which was endorsed by a number of expert panellists. We are very pleased to see the stronger reference to modernisation in current paragraph 28, which is indeed very timely. We would propose that perhaps a reference to threat of use might add additional contextual impetus here or it could be added elsewhere in the “general exchange of views” portion of the Report, as you see fit.

To conclude, Chairman, my delegation support the amendments you have made and believe that you have been responsive and balanced in taking into account the issues raised, including our own. A great deal of very positive and important work has been done at our meetings. We reiterate that it is essential that the Final Report fully reflect this work and that the Report is the product of the substantive work done here, not a substitute for or alternative to it. We owe it to those we represent, to work together constructively for an agreed outcome. My delegation looks forward to continuing to support your efforts in this regard.

Thank you.

ENDS