

Chair,

I have the honour to deliver an explanation of vote on L.58, the "Resolution on the Report of the Conference on Disarmament", on behalf of Belgium, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Lithuania, Sweden and my own country, the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

We appreciate and commend the efforts invested by the Mexican CD Presidency toward achieving consensus; however, we are not in a position to support the Resolution this year.

We have the following two main concerns:

- 1) First, we believe the Resolution should acknowledge that the CD has once again failed in delivering on its mandate to negotiate disarmament instruments, extending a decades-old stalemate. The Resolution should also accurately reflect the work that the Conference has carried out, or failed to carry out, during the year. Despite a promising start, the CD failed to adopt any subsidiary body reports and its final report lacks in substance. All of this should have been reflected more accurately and factually in the resolution, particularly given the UN80 process.
- 2) Second, the CD, once more this year, fell short in terms of inclusivity and the Resolution does not accurately reflect that sixteen UN Member States were prevented from becoming observers to the Conference. One State alone blocked 15 States, contrary to the principle of inclusive multilateralism. It is not acceptable that 16 UN Member States, eager to contribute, and which pay their share of the costs for the Conference on Disarmament, were again excluded. Amidst tightening budgets and UN reform, this situation is even less tenable.

These concerns stem primarily from the fact that a few CD members are abusing the consensus rule as a de facto veto power.

Our votes on this Resolution signal our concerns. We stand ready to work on improving the functioning of the Conference and the participation of States therein.

Thank you, Chair.