

# Iceland

## Explanation of vote – 27 October 2016

I'd like to give an explanation for the vote on L.41, taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations. Iceland remains a consistent supporter and advocate of nuclear disarmament. We welcome the dialogue among all states and have participated in a fact-based approach to the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons use.

We believe that the only way to safeguard the world from the risk of nuclear detonation is through the elimination of nuclear weapons. This is why we will support, or have supported, resolutions on united action towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons, on establishing nuclear-weapons-free zones and on the comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty.

But we are also clear that nuclear disarmament can only be achieved with the direct involvement of the nuclear-weapons states. The NPT and its Article VI contain a clear legal obligation on nuclear disarmament. The upcoming review cycle of the NPT will be a key opportunity focusing on how we move along the road to total elimination of nuclear weapons.

We share the frustration of many non-nuclear weapons states, that disarmament has progressed far too slowly in recent years. There are concrete steps that can be taken along the road to disarmament. This is why we are co-sponsors on the resolutions of verification and decreasing the operational readiness of nuclear weapons and why we support the resolution on the treaty banning production of fissile material for nuclear weapons.

Resolution L.41 launches a negotiation process for a binding legal instrument prohibiting nuclear weapons, but it is clear that the nuclear weapons states are very unlikely to sign up. It will therefore be unable to achieve its key goal of eliminating nuclear weapons. Worse, there is a great risk that it will undermine the force of the NPT, whether a clear legal obligation or a clear structure for involving the nuclear weapons states. It would move the focus to a forum where the nuclear weapons states are not present and have no legal obligations. We believe that this resolution does not bring us closer but in fact further away of our common ideal of a world without nuclear weapons. For these reasons Iceland voted against the resolution.