

October 31, 2008

EXPLANATION OF VOTE

Draft Resolution L. 26: Effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium

Mr. Chairman,

I am speaking on behalf of the United States, the United Kingdom, and France.

Our three countries voted “no” on draft resolution L. 26, Effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium.

Mr. Chairman, this is not a new issue. This draft resolution calls for further action by the Secretary-General and UN member states based on the potential harmful effects of the use of depleted uranium munitions on human health and the environment. By doing so, it ignores an already significant and growing body of scientific evidence on this subject.

The environmental and long-term health effects of the use of depleted uranium munitions have been investigated by the World Health Organization, the United Nations Environmental Program, the International Atomic Energy Agency, NATO, the Centers for Disease Control, the European Commission, and others. None of these inquiries has been able to document long-term environmental or health effects attributable to use of these munitions. It is regrettable that a UN report should be ignored.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.