



**Statement by H.E. Dell Higgin
Ambassador For Disarmament &
Permanent Representative to the CD**

**UNGA 74 First Committee
Statement introducing L.22 and L.24**

1 November 2019

Mr Chair

I take the floor on behalf of New Zealand and our fellow core-sponsors, Brazil, Indonesia, and South Africa, to briefly introduce resolution L.22 entitled Nuclear-Weapon-Free Southern Hemisphere and Adjacent Areas.

This text, inter alia, underlines the important role which nuclear weapon-free zones play in strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and notes with satisfaction that all such zones in the southern hemisphere are now in force. It calls for adherence to the zone Protocols by all nuclear weapon States yet to do so and also that these States withdraw any reservations or interpretive declarations contrary to the object and purpose of these Treaties.

L.22 welcomes the steps taken to conclude other nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the states of the region concerned, including steps taken towards the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East and encourages the enhancement of efforts to achieve better coordination among existing zones.

I wish, Mr Chair, now to introduce resolution L.24 Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. I do so on behalf also of my fellow co-sponsors – Australia and Mexico.

This resolution, which our three countries have together tabled for well over a decade now, expresses our very strong support for the CTBT and our deep regret that it has not yet entered into force.

We remain firmly convinced of the importance of the CTBT and the vital necessity of its entry into force. Accordingly, our resolution first and foremost calls on those States which have yet to sign and/or ratify the Treaty, in particular those whose ratification is required for its entry into force, to do so as soon as possible.

Meantime, we urge all States not to carry out any nuclear weapon tests and to maintain their moratoriums (while stressing that these measures do not have the legally-binding status of the Treaty once in force). We also welcome the ratification of the CTBT, since the adoption of last year's resolution on this issue, by Zimbabwe.

Notwithstanding the reiteration of urgency of the early entry into force of the CTBT, the resolution recognises the important progress in the development of the Treaty's verification regime and the need for all States to support the IMS network. We also wish to acknowledge the successful Article XIV Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT held in Vienna last month.

Our resolution has again achieved high levels of co-sponsorship. We urge all colleagues here to support this text as a demonstration of our shared commitment to this Treaty and the imperative that it become legally-binding.

I hope that both these resolutions L.22 and L.24 will once again achieve their usual high level of support.

Thank you.

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