Madame President

Thank you for giving me the floor. I am speaking on behalf of AMPLIFY, a network of young people from every region of the globe actively working towards nuclear abolition.

Young people are often overlooked in UN negotiations and decision making processes, particularly in disarmament. However we strongly believe that we are vital actors and that these negotiations will benefit from including the voices of youth from around the world. In order to move beyond the inertia too often present in nuclear disarmament it will be important to bring in fresh ideas, new voices and innovative approaches. Youth are innovators and as digital natives, we are not only up to date with the changing world, we are the ones building it. Young people are designing how we all interact and how information is shared.

Nuclear-armed countries squander vast resources to build, renew and maintain nuclear weapons that could instead be utilized to strengthen education, economic development, and social institutions towards the 2030 Agenda. Investing in the modernization of inhumane, indiscriminate and cruel weapons instead of in services to citizens limits opportunities for new generations.

AMPLIFY believes that this treaty should prohibit the use, threat of use, possession, stockpiling, production and trade of nuclear weapons while also prohibiting assistance with any of those prohibited acts. These provisions would be the core of a treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons. AMPLIFY encourages states to recognize that prohibiting assistance means also prohibiting investment. The inclusion of financing in the text will reinforce the scope and effect of the treaty and will reinforce the impact of efforts to reduce humanitarian harm through strengthened application of global norms and international law.

In addition to the prohibitions, the treaty should contain operational paragraphs with positive obligations. As a youth network, AMPLIFY places a high importance on disarmament education and risk education. All states parties to the future treaty
should have an obligation to support disarmament education globally and to support any risk education that may be needed to ensure that persons living in and near areas made dangerous by nuclear weapons or nuclear detonations have the tools they need to stay safe. We also call on states to include rights-based, age- and gender-sensitive victim assistance provisions in the operational paragraphs of the treaty.

Finally Madam President, looking toward the future we believe that the results of these negotiations will only be successful and sustainable if we engage youth, who are now, or will one day, be decision makers and government leaders. It is necessary that youth are involved now, so that the world will never repeat the mistake of producing, threatening or using nuclear weapons.

Thank you Madame President