

Mr Chair,

I am taking the floor to express my Delegation's regrets at recent developments and to deliver an Explanation of Position regarding New Zealand's non-participation in both votes that have just taken place with regard to the final report of the OEWG.

New Zealand has been participating in the negotiations on this final report on the basis of our shared understanding that we were all working together to reach agreement on the text - and that this text would be adopted by consensus in line with the stated intention of the Chair and of OEWG delegations. We wish, then, to express our surprise and regret that a vote has been called on the text and, in particular, without any prior notice and so late in our proceedings this afternoon. The New Zealand Delegation has urgently sought instructions from our Minister. However, we have been unable to secure instructions given the last minute nature of these developments and the lack of a finalised written text. As a result we have not been able to participate in either of the votes which have taken place just now.