



# General Assembly

Sixtieth session

First Committee

**19**<sup>th</sup> meeting

Tuesday, 25 October 2005, 3 p.m.  
New York

Official Records

*Chairman:* Mr. Choi Young-jin ..... (Republic of Korea)

*The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.*

## Agenda items 85 to 105 (continued)

### Action on all draft resolutions submitted under all disarmament and international security agenda items

**The Chairman:** This afternoon, the Committee will take action on draft resolutions that appear in informal working paper 2, which was circulated yesterday.

There has been a slight modification in the contents of informal working paper 2. The first modification involves draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.21 under cluster 7, which will not be discussed today. We have a request from the sponsors to delay the deliberations on that draft resolution to a later time. Instead, we will act on draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.41 under cluster 7 and agenda item 98 (e), entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa".

As members will recall, we agreed to deliberate today draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.2, on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research today, but we cannot do so at this stage, given the fact that some questions still need to be sorted out with the Budget Division. We will be in a position to take action on that draft resolution as soon as the oral statement is ready.

**Mr. Rivasseau** (France) (*spoke in French*): I regret to say, Sir, that you have exceeded your powers. A decision was taken yesterday to put draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.2 to the vote, in accordance with the rules of procedure. You are not entitled to decide on the issue at hand without the agreement of the sponsors. The sponsors are prepared to consider your request.

We have information to the effect that the oral statement to which you referred has been issued by the Budget Division and is now being transmitted. If it should reach you by the end of the meeting, there is no reason why we should not proceed to the vote. If it does not arrive, we will look into that and accede to your ruling.

**The Chairman:** We all agree that whether or not the specific draft resolution will be discussed today will depend on whether or not we have the oral statement.

We will now proceed to address cluster 3, "Outer space", contained in informal working paper 2. Under cluster 3, there is only one draft resolution, A/C.1/60/L.27, entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space".

I call on the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.38/Rev.2.

**Mr. Baeidi-Nejad** (Islamic Republic of Iran): Draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.38/Rev.2 has been submitted to the attention of our colleagues at this meeting.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

The adoption of the 1995 decisions on principles and objectives for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as the decision on strengthening the review process of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), are among the most important decisions made in the history of the NPT, particularly when we consider that they were made in close association with the decision to extend the Treaty indefinitely. There was a clear understanding that the decision on the indefinite extension of the Treaty was made in direct relationship to and connection with the decision to promote nuclear disarmament obligations in accordance with article VI of the Treaty.

In that context, the achievements made at the 2000 Review Conference of the States Parties to the NPT constitute important decisions by the States parties to realize the aspirations to promote nuclear disarmament. The decision taken at the 2000 Review Conference to prescribe practical steps to advance nuclear disarmament therefore provides the fundamental basis for achieving nuclear disarmament. Unfortunately, the practical steps adopted at the Review Conference remain to be implemented.

The actions of some nuclear-weapon States in developing new nuclear weapons doctrines and strategies, in defiance of those principles, have placed the implementation of those steps in jeopardy. Contrary to their obligation to reduce their nuclear arsenals effectively, those nuclear-weapon States have embarked upon extensive programmes to increase their capacity to use nuclear weapons more effectively.

The objection raised at the 2005 NPT Review Conference to the reaffirmation of those basic principles is another source of concern for non-nuclear-weapon States. Draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.38/Rev.2 concentrates on reaffirming the validity and relevance of the agreements achieved in 1995 and 2000.

During the past two weeks we had the opportunity to conduct extensive consultations on the content of the draft resolution. Some delegations spoke strongly in favour of the spirit and content of the text, while opinions were also received on, in particular, paragraph 4 of the original version of the draft resolution, which related to the establishment of an ad hoc committee to follow up disarmament obligations under the NPT. In particular, budgetary implications

and possible interference in the NPT process by the General Assembly were raised.

With the aim of removing the concerns, and for the purpose of focusing on the main concept of the draft resolution — following up the implementation of the 1995 and 2000 disarmament obligations — we decided to modify paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.38 in the new, revised text of the draft. The new paragraph 4, as reflected in document A/C.1/60/L.38/Rev.2, reads as follows:

“Urges the States parties to the Treaty to follow up on the implementation of the nuclear disarmament obligations under the Treaty and agreed to at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty within the framework of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty and its preparatory committees.”

As is clear from the revised text, the notion of establishing an ad hoc committee has been replaced by text urging the States parties to the NPT to follow up on the implementation of the 1995 and 2000 disarmament obligations. With this change, the General Assembly would be able to stress further the critical importance of the fundamental principles of the disarmament obligations, as described mainly in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the draft resolution, and would urge the States parties to the Treaty to follow up on them in future proceedings within the framework of the 2010 NPT Review Conference and its preparatory committees.

We believe that the changes should allow the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/60/L.38/Rev.2 to be adopted by consensus.

**Mr. Udedibia** (Nigeria): I have the honour, on behalf of the African Group, to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.41, entitled “United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa”. The draft resolution has been submitted in recognition of the important role the regional centres can play in promoting peace, security, arms control and disarmament at the regional level, thereby enhancing progress in the area of sustainable development.

Regrettably, the African Regional Centre has been carrying out its mandate under very strenuous financial and operational difficulties, as was noted by the Secretary-General in his report (A/60/153). The

activities and staffing of the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa have been reduced in view of the limited resources at its disposal. The problems of the Regional Centre were most clearly described last week by the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Nobuyasu Abe, and the Chief of the Regional Disarmament Branch, Ms. Agnès Marcaillou. It was evident from their presentations that the Centre desperately needs funding.

The most critical development regarding the Centre is the report by the Secretary-General that its future looks bleak due to lack of reliable sources of funding which would ensure the sustainability of its operations. Unfortunately, efforts undertaken to mobilize the necessary resources for the operational costs of the Centre yielded very few dividends when compared to the needs. While gratitude is due the few countries that have made financial contributions to the Centre, there is still an urgent need for more financial contributions from the donor community to enable the Centre to deal with the increasing challenges of peace, security and disarmament in Africa.

There is also a need to review the mandate and programmes of the Regional Centre in the light of developments in the field of peace and security in Africa since its establishment. Furthermore, there is a need to establish close cooperation between the Regional Centre and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, in particular its institutions in the field of peace, disarmament and security, as well as with the relevant United Nations bodies and programmes in and for Africa, for greater effectiveness.

Considering the multifarious problems besetting the Regional Centre, the draft resolution requests the Secretary-General to establish, within existing resources, a consultative mechanism of interested States, in particular African States, for the reorganization of the Regional Centre, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session.

Part of the responsibility of the consultative mechanism will be to review the mandate and programmes of the Centre in the light of developments in the field of peace and security in Africa since its establishment. This body will also be expected to identify areas for close cooperation between the Regional Centre and the Peace and Security Council of

the African Union, as well as relevant United Nations bodies and programmes in and for Africa. The consultative mechanism should examine ways and means of establishing cooperative arrangements between the Centre and these bodies or institutions and improving any existing ones. It is also expected to consider the perennial problem of funding for the Centre. In general, the consultative mechanism should consider all necessary factors that will enable the Centre to respond adequately to Africa's needs in the areas of peace, security and disarmament. It may also consider the need for the Centre to be proactive in promoting or initiating preventive measures against armed conflict, where possible. It is envisaged that the views of the consultative mechanism on all these issues will form part of the Secretary-General's report requested in paragraph 6 of the draft resolution.

The African Group believes that the consultative mechanism will represent a major step towards enhancing effectiveness of the Regional Centre, as well as in attracting the requisite funding for its operational activities. The draft resolution appeals to all States as well as to international, governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations to make voluntary contributions in order to strengthen the programmes and activities of the Regional Centre and facilitate their implementation. It appeals to the Regional Centre, in cooperation with the African Union, regional and subregional organizations and the African States to take steps to promote the consistent implementation of the 2001 United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

Draft resolutions on this item, submitted annually by the African Group, have always been adopted by consensus, both in the First Committee and in the General Assembly. It is the wish of the African Group that draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.41 be similarly adopted at this session.

My delegation also wishes to introduce another resolution on behalf of the African Group, draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.8, entitled "African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty".

The African Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone Treaty — the Treaty of Pelindaba — was signed in Cairo on 11 April 1996. The Cairo Declaration, also adopted on that occasion, emphasized that nuclear-weapon-free

zones, especially in regions of tension such as the Middle East, enhance global and regional peace and security. The signing of the Treaty of Pelindaba constitutes an important contribution by the African countries to the maintenance of international peace and security.

Considering that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in the Middle East, would enhance African security and the viability of an African nuclear-weapon-free zone, the draft resolution calls upon African States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty as soon as possible so that it may enter into force without delay. Furthermore, while expressing appreciation to the nuclear-weapon States that have signed the Protocols that concern them, it calls upon those States that have not yet ratified those Protocols to do so as soon as possible. It urges those States contemplated in Protocol III to the Treaty that have not yet done so to take all necessary measures to ensure the speedy application of the Treaty to the territories for which they are internationally responsible and that lie within the limits of the geographical zone established in the Treaty.

The draft resolution further calls upon African States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons that have not yet done so to conclude comprehensive safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency pursuant to the Treaty. By doing so, they can satisfy the requirements of article 9 (b) of the Treaty of Pelindaba when it enters into force. They should also conclude additional protocols to the safeguards agreements on the basis of the Model Additional Protocol approved by the Agency's Board of Governors on 15 May 1997.

Draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.8 is basically the same as resolution 58/30, adopted at the fifty-eighth session. Such texts have always been adopted without a vote by the First Committee and by the General Assembly. We would appreciate it if the draft resolution were similarly adopted at the present session.

**Ms. Fernando** (Sri Lanka): I just wanted to thank the Secretariat for reissuing document A/C.1/60/INF/2, which now contains a corrected list of the additional sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.27.

**The Chairman:** The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution

A/C.1/60/L.27. I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

**Ms. Stoute** (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.27, entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Sri Lanka at the Committee's 10th meeting, on 12 October 2005. The sponsors are listed in documents A/C.1/60/L.27 and A/C.1/60/INF/2, as reissued. In addition, the following countries have become sponsors: Jamaica, Kazakhstan and Timor-Leste.

A recorded vote has been requested.

*A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro,

Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against:*

United States of America

*Abstaining:*

Israel

*Draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.27 was adopted by 160 votes to 1, with 1 abstention.*

**The Chairman:** I now call on the representative of the United States of America, who wishes to speak in explanation of vote.

**Ms. Sanders** (United States of America): My delegation has taken the floor to explain its vote on draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.27, entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space". These remarks apply also to draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.30, "Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities", which the First Committee has not yet acted upon.

There is no arms race in space and thus no arms control problem to address. Instead, there is unprecedented cooperation in civil and commercial activities, as illustrated by the United States cooperation with China prior to and during China's recent manned space mission. There already exists an extensive and comprehensive system for limiting certain uses of outer space. The existing multilateral outer space arms control regime already adequately deals with the non-weaponization of space.

The United States is committed to the peaceful exploration and use of space by all nations for peaceful purposes. Peaceful purposes can include appropriate defence activities in the pursuit of national security and other goals. We take seriously our commitment to carry on all United States activities in the exploration and use of outer space in accordance with international law, including the Outer Space Treaty and the Charter of the United Nations, in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting

international cooperation and understanding. Thus, we see no reason for international institutions to address a non-existent arms race in outer space.

**The Chairman:** The Committee will now proceed to consider the two draft resolutions under cluster 4, "Conventional weapons".

The Committee will first proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.48. I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

**Ms. Stoute** (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.48, entitled "Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Sweden at the Committee's 12th meeting, on 14 October 2005. The sponsors are listed in documents A/C.1/60/L.48 and A/C.1/60/INF/2, as reissued. In addition, the following countries have become sponsors: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Ecuador, Israel, Kazakhstan, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Peru, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Timor-Leste, Turkmenistan, the United States of America and Uruguay.

There is an oral statement concerning the draft resolution, which, with the Chairman's permission, I shall now read out:

"In connection with draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.48, entitled 'Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects', I wish to put on record the following statement of financial implications on behalf of the Secretary-General.

"Under the terms of operative paragraphs 11 and 12 of draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.48, the General Assembly would, respectively, request the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services, including summary records, as may be required for the Meeting of States Parties on 24 and 25 November 2005, as well as for any possible continuation of work after the Meeting, should the States parties deem it appropriate, and for the third Review

Conference and its preparatory meetings. It would also request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as depositary of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, to continue to inform the General Assembly periodically, by electronic means, of ratifications and acceptances of and accessions to the Convention, its amended article I and the Protocols thereto.

“The costs for servicing the Meeting of States parties, the Third Review Conference and its preparatory meetings will be borne by the States parties and States not parties to the Convention participating in such meetings, in accordance with the United Nations scale of assessments, adjusted appropriately.

“Following the established practice, the Secretariat will prepare cost estimates for the Third Review Conference for the approval of the States parties. It is recalled that all activities related to international conventions or treaties that are, under their respective legal arrangements, to be financed outside the regular budget of the United Nations may be undertaken by the Secretariat only when sufficient funding is received in advance from States parties. Accordingly, the adoption of draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.48 would not give rise to any programme budget implications.”

**Ms. Borsiin Bonnier** (Sweden): I just wish to make a correction with respect to draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.48. The Secretariat pointed out that Sweden was an additional co-sponsor of the draft resolution. As a matter of fact, we were the original sponsor.

**The Chairman:** The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

*Draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.48 was adopted.*

**The Chairman:** The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.58.

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee to conduct the voting.

**Ms. Stoute** (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.58 is entitled “Information on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms”.

The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Argentina at the Committee’s 14th meeting, on 18 October. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in documents A/C.1/60/L.58 and A/C.1/60/INF.2\*. In addition, Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Croatia, Dominica, Italy, Niger and Switzerland have become sponsors of the draft resolution.

**The Chairman:** The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

*Draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.58 was adopted.*

**The Chairman:** The Committee will now turn to cluster 5, “Regional disarmament and security”.

**Mr. Ali** (Algeria) (*spoke in French*): The resolution on the strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region has always enjoyed consensus in the First Committee. We would hope that the consensus will continue this year. My delegation attaches particular importance to the draft resolution. Both it and the Barcelona Declaration of 28 November 1995 are among the very few consensual texts for the Mediterranean region on the matter of peace and security.

The consensus will be especially significant this year by sending a strong message to those who are now striving for the success of an event critical to the region — the convening of the first summit meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean partners, to be held in late November to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Barcelona Declaration.

**The Chairman:** I call on the representative of the United Kingdom for an explanation of vote before the voting.

**Mr. Freeman** (United Kingdom): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and all the countries that have aligned themselves with draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.47, entitled “Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region”.

The European Union welcomes draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.47, which all member States have sponsored and which we hope will be adopted without a vote. The European Union attaches great importance to the issues of security, non-proliferation and disarmament in the Mediterranean region. As stated in the European Union's Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, adopted by our leaders in December 2003, "security in Europe is closely linked to security and stability in the Mediterranean".

The draft resolution also recognizes that prospects for closer Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in all spheres can be enhanced by positive developments worldwide, in particular in Europe, in the Maghreb and in the Middle East. Among security issues of concern to Mediterranean countries, we have taken particular interest in the areas of terrorism — the European Union has proposed a code of conduct to combat it — drug trafficking, organized crime and illegal human trafficking, and called on partners both to combat illegal immigration and to deepen dialogue with countries of origin and transit.

The Barcelona or Euro-Mediterranean process, launched in 1995 as the Mediterranean dimension of the European Union's external policy, has made a major contribution to the establishment and development of a global partnership between the European Union, its member countries and the Mediterranean partners. The partnership includes engagements regarding the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, disarmament, nuclear-weapon-free zones, verification, conventional weapons and confidence-building measures. The European Union attaches particular importance to the goal of transforming the Mediterranean into a sea of peace, stability, cooperation and development, as well as and above all security. On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Barcelona Declaration, the European Union is looking forward to the launching of more action-oriented measures.

In the context of working towards strengthening security and stability in that crucial region, the European Union warmly welcomes Libya's decision to eliminate all material, equipment and programmes which lead to the production of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, together with the practical steps it has undertaken since to implement that decision. The case of Libya demonstrates that

the problems of proliferation can, with good will, be tackled through discussion and engagement, and that States have nothing to fear from coming forward and admitting non-compliance.

The European Union calls on all States of the Mediterranean region that have not yet done so to accede to all the multilaterally negotiated, legally binding instruments in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation in order to strengthen peace and cooperation in the region.

**The Chairman:** If no other delegations wish to take the floor at this stage, the Committee will proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.47. I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

**Ms. Stoute** (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.47 is entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region." The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Algeria at the 13th meeting, held on 17 October. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in documents A/C.1/60/L.47 and A/C.1/60/INF/2, as reissued. In addition, Austria has now become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

**The Chairman:** The sponsors have expressed the wish that the draft resolution be adopted by the Committee without a vote. In the absence of objection, may I take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly?

*Draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.47 was adopted.*

**The Chairman:** The Committee will now move on to cluster 6, "Other disarmament measures and international security". I open the floor for delegations wishing to make a general statement or wishing to introduce draft resolutions.

**Ms. Sanders** (United States of America): Revision 1 to draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.1, "Compliance with non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament agreements," is about to be issued. I take the floor to introduce this revised draft resolution.

The United States has consulted widely on the text of this draft resolution since the beginning of this year's session of the First Committee. We have listened carefully to the views of a variety of delegations from all regional groups, and we are grateful to those delegations that gave us the benefit of their concerns and insights. The comments we received were carefully

considered in Washington. We believe that delegations will see that the revised text contains extensive changes that attempt seriously to take into account as many of these comments as possible.

We believe that there is no more important time than now, when the international community is facing significant challenges and threats, for this body to express the strongest and broadest endorsement of compliance. The United States asks the support of all delegations for this draft resolution and welcomes co-sponsorship by all delegations in a position to do so.

**The Chairman:** If no other delegations wish to take the floor at this stage, the Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.42.

**Ms. Stoute** (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.42 is entitled, "Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Germany, at the Committee's 13th meeting, held on 17 October. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in documents A/C.1/60/L.42 and A/C.1/60/INF/2, as reissued. In addition, Albania, Nauru, Niger and the Republic of Korea have become sponsors of the draft resolution.

**The Chairman:** The sponsors of the resolution have expressed the wish that the draft be adopted by the Committee without a vote. In the absence of objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

*Draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.42 was adopted.*

**The Chairman:** The Committee will now move on to cluster 7, "Disarmament machinery". I open the floor for delegations wishing to make a general statement or to introduce draft resolutions.

**Mr. Meyer** (Canada): This is more of a procedural point. If I understood you correctly, Sir, you had intended to add A/C.1/60/L.41, the draft resolution relating to the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, to today's action. There is, I believe, a general principle in the Committee that we should have twenty-four hours' notice before being asked to take action on a draft resolution, and, in light of that, I would ask that this draft resolution be deferred until tomorrow to allow us and our capitals at least that minimum amount of time before we are asked to pronounce on it.

**Mr. Udedibia** (Nigeria): My delegation had actually asked for the floor before the representative of Canada spoke, so my request for the floor was not originally made in order to respond to the issue he has just raised. However, before I make the comment that I had originally intended to make, I should like to react to his intervention by saying that the African Group would have no objection to considering the draft resolution tomorrow, if that is also acceptable to other delegations.

My original purpose in asking for the floor on behalf of the African Group was to correct an error, in fact, an omission, in draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.41. This is in reference to preambular paragraph 5 on page 2, which starts with the words, "Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General". After the phrase "Regional Centre", the word "continued" was omitted. The text should read as follows, "Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, in which it was stated that the Regional Centre continued to carry out."

**The Chairman:** Regarding A/C.1/60/L.41, I take it that the general sense of the room is that we should defer all deliberation on that draft resolution to a future time, not today. So, cluster 7 will contain only one draft resolution, A/C.1/60/L.32/Rev.1, for today's deliberations.

**Mr. Mine** (Japan): I should like to make a statement on draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.32/Rev.1, entitled, "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific". Japan has sponsored this draft resolution again this year, because my delegation, representing a country located in that part of the world, attaches great importance to the activities of the Centre.

At the same time, however, Japan's support for the draft resolution should not be regarded as an indication of satisfaction with the slow pace of the implementation of earlier resolutions concerning the relocation of the Centre. In fact, the thematic debate with the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs and the directors of the regional centres clearly demonstrated that very little substantive progress has been made towards the resolution of this outstanding issue. The fact that the same language has been used several times in recent resolutions on this issue is further evidence of that regrettable fact.

The unanimous adoption of the draft resolution should therefore be understood as a reflection of the

high expectations which Member States, and countries in the Asia and the Pacific region in particular, hold for its actual implementation. In that regard, Japan considers it important that explanations on the status of the negotiations between the concerned parties be provided on a regular basis to the countries in the region in order for them to have a better understanding of the issue; if necessary, setting up a small group of interested States will be useful for sorting out the problem.

My delegation will certainly revisit this issue in the First Committee next year to examine the progress that we trust will, by then, have been made.

**Mr. Moon Seung-hyun** (Republic of Korea): My delegation also wishes to make a general statement on draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.32/Rev.1, entitled “United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific”. The Republic of Korea has strongly supported the work of the Regional Centre in promoting dialogue and cooperation among countries in the region. Our support is based on the belief that regional security issues can be better addressed in a regional context, and that fostering understanding and cooperation among countries in the region will certainly contribute to the peace and security of the region in general, as well as in specific terms. We believe that the constructive role of the Regional Centre should not only be maintained, but also strengthened, in order that it may cope more effectively with emerging challenges regarding security-related matters in the Asia-Pacific region.

My delegation is pleased to note that the Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific has carried out those responsibilities successfully through various activities, such as hosting workshops, seminars and conferences, and most recently through assisting in finalizing a treaty on a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia.

My delegation takes this opportunity to commend the Regional Centre in Asia and the Pacific for its achievements and to lend our strong support and commitment to the goal of the effective functioning of the Centre.

My delegation is of the view that the increasingly important role of the Regional Centre in a changing security environment means that it must be more efficiently harnessed in both its physical and financial dimensions. Having said that, however, we note with

regret that the issue of relocating the Centre remains pending, without any workable solution having been found during the past five years. We believe that the expeditious resolution of the relocation issue is imperative to ensure the smooth and effective operation of the Centre in order to facilitate its contribution to the cause of peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region.

In that regard, we take note of the strong commitment of the Nepalese Government to address that issue, with strength, vigour and interest, and we appreciate its constructive intention to that end.

We also appreciate the efforts of the Secretary-General to continue to consult with Member States in the region in order to ensure the operational sustainability of the Centre. It is our sincere hope that the relocation issue will be resolved in a manner that will meet the best interests of the countries in the region, at the earliest possible date, through close and focused consultations among relevant parties.

**The Chairman:** The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.32/Rev.1.

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

**Ms. Stoute** (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.32/Rev.1 is entitled “United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific”. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Nepal at the Committee’s 15th meeting, held on 19 October 2005. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in document A/C.1/60/L.32/Rev.1. In addition, the following countries have become sponsors of the draft resolution: Cambodia, Fiji, Kyrgyzstan, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste.

There is an oral statement regarding the draft resolution which, with your permission, Sir, I shall now read out.

“In connection with draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.32/Rev.1, entitled ‘United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific’, I wish to put on record the following statement of financial implications on behalf of the Secretary-General.

“Under the terms of operative paragraphs 5 and 6 of draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.32/Rev.1, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General, taking note of paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 49/76 D of 15 December 1994, to provide the Regional Centre with the necessary support, within existing resources, in carrying out its programme of activities; urge the Secretary-General to ensure the physical operation of the Regional Centre from Kathmandu within six months of the date of signature of the host country agreement, and to enable the Centre to function effectively.

“The implementation of the request contained in operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution would be carried out within the resources provided under section 4, ‘Disarmament’, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007. The provision contained therein covers a P-5 post for the Director of the Regional Centre. The programme of activities of the Centre would continue to be financed from extrabudgetary resources.

“With respect to operative paragraph 6, regarding the physical operation of the Regional Centre from Kathmandu, the Department for Disarmament Affairs would continue consultations with His Majesty’s Government of Nepal. The physical operation of the Centre from Kathmandu would be funded from extrabudgetary resources.

“The attention of the Committee is drawn to the provisions of section 6 of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and reaffirmed also the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative And Budgetary Questions.

“Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.32/Rev.1, no additional requirements would arise under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.”

**The Chairman:** The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.32/Rev.1 have expressed the wish that the draft resolution be adopted by the Committee without a vote.

If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

*Draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.32/Rev.1 was adopted.*

**The Chairman:** The Committee has completed its deliberations on all the draft resolutions contained in informal working paper number 2, but we had agreed that the Committee will be in a position to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.2, regarding the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, as soon as the oral statement is ready.

That oral statement has now been prepared. I therefore propose that we now take action on draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.2.

I shall now call on delegations wishing to speak in explanation of position.

**Mr. Prasad (India):** The Indian delegation has requested the floor to speak briefly in support of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/60/L.2, entitled “Twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research” (UNIDIR). UNIDIR is the brain trust of the United Nations disarmament machinery. It helps focus expertise on critical international security issues of both abiding and contemporary interest. Its workshops and symposiums help catalyse useful and relevant ideas on issues on the global disarmament agenda. Besides, we find UNIDIR’s publications to be most useful and instructive.

The draft resolution refers to the audit report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, which testifies to the high quality and utility of UNIDIR’s research output in terms of topic and analysis compared to that from peer research institutions, based on independent verification from random respondents.

We are also happy that, in accordance with its statute as an autonomous institution, UNIDIR continues to carry out independent research. The adoption of the proposed draft resolution by the First Committee and the General Assembly will be a reaffirmation of the value of this institution to the global disarmament community.

**Mr. Rahman** (Bangladesh): Bangladesh would like to add its name to the list of sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.2.

**The Chairman:** The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.2.

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee to conduct the voting.

**Ms. Stoute** (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.2 is entitled “Twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research”. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of France at the Committee’s 15th meeting, on 19 October 2005. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in document A/C.1/60/L.2 and A/C.1/60/INF/2. In addition, Denmark has become a sponsor of the draft resolution. There is an oral statement to that draft resolution which, with the Chairman’s permission, I shall now read.

In connection with draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.2, entitled “Twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research”, I wish to put on record the following statement of financial implications on behalf of the Secretary-General.

By operative paragraph 5 of draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.2, the General Assembly would recommend that the Secretary-General implement the relevant recommendations of OIOS and the decisions of the Board of Trustees and continue to seek ways to increase the funding of the Institute within existing resources.

The relevant recommendations of the OIOS are referred to in the preambular paragraph that states:

“Taking note of the Office of Internal Oversight Services audit report on the Institute, which makes a positive assessment of the impact of the work of the Institute and recommends that the Institute should seek adequate funding from the regular budget to better meet the costs of its core staff and that the Institute, in consultation with its Board of Trustees, should establish specific posts for the core functions of the Institute”.

The decisions of the Board of Trustees are referred to in the preambular paragraph that states:

“Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters [A/60/285], in which, after considering the OIOS audit report, the Board recommended that the costs of the core staff of the Institute should be funded from the regular budget of the United Nations”.

The Director of UNIDIR will work with OIOS, the Board and the Secretariat to consider ways and means to implement the relevant recommendations of OIOS and the decisions of the Board of Trustees.

Accordingly, the adoption of draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.2 would not give rise to any programme budget implications.

The attention of the Committee is drawn to the provisions of section 6 of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters and reaffirmed also the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

**The Chairman:** The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that the draft resolution be adopted by the Committee without a vote.

If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

*Draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.2 was adopted.*

**The Chairman:** I give the floor to those delegations wishing to make statements in explanation of position.

**Mr. Mine** (Japan): I should like to explain Japan’s position on the draft resolution just adopted, which is contained in document A/C.1/60/L.2, entitled “Twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research”.

First of all, we deeply appreciate the work done by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), which is very helpful to our work in the field of disarmament. Japan continues fully to cooperate with and support the Institute.

Having said that, I should like to clarify Japan's position with regard to the budget implications that this draft resolution may have in connection with the United Nations regular budget. It is Japan's belief that the implementation of the recommendation of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, as well as the decision by the Board of Trustees, should be considered very carefully.

Japan would like to remind the Secretariat of the fact that this draft resolution recommends implementation within existing resources and sincerely hopes that it will not cause an increase in the 2006-2007 United Nations regular budget or in future budgets.

**Ms. Sanders** (United States of America): I just wanted to make a point regarding the two decisions we took by consensus that had oral statements of financial implications.

I think they illustrate the fact that it would be very helpful to have these ahead of time and in writing. We are sitting here listening to somewhat complicated paragraphs referring back to previous resolutions and reports. I would therefore request that as much as possible in future we get such financial implications in writing and ahead of time.

**The Chairman:** At its next meeting, the Committee will continue to take action on the draft resolutions listed in informal working paper number 3, which has just been distributed to members of the Committee.

I wish also to inform the Committee that draft resolution A/C.1/60/L.41 will be added to cluster 7. Cluster 7 will therefore contain three draft resolutions — L.17, L.17 and L.41 — instead of two.

*The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.*