



General Assembly

Sixty-eighth session

First Committee

20th meeting

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New York

Official Records

Chair: Mr. Dabbashi (Libya)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda items 89 to 107 (continued)

Thematic discussion on item subjects and introduction and consideration of all draft resolutions submitted under all disarmament and related international security agenda items

The Chair (*spoke in Arabic*): In accordance with our programme of work and timetable, we should have been starting the third and final stage of our work, namely, “Action on all draft resolutions submitted under agenda items”, today. However, as I noted yesterday, the Committee will devote this morning’s and this afternoon’s meetings to hearing from the remaining speakers on the clusters on conventional weapons, other disarmament measures and international security, and regional disarmament and security.

As I have urged delegations to do on several occasions in past meetings, I would appeal once again to all those taking the floor henceforth to kindly keep their statements short and within a time limit of no more than four minutes. Those who have previously shared the views contained in their statements will be doing the Committee a great favour by volunteering not to take the floor again. That is the only way we can speed up our deliberations and fulfil the hope of starting the action, and final, phase of our work tomorrow and also of concluding our work for this session by the 6 November deadline recommended by the General Committee.

We will now hear from the first speaker on the remaining list of speakers on conventional weapons.

Mr. Woolcott (Australia): More than any other category of weapons, conventional arms kill, maim and bring unspeakable suffering every year to millions of people around the world. The unchecked availability and misuse of such weapons and their ammunition fuel conflict and instability, threaten innocent lives and livelihoods, and result in widespread violations of humanitarian law. Those weapons are without a doubt the world’s biggest killers.

In the past year, however, the international community has made considerable progress in addressing that threat. The adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) on 2 April by the General Assembly (resolution 67/234 B) was not only the culmination of seven years of hard work. It was the result of a nearly universal recognition of the need to better regulate the conventional arms trade, reduce the impact of armed violence and save lives. We pay special tribute to all those, including people from civil society, who worked tirelessly to bring the Treaty into existence in 2013. What we now have is a strong, robust and effective instrument that will make a real difference, but only once it has been effectively implemented. Here our work begins, again.

First, we must focus on achieving the Treaty’s early entry in force. With 114 signatures and eight ratifications, we are well on the way to reaching that goal. Once the Treaty has entered into force, we must ensure that it is effectively implemented across different regions of the world. Australia is committed to assisting others in ratifying and implementing the Treaty and, ultimately, in strengthening national capacities to regulate the cross-border movement of arms.

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That is why Australia has committed \$1 million to initiate the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation. The Facility is now receiving proposals, and we encourage all States in a position to do so to contribute to this important new initiative, which will kickstart assistance to countries wishing to ratify the ATT as soon as possible.

Australia is also pleased once again, alongside other ATT co-authors, to present another ATT-related draft resolution at the sixty-eight session of the General Assembly. We call on all States to demonstrate their support for the Treaty by supporting this draft resolution, which seeks to build on a strong international momentum behind the Treaty and ensure its earliest entry into force.

In the area of small arms and light weapons, Australia is pleased to have been at the forefront of addressing the specific challenge that such weapons pose to international peace and security. The adoption of Security Council resolution 2117 (2013) on 26 September complements and builds on the ATT, the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the International Tracing Instrument. The resolution reinforces the Security Council's efforts to comprehensively tackle the illicit transfer and the destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons, and elaborates practical steps to achieve that. Australia remains as committed as ever to the effective implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and to building on the consensus outcome of the second Review Conference in 2012.

As we all know, the explosive remnants of war, which include cluster munitions and landmines, leave a deadly legacy long after the cessation of conflict. The explosive remnants of war injure and kill indiscriminately, causing damage to infrastructure, hindering humanitarian access and impeding economic and social development.

Australia is committed to attaining the goals of the key international instruments that seek to reduce the impact of such weapons and urges all States, where they have not already done so, to join the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. Australia is very pleased to have become a State party to the Convention on Cluster

Munitions and to have participated in that capacity at the Fourth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention just last month in Lusaka, Zambia. We take this opportunity to welcome Zambia's presidency this year and its efforts towards prioritizing the universalization of the CCM.

Australia has worked assiduously to enhance cooperation and assistance under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. We have now reached our commitment of providing \$100 million to mine action over four years, two years ahead of schedule. We have continued to support this high priority after bringing our total contribution to \$123 million since 2010.

Australia is also honoured to have served, since November 2011, as Chair of the Mine Action Support Group (MASG), which enhances the effectiveness of donor funding through improved coordination and partnerships. We welcome and offer our full support to Japan as the incoming Chair of the MASG in 2014.

Mr. Červenka (Czech Republic): My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by observer of the European Union (see A/C.1/68/PV.18). Let me add the following remarks in my national capacity.

The Register of Conventional Arms was designed to provide transparency on armaments as an important confidence-building measure to foster international peace and security. In order to fulfil that role, it must have a set of reliable and comparable data large enough to reflect the bigger picture as well as current developments. In that vein, a steady decline in reporting to the Register over the past few years has made it difficult to fulfil the original goals. That also discredits the efforts of those, including the Czech Republic, that have faithfully provided national reports. Is there a lack of political will, or are there technical obstacles preventing States from reporting? An adequate solution stems directly from the answer to that question. Any improvement that we make to the Register should also work well for other types of annual reporting aimed at promoting transparency, starting with military expenditures and ending with changes in the domestic regimes of military equipment and the dual-use goods controls.

The Czech Republic has had a representative in the Group of Government Experts on the Register of Conventional Arms (GGE). We appreciate the fact that the Czech expert was able to take part in that periodic exercise aimed at keeping the Register up to date, in

terms of methodology. The past round of the GGE's work was useful and timely, especially in light of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which was adopted recently. However, we regret that the Group of Governmental Experts was unable to reach consensus on the inclusion of small arms and light weapons as a new mandatory category in the Register. We think that it is appropriate to strive towards such a conclusion.

The upcoming Biennial Meeting of States on the Programme of Action on Small Arms in June 2014 should boost talks and give small arms and light weapons their rightful place within the Register's seven traditional categories of conventional arms. My delegation would also like to congratulate Ambassador Tanin on his nomination as the Chair-designate of that meeting. We assure him of our cooperation and support.

The Czech Republic welcomes with satisfaction the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty by an overwhelming majority of Member States. We hope that that Treaty will not only change the landscape of trade in armaments but also persuade the various international control regimes to interact by modifying their rules accordingly. The ATT has had a positive influence on the willingness of the international community to change the rules of the game in favour of those suffering from the illicit trade in weapons. In that regard, we also welcome the adoption of Security Council resolution 2117 (2013) on small arms and light weapons, an historic resolution that was not, regrettably, adopted unanimously.

Finally, let me inform the Committee that during this year's Treaty event, the Czech Republic submitted a ratification instrument on the Firearms Protocol to the Palermo Convention.

Mr. Hajnoczi (Austria): I refer members to the statement of the European Union on conventional weapons (see A/C.1/68/PV.18) and the Austrian contribution to the general debate (see A/C.1/68/PV.8) and will focus here only on one important aspect: the protection of civilians in the light of current and future challenges.

International law — including humanitarian law as enshrined in the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, human rights law and disarmament treaty law — provide the normative framework for the protection of civilians and must be respected. Humanitarian disarmament instruments, such as the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions, have crucially

strengthened the normative realm of the international legal framework for the protection of civilians. We call on all States that have not done so to accede to them. They have also set the norm for the recognition of the rights of victims on a non-discriminatory basis and have incorporated provisions for the assistance of victims.

We emphasize that States have a responsibility to protect and safeguard their people, which includes providing assistance to persons who fall victim to the use of such weapons. We need to ensure that we effectively fulfil our obligations to assist those who have fallen victim to armed violence and step up our efforts to meet the rights and needs of survivors, affected families and communities, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders, including international and non-governmental organizations. In view of the massive human suffering caused by armed violence to civilians, it is our duty to continue to assess the international legal framework against the background of a constantly changing international environment that includes new weapons technologies and new weapons systems, which must be evaluated for their potential humanitarian impact and implications.

The humanitarian consequences of explosive weapons are of particular concern. The widespread use of such weapons in densely populated areas causes indiscriminate harm and inflicts appalling suffering on its victims, most of whom are civilians. We welcome the Secretary-General's call to recognize and act on that critical issue and to consider the concrete steps that can be taken to reduce the humanitarian impact of explosive weapons in populated areas.

In the not-too-distant future, fully autonomous weapons systems may become available. The implications of such developments for international humanitarian law require urgent engagement and further discussion in the relevant United Nations forums with a view to ensuring that such weapons will not be used in a way that violates internationally recognized principles such as proportionality in the use of force or the obligation to distinguish between civilians and combatants. Moreover, we are concerned by the possible long-term detrimental effects caused by emanations from depleted uranium. Research on that issue should continue.

The humanitarian impact of armed violence is by no means limited to armed conflict. The majority of civilian casualties and deaths resulting from armed

violence actually occurs in countries that are not affected by armed conflict. Victims of such violence also have needs and rights that must be addressed. Moreover, armed violence cannot be separated from transnational crime, including trafficking in persons, drugs and arms. We expect the Arms Trade Treaty to play a decisive role in reducing civilian casualties by regulating the international arms trade for the first time. Austria remains committed to preventing gender-based violence and strongly supported the inclusion of that concept in the Arms Trade Treaty as an important step forward.

Mr. Grunditz (Sweden): Sweden fully aligns itself with the comprehensive statement delivered earlier in the thematic debate by the observer of the European Union (see A/C.1/68/PV.18). We would now like to make a few short remarks in our national capacity.

The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) represents a major success for the efforts to curb the illicit and irresponsible trade in conventional arms, for multilateral arms control and for the United Nations system as such. We wish to pay tribute to Ambassadors García Moritán and Woolcott and their teams, as well as to the group of co-authors, the civil society organizations and all those who worked tirelessly over the past several years to make the adoption of the ATT a reality. The process has now entered a new phase, and we look forward to working closely with partners in making sure that the implementation of the Treaty will be supported by an effective secretariat and constructive interaction among States parties.

Sweden attaches great importance to the early entry into force and effective implementation of the ATT, because it can be fully effective only when universally implemented. The international community has the responsibility, and States parties the obligation, to support those who need assistance with its implementation. We would like to acknowledge the work of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs as well as of others in that regard.

Sweden remains a strong supporter of the 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 (CCW) as a pillar of international humanitarian law and an important part of the disarmament architecture. This year, Sweden has the honour of chairing the Seventh Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V of the CCW. In his capacity as President-

designate, our ambassador in Geneva was mandated by the High Contracting Parties at the Sixth Conference, in November 2012, to carry out efforts aimed at universalizing the Protocol. As a part of that mandate, the President-designate was encouraged to report to the General Assembly on those efforts.

As part of that universalization effort, Swedish diplomatic representatives have held meetings in a number of States to encourage them to join Protocol V. Many States expressed support for the principles underlying the CCW and Protocol V, and some gave very positive responses that instilled hope that their accession to the CCW or to Protocol V could take place in the immediate future.

Those efforts lead us to conclude that more must be done to increase knowledge of the CCW and its Protocols and to raise awareness of the crucial role that that instrument plays in strengthening international humanitarian law. In that context, we recognize the efforts of previous presidents of the Convention and its Protocols and those of the CCW implementation support unit in Geneva.

Sweden welcomes the accession of Kuwait and Zambia to the CCW and that of Bangladesh to Protocol V, especially since those countries represent parts of the world where the rate of adherence to the CCW and its Protocols remains low. It is particularly unfortunate that many of the countries that remain outside the CCW are affected by mines and other explosive remnants of war. With that in mind, continued efforts for the universalization of the CCW and all its annexed protocols should remain a priority.

Mr. El Oummi (Morocco) (*spoke in Arabic*): Allow me to begin by thanking the representative of Bahrain for the statement he delivered on behalf of the Arab Group (see A/C.1/68/PV.18).

Following our statement in the general debate (see A/C.1/68/PV.9), I would like to make several additional points. Conventional weapons, in particular small arms and light weapons, are at the heart of the humanitarian crises that threaten the stability and territorial integrity of States, particularly in Africa. That is why we call for control over the transfers of such weapons. We are pleased to note the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty, which constitutes a breakthrough in its field. We welcome all efforts and initiatives that will assist its entry into force. We also support the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and reiterate the importance of its comprehensive and effective

implementation, as discussed at the Review Conference and reaffirmed in Security Council resolution 2117 (2013). We reiterate the importance of international cooperation and support to States in need.

To conclude, Morocco reiterates the importance of the Arms Trade Treaty.

Mr. Simon-Michel (France) (*spoke in French*): France naturally supports the statement made by the observer of the European Union two days ago (see A/C.1/68/PV.18). I would like to add several remarks in the national capacity of France.

The year 2013 has been marked by an historic development — the conclusion of negotiations on the Arms Trade Treaty. France signed the Treaty on 3 June. Our parliamentary ratification procedure is under way in Paris. The Senate unanimously approved the text on 8 October.

We will have to decide quickly on the modalities for implementing the Treaty and for establishing the secretariat. Several criteria will be important in determining the choice of the city to host the headquarters of that secretariat: the presence of disarmament and arms control expertise, expertise in international humanitarian law and human rights and in trade, and the proximity of organizations working in the field. Geneva fully meets all of those criteria.

Our efforts in conventional disarmament are aimed at strengthening international peace and security and at contributing to general and complete disarmament, but they have a very important humanitarian dimension as well. In that respect, I would like to say a few words about the situation in Syria. The massacre that was committed on 21 August in Syria by means of chemical weapons is terrifying, but it must not cause us to forget about the other types of suffering that the Syrian people are enduring and the other violations of international humanitarian law, including the use of other unacceptable types of conventional weapons, in particular cluster munitions and, according to some allegations, incendiary weapons.

On 14 and 15 November, France will chair the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The Convention is a unique forum that brings together complementary expertise, including in the diplomatic, humanitarian, legal and military fields. That plurality of approaches is a strength. We must take advantage of it.

France welcomes the accession of two new States in 2013 to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons: Kuwait and Zambia. France also welcomes the accession of Bangladesh to the amendment to article 1 and to Protocol V of the Convention. France hopes that recent progress towards the universalization of the Convention will continue. I have undertaken initiatives in most of the States not parties to the Convention through our diplomatic network.

We must also look to the future and address its challenges. A new debate has emerged in recent months on the issue of lethal autonomous robots. That is a key debate, as it raises the fundamental question of the place of mankind in the decision to use lethal force. It is also a difficult debate, as it raises many ethical, legal, operational and technical issues. It covers technologies that are not yet fully developed and that are often dual-use. The terms of the debate must be clarified. Please allow me, as President of the next Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW, to underline the fact that that forum is the appropriate one in which to deal with such questions.

Ms. Arenas Aguilar (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): I will deliver an abridged version of our statement. The official version will appear on the Committee's website.

A great deal of the attention paid to the issue of small arms and light weapons has been focused on their use in conflict areas. However, the burden of armed violence against human beings, societies and States is far greater than that of the violence restricted to conflict areas. In our region, illicit trafficking in arms arises from social inequality, lack of socioeconomic opportunities, inability to enforce the rule of law, the growing presence of drug-related trafficking and transnational organized crime.

Our country suffered under a civil war for over three decades and emerged from that conflict only 15 years ago. We continue, however, to suffer from high levels of homicide, armed violence and general insecurity, which are factors that also have a negative impact on the country's economic development. Therefore, the struggle against arms trafficking is foremost among our Government's priorities.

As we have previously stated, arms trafficking is a problem that supersedes borders and extends beyond countries and regions. No single country can tackle that challenge on its own — hence the pressing need for

coordinated efforts at the international level. That is why we support the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). We welcome its historic adoption earlier this year. Guatemala was a firm proponent of that important instrument from the beginning of the negotiations on the Treaty. We are proud that the international community adopted a legally binding instrument, the aim of which is to considerably reduce the human cost of the proliferation of arms at the global level.

Clearly, it is not a perfect instrument, nor is it a panacea that will solve all the problems related to the illicit trafficking in arms. In particular, we regret the fact that the Treaty does not deal with munitions, ammunition, parts and components but rather with the conventional weapons that are included in the scope of the Treaty. However, we welcome the inclusion of small arms and light weapons, and we unreservedly believe that the Treaty has the potential to make a real difference, once it enters into force. It is therefore a great honour for my country to have acceded to the Arms Trade Treaty on 24 June. We are in the process of undertaking every possible effort in order to conclude the domestic process to ensure its ratification and thus contribute to the final objective, which is its prompt entry into force.

Small arms and light weapons are a cross-cutting issue that is addressed by both the General Assembly and the Security Council. It is therefore important to welcome and acknowledge the important role that other United Nations forums can play in that regard. We welcome the recent adoption of Security Council resolution 2117 (2013), which is the first resolution adopted by the Council that focuses specifically on the issue of small arms and light weapons and which recognizes the responsibility of States to protect their civilian populations. It also recognizes the link between such arms and the increase in sexual and gender-based violence, on the one hand, and the important contribution that the adoption of the Treaty represents, on the other.

We join the call for further efforts to prevent and eliminate the use of highly explosive weapons and weapons of indiscriminate effect in densely populated areas, which is, without a doubt, a violation of international law. We therefore welcome the Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the Fourth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, held in Lusaka. Guatemala condemns

any use of cluster munitions, regardless of who uses them and the circumstances under which they are used. We reiterate that such an act constitutes a violation of the principles enshrined in international humanitarian law. Guatemala reaffirms its commitment to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and to promote cooperation and assistance on the issues covered by the Treaty.

We also reiterate our commitment to the humanitarian principles enshrined in the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

Finally, my delegation would like to underscore the importance of the full implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

Mr. Kellerman (South Africa): In view of the time constraints, I will limit my remarks during this thematic discussion on conventional weapons to only three issues, but we will post the full text of our statement on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs.

As we are all aware, the most significant development that took place this year in the field of conventional arms was the landmark adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) on 2 April. At the time of the vote, in which South Africa voted in favour of adopting the ATT, our delegation stated that the Treaty is an international instrument that fills a glaring gap in the global conventional arms control system. Above all, we believe that the central aspect of the effective implementation of the ATT lies in the requirement that prospective States parties establish, where they do not already exist, effective national conventional arms transfer control legislation, dedicated and functioning arms control systems, official national administrative guidelines, national inspectorates and practical enforcement measures, including punitive measures for transgressions. The fact that South Africa was eager for President Zuma to sign the ATT during the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly reflects the importance that my country attributes to that highly relevant Treaty.

South Africa has on many occasions expressed its concern about the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions. As a signatory to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), we remain fully committed to the implementation of all its provisions. We are pleased to announce that the CCM has been sent to

the South African Parliament for ratification. In that regard, South Africa's cabinet has emphasized that the ratification of the Convention is in line with South Africa's commitments to upholding human rights and humanitarian law. We hope that, now that this crucial step has been completed, the ratification by Parliament will be finalized as soon as possible.

It is a sad reality that suffering on the African continent has often been caused by weapons that are manufactured elsewhere in the world. We therefore call on all States to condemn any use of cluster munitions, which have negative effects on the livelihoods of people, in particular those who live in affected areas, even long after the cessation of conflict.

Ms. Ramirez Valenzuela (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): Small arms and light weapons are the objects of a lucrative illegal trade and unlimited and irresponsible transfers, claiming an alarming number of lives worldwide and fuelling the bloodiest conflicts. Moreover, those weapons are also used by criminals and criminal organizations to attack society and undermine the rule of law. Easy access to arms, unlimited civilian possession thereof and the lack of effective controls and of the adequate regulation of ammunition have devastating consequences for the entire world, in humanitarian, economic, political and social terms.

Mexico welcomes the fact that at the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, the First Committee will be able to take action on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) as a fact and not on the treaty negotiation process. That had been the case since 2006, when the first resolution was adopted, which gave rise to one of the most significant achievements of the Organization in recent years: the regulation of transfers of conventional weapons through a legally binding instrument. The ATT establishes specific responsibilities for States in the processes of conventional arms transfers in order to prevent their diversion to unauthorized users or purposes. The instrument sets high standards with a broad scope, recognizing the shared responsibilities of manufacturers, distributors and end users in the process of the international transfer of conventional arms.

Mexico believes that the adoption of the ATT was only the first step toward that end. We must now aim to achieve its prompt entry into force. The fact that, to date, 114 States are signatory to the Treaty and there have been eight ratifications from all regions of the world is a very positive sign, which leads us to believe that the ATT could enter into force next year. My country

encourages States that have not yet done so to accede to the Treaty and join the regime established by it.

Given the importance that we attach to the ATT and the urgent need to see its effects on the ground, Mexico acceded to the Treaty on 3 June, the day it was opened for signature, and deposited our instrument of ratification on 25 September. Moreover, my Government issued a declaration of provisional application of the Treaty to give immediate effect to articles 6 and 7, relating to prohibited exports and the risk assessment mechanism.

While the Treaty is the foundation that sets minimum standards for the regulation of the arms trade, it also has the capacity to evolve and adapt to new circumstances and weapons technologies. We must therefore continue strive to ensure its further strengthening to ensure that it makes a significant contribution to the progressive development of international law. We must also continue to work towards achieving tangible goals in preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in conventional arms.

Mr. Ballard (New Zealand): The signal achievement in the conventional weapons sphere this year was undoubtedly the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in April. New Zealand's strong support for the ATT has been founded in our belief that humanitarian concerns must continue to drive our collective work on disarmament and arms control. We are proud to be one of the 114 States that have signed the Treaty, and we are working hard to make the necessary changes in our domestic law to enable us to ratify it as soon as possible. We certainly look forward to being among the 50 States whose ratification will allow the ATT to enter into force. We intend to be an active Treaty partner, providing encouragement and assistance to interested countries on ratification and implementation of the ATT. New Zealand is working to develop model legislation for small States and will host a meeting on that subject in early December.

As we enter into the third review cycle of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, our challenge is now to make concrete progress where it matters most — effective implementation on the ground — and to ensure that the Programme of Action is able to keep abreast of other relevant developments, notably the recent development of the International Small Arms Control Standards and the adoption of the ATT. New Zealand welcomes the recent adoption of Security

Council resolution 2117 (2013), the Council's first on the subject of small arms and light weapons.

Both the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention continue to serve as beacons in our efforts to rid the world of weapons that cause indiscriminate and long-lasting humanitarian harm. New Zealand is heartened by progress in taking forward the aims of the CCM, which in its short life span has already gathered 84 ratifications. New Zealand is pleased to be able to continue our work next year as CCM Coordinator for National Implementation Measures, as we look forward to the Fifth Meeting of States Parties and then on to the Treaty's first Review Conference.

The international community's growing support for the CCM and its loud and clear condemnation of any use of cluster munitions are clear evidence of a growing international norm against such weapons. New Zealand strongly condemns the use of cluster munitions in Syria over the past year, which has only served to deepen the human suffering that has so plagued the ongoing conflict in that country.

The Mine Ban Convention is, of course, the trailblazer in the field of humanitarian disarmament. The work of clearing minefields, supporting affected communities and destroying stockpiles is progressing well, but it needs ongoing support. We look forward to working closely with Mozambique, particularly in our role as Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention, as we prepare for the Mine Ban Convention's Third Review Conference in Maputo next June.

The humanitarian considerations that underscore our commitment to addressing those issues have been frequently evoked during the Committee's work. We welcome the renewed emphasis on human security, and we acknowledge here civil society's important role in working with Governments to develop and implement effective solutions to the challenges that we have addressed. The advent of new weapons technologies, such as fully autonomous weapons systems, only underlines the need for us to continue to work together to ensure that the principles that guide us continue to be upheld. We look forward to continuing that partnership in this constantly evolving field.

Ms. Ally (Guyana): As this is the first time that my delegation has taken the floor, allow me to express my congratulations to you, Sir, and the other members of the Bureau on your election.

The lack of internationally binding rules governing the conventional arms trade has contributed to irreparable harm throughout the world, and countless lives have been lost owing to the consequences of the illicit, unregulated trade in conventional arms. For small developing countries, such as my own, the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, in particular, poses significant challenges to our security and development. Addressing those challenges entails the diversion of scarce resources from other critical purposes. Given the transnational nature of the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, Guyana believes that a multisectoral and holistic approach is imperative, involving the commitment of all States and with the assistance of international and regional institutions.

At the national level, the Government of Guyana has continued to invest significantly at all levels in efforts to improve the national security architecture. Such efforts have included expending more than 30 million Guyana dollars on training our police force thus far in 2013. Efforts are also being made to strengthen the relevant legislation. At the bilateral level, the Government has concluded agreements with all of our neighbouring countries as well as with other bilateral partners.

At the regional level, Guyana continues to work closely with our Caribbean Community (CARICOM) partners through the Regional Integrated Ballistic Information Network and the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security.

The historic adoption in April of the landmark Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) was testimony to the efficacy of multilateral diplomacy and the international community's collective resolve to tackle the devastating effects of the irresponsible and unregulated international trade in arms. For us in the Caribbean, the Treaty, once implemented effectively, will make a real difference to the safety and security of our citizens and to the fight against transnational crime. As one of the first countries to ratify the Treaty, Guyana urges all States to work to ensure its prompt entry into force.

CARICOM played a leading role in the ATT negotiation process and demonstrated before the international community its strong commitment to the establishment of controls on the conventional arms trade. The region has provided ample credibility as the site for an expected ATT secretariat. In that context, Guyana places on record its strong support for our sister CARICOM State, Trinidad and Tobago, in its bid to host the ATT secretariat.

Guyana views the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects as the current global normative framework through which the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons can be addressed in a cohesive and coordinated approach.

We recognize that implementation of the Programme of Action remains uneven among and between regions. In that regard, we call for strengthened international cooperation and assistance, which is critical to reinforcing and coordinating national and regional efforts to ensure effective and broad implementation of the Programme of Action. Moreover, we must seek to examine ways in which implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty can complement our present implementation of the Programme of Action and strengthen our resolve to fight the scourge of illicit trafficking in conventional arms and, particularly, in small arms and light weapons.

Mrs. Parkar (India): India shares concerns about the challenges to international peace and security posed by conventional weapons, including small arms and light weapons. We welcome the successful conclusion of the Second Review Conference of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects with the adoption of the outcome document by consensus. We note with satisfaction that the Review Conference reaffirmed the key commitments of States under the Programme of Action. It is important to maintain consensus in the Programme of Action process in the coming years, while making further progress on both the political and the technical aspects of its implementation.

India remains committed to the process of the 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 (CCW), which seeks to strengthen progressively the role and principles of international humanitarian law. India supports the vision of a world free of the threat of landmines and is committed to the eventual elimination of anti-personnel landmines. We support the approach enshrined in Amended Protocol II of the CCW, which addresses the legitimate defence requirements of States with long borders.

In recent months, the issue of lethal autonomous robots has engaged the attention of the international

community. There is a need to enhance the understanding of the international community about the possible humanitarian impact of the development and use of such weapons.

India supports the two major instruments promoting transparency in armaments, namely, the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and the United Nations Report on Military Expenditures. India has regularly submitted national reports to the Register on the export and import of conventional arms, including, most recently, reports covering the periods 2011 and 2012. India has also contributed to the triennial review of the Register, including in 2013. India supports efforts to further improve the Register, along with efforts towards universalizing participation in it. We also contributed to the work of the Group of Governmental Experts on the United Nations Report on Military Expenditures in 2011 and have submitted our national reports for that instrument.

India participated actively in the diplomatic conferences to negotiate an arms trade treaty, in the expectation that such a treaty would make a real impact on illicit trafficking in conventional arms and their illicit use, especially their use by terrorists and other unauthorized and unlawful non-State actors. During the negotiations on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), India consistently stressed that the treaty should ensure a balance of obligations between exporting and importing States. However, the final treaty text did not meet our requirements on those counts. India is undertaking a full and thorough assessment of the ATT from the perspective of our defence, security and foreign policy interests.

Ms. Mathouchanh (Lao People's Democratic Republic): The Lao Government supports the efforts of the international community to address the issue of disarmament and non-proliferation. We believe that such efforts should be guided by the principles of multilateral diplomacy.

Today, the arms race and nuclear proliferation remain major threats to global peace and security. With regional conflicts and disputes, as well as civil unrest, taking place across various regions, the international community should redouble its efforts to address the issue of disarmament. In that context, the Lao People's Democratic Republic will continue to work closely with other Member States to address that global issue. To that end, the Lao People's Democratic Republic has

already become a State party to and has implemented a number of international instruments on disarmament, including those covering conventional weapons and cluster munitions.

Although conventional weapons do not have the same effect as weapons of mass destruction, they have much the same impact and have long-term consequences. The explosive remnants of war create humanitarian problems and inflict unacceptable harm on civilians. They also pose serious obstacles to the social and economic development of many nations.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic is a victim of the explosive remnants of war. During the Viet Nam War, the use of conventional weapons, including cluster munitions, during the aerial bombing from 1964 to 1973, left Laos with extensive contamination consisting of about 270 million cluster sub-munitions, known as unexploded ordinance. Almost four decades later, those remnants of war continue to maim or kill almost 100 innocent people a year in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, including women and children who had nothing to do with the war or with such conventional weapons but who still have to pay the price. To date, 14 out of 17 provinces of Laos remain contaminated with unexploded ordinance, especially cluster munitions, accounting for approximately 80,000 square kilometres of the 236,800 square kilometres of the country's national territory.

In addition to their deadly humanitarian impact, cluster munitions and other unexploded ordinance are a major obstacle to our national development. Given the gravity of unexploded ordinance contamination and its impact on development and poverty eradication, the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic has adopted a country-specific Millennium Development Goal known as MDG9, which aims specifically at addressing the impact of unexploded ordinance on national development. Achieving MDG9 would require extensive support from the international community. In that context, the Lao Government appreciates the continued support from its development partners, including the United Nations system and international organizations, as well as from our fellow developing countries.

As one of the nations most affected by cluster munitions, the Lao People's Democratic Republic fully endorses the objective of achieving their total elimination. To date, 83 countries are now States parties

and 112 countries are signatories to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Therefore, in order to ensure the universalization of the Convention and put an end to cluster munitions, we call on those States that are not yet party to consider acceding to it. We further call on all States to fully implement the Convention on Cluster Munitions for the benefit of humankind.

Mr. Del Campo (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): Briefly, the past several years have been fruitful ones with respect to consolidating progress on the instruments that govern the area of conventional weapons. A clear example is the adoption by a broad majority of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in April. The Government of Chile was an early signatory to the ATT as a sign of its firm commitment to that noble undertaking, which was the result of positive efforts on matters of global security, in particular with regard to the explicit humanitarian dimension enshrined in that instrument.

The Treaty reflects our persistent commitment in that arena and is the product of the constructive spirit shown by the majority of delegations over the course of the Conference. We must nonetheless remain ambitious and should view that new set of norms as a minimum standard that should be strengthened and applied even more broadly in the various aspects of the Treaty included in its scope, in terms of both the weapons and the activities it covers, as well as its transparency, with a special emphasis on reinforcing the criteria and parameters that relate to its humanitarian dimension. In that regard, we are pleased that States have begun to implement the norms and standards of the Treaty even before its entry into force and that, so early after its adoption, 114 States are signatories and eight have ratified it.

Another key instrument in that realm is the Oslo Convention on Cluster Munitions, which entered into force in August 2010. We would like to note that, in keeping with the commitment made by the State of Chile with regard to that international instrument, on 12 July 2013 the Minister of Defence signed the legal act certifying that the institutional inventories of the Chilean Army contain no cluster munitions.

In the same vein, in response to our firm adherence to the concept of human security and in the belief that the Convention on Cluster Munitions represents a qualitative advance in international humanitarian law, our Government has decided to host a regional conference on the universalization and implementation

of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which will take place with the support of the United Nations Development Programme and the Government of Norway on 12 and 13 December 2013. In addition to promoting the universalization of the Convention, we hope that the conference will help establish the conditions necessary to promote, at the regional level, the implementation of a zone free of cluster munitions in Latin America and the Caribbean. In order to foster the most fruitful exchanges possible, we encourage the participation of Government experts in the relevant disciplines from the Latin American and Caribbean region and a broad inclusion of civil society, the contribution of which has been highly relevant to processes such as those leading to, *inter alia*, the Convention itself and the ATT.

In conclusion, we welcome the efforts of Zambia in organizing the fourth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention and the contribution that the Meeting made to the implementation and universalization of the Convention. We look forward to further progress at the fifth Meeting, to be held in Costa Rica in September 2014.

Mr. Adejola (Nigeria): I will read an abridged version of our statement, but the full text will be posted on the QuickFirst website.

Once again, my delegation reiterates its confidence in your experience and ability, Mr. Chair, to steer this ship to a purposeful destination.

Nigeria aligns itself with the statements delivered by our delegation on behalf of the Group of African States and by the representative of Mali on behalf of Economic Community of West African States (see A/C.1/PV.18).

Over the years, people have died needlessly from arms and ammunitions produced primarily for the defence and security of nation States. Need I underscore that small arms and light weapons are responsible for more than half a million deaths each year? Evidence abounds that the violence perpetrated by arms in conflicts kill, on average, almost 600,000 people annually.

It was most gratifying that with the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), Member States appear to have found the appropriate instrument to regulate the trade in such weapons. Nigeria signed and ratified the ATT on 12 August as a solemn promise to strengthen

our conviction and commitment to a world of peace, where growth and development remain unfettered by the illicit use of unregulated conventional weapons. We promise to work assiduously towards the Treaty's entry into force.

As a developing economy, we believe in the need for the early establishment of an efficient system for building capacities where they are needed. In that connection, however, we would give a note of warning: it must be stressed that the ATT could become an empty shell without the provision of that essential element. For numerous developing economies in Africa, it is crucial that future ATT conferences be organized in a manner that allows them to focus on assistance needs, as a confidence-building measure. In our view, an excellent option would be to hold an inaugural conference as soon as the Treaty enters into force, during which the rules of procedure and a reporting template would be agreed upon by States parties.

While not foreclosing on other laudable approaches, we hope that decisions on the establishment of a secretariat to host the ATT will reflect the interests of Africa, which is, in many respects, the continent that experiences the greatest impact of the unregulated arms trade. Other areas of consideration include, first, making use of existing infrastructure to minimize costs for meetings, and secondly, decreasing the reporting burden, which implies that the secretariat will need to explore synergies between the ATT, the Programme of Action on Small Arms and the Register of Conventional Arms.

We must make full use of the normative authority and the convening power of the United Nations. We must also choose the location where our countries are best represented to engage in the meetings under the Treaty's purview. While all of those elements have not been adequately covered in the Treaty, we look forward to working with others to translate the ATT into the success that we all hope it will become.

Mr. De Vega (Philippines): This year, we witnessed two concrete efforts on the part of States and the international community to end the flow of illicit weapons, which remains one of the biggest threats to international peace and security. The Philippines signed the landmark Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) last month, and we hope to finalize the process of ratification at the earliest possible time. We encourage Member States that have not signed the Treaty to do so. The Philippines

also welcomes the convening of a high-level event by the co-authors of the ATT draft resolution to generate and support progress towards the early entry into force of the ATT.

The Philippines is working closely with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific on arrangements for the convening of a regional meeting in Manila in late November 2013 to promote wider support for the entry into force of the ATT.

Another highlight was the Security Council's adoption last month of the resolution 2117 (2013), its first-ever devoted to the question of small arms and light weapons. The international community must also be reminded of its obligation to comply fully and effectively with Security Council-mandated arms embargoes.

The Philippines remains committed to the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. We maintain that the implementation of the Programme of Action is the best way for individual States to address the negative consequences of illicit small arms and light weapons.

My delegation welcomes the successful convening of the 2012 Small Arms Review Conference, which produced an outcome document. We look forward to the upcoming fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms, to be held from 16 to 20 June 2014. The Philippines hopes that the Meeting will further strengthen global action on small arms and light weapons.

The Philippines further calls on States with the capacity to do so to provide assistance, especially on new technological innovations useful in marking, record-keeping and tracing small arms and in strengthening our border security, in order to prevent the illicit transfer of arms and build additional legislative and institutional mechanisms to implement other provisions of the Programme of Action. We also reiterate our call on producer States — which have a special responsibility to strictly apply the legal restrictions so as to curb the illegal trade in small arms and light weapons — to supply arms only to responsible Governments and their authorized agencies.

My delegation looks forward to participating in the fifth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention

on Cluster Munitions, to be held in Costa Rica in September 2014.

The Philippines presided over the 2012 Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

Finally, the Philippines has introduced a draft resolution 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", contained in A/C.1/68/L.28. Following the submission and circulation of the draft resolution on 17 October to all Permanent Missions on 22 October, amendments have been made to its paragraph 7. We hope that the First Committee will continue to adopt this draft resolution by consensus, as has been the case in previous years.

Mr. Shein (Myanmar): I will read out an abridged version of the text of our statement, and the full text will be available online, on the QuickFirst website.

My delegation appreciates the oral statements made by the President of the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty (see A/C.1/68/PV.15); by the Chair of the Group of Governmental Experts on the Register of Conventional Arms (see A/C.1/68/PV.16); and by the President of the Arms Trade Treaty Conference on behalf of the Chair of the Group of Governmental Experts on developments in the field of information and communications technology in the context of international security (see A/C.1/68/PV.17).

Conventional weapons pose serious threats and challenges, given their devastating effects on humankind. It is therefore pertinent to differentiate between the supply and the demand cycles of conventional weapons. Their production, possession and trade should be strictly regulated and should take place only between Government entities so as to avoid their possession by non-State actors. The licit trade between States should also be based on the principles of legitimate use and the right to self-defence of every State. Excessive use or accumulation of surplus weapons will have damaging effects on our daily lives. The arms trade between the developed and the developing countries is unbalanced. It is necessary to pay more attention to the plight of innocent civilian populations rather than to the welfare of arms traders.

We appreciate Ambassador Peter Woolcott's many efforts to get a robust Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) adopted. Since its opening for signature, 114 States have signed

the Treaty, while eight have ratified it. In our view, the ATT should complement the United Nations Firearms Protocol, the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and the International Tracing Instrument.

While emphasizing the important role of the ATT, we must not forget that every nation has the right to self-defence and to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Every State also bears the primary responsibility to prevent the illicit arms trade and the transfer of arms in its own territory. We sincerely hope that a balanced, full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms by all States will be realized soon.

Information and communication technologies (ICT) have a double-edged impact. Their ill effects will be staggering if we are unable to use them properly or are unable to prevent them from falling into the wrong hands. In that regard, we must spare no effort to find a right solution for the proper management of ICT by States, the international media and other entities.

Assistance to mine victims and to the demining process in conflict zones represents a very effective approach to directly addressing the humanitarian impact of mines. In that regard, we commend the efforts made by the United Nations Mine Action Service, together with other regional and international organizations, in extending humanitarian assistance during the demining process and the rehabilitation and reintegration of former combatants into their respective communities.

Mr. Nkoloji (Botswana): I will read a shorter version of my statement. The longer version will be posted on PaperSmart.

My delegation thanks you, Mr. Chair, for bringing this important issue to debate. We take note of the Secretary-General's reports on this important topic and remain seized of his observations.

Botswana aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (see A/C.1/68/PV.18) and that to be delivered on behalf of the Group of African States.

My delegation attaches great importance to international peace and security. The international community is acutely aware of the devastating effects of some of the weapons that are in wide use today. My delegation wishes to underscore that the development of robust international legal frameworks and the

targeting of weapons of mass destruction by themselves will never be able to prevent human suffering, violence and the loss of innocent lives. We believe that the international community should do more to mitigate the destructive power of conventional weapons, especially their disproportionate use against civilians, many of whom are women and children.

Progress has been made in raising awareness of the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons. That could be replicated to raise the conscience of the international community with regard to the indiscriminate effect of the deployment of conventional weapons. We therefore view the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty in April as a step in the right direction.

Botswana, like many countries, is experiencing problems resulting from the illicit proliferation of small weapons, which is leading to an increase in criminal activity involving the use of such weapons. The problem is exacerbated by porous borders, particularly in our region. As a landlocked country in the middle of Southern Africa and acting, unfortunately, as a transit point for transregional crime, we have had to enter into framework agreements through which we cooperate on issues of cross-border crime, regional security and information-sharing.

I am happy to note that those joint cooperation agreements between our law enforcement agencies have proved critical in promoting regional stability and providing security to our citizens. We therefore wish to echo the sentiments already expressed about the need for effective national laws to combat organized crime and the transfer of illicit weapons. Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects remains critical.

My delegation supports the observations and conclusions of the Secretary-General as contained in document A/68/171. The realization of the goals of the Programme of Action remains a challenge, owing to resource constraints among States. We deeply appreciate our partners' efforts in providing several of our States with technical assistance and capacity-building. We appeal to them to continue providing such assistance. Botswana stands ready to fully utilize any form of such technical assistance and capacity-building.

Mr. Toba (Togo) (*spoke in French*): My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the representatives of Nigeria on behalf of the

Group of African States and of Mali on behalf of the Economic Community of West African States (see A/C.1/68/PV.18).

The proliferation and excessive stockpiling of and uncontrolled, illegal trade in small arms pose a real threat to international peace and security and to the economic and social development of many countries. Without being the root cause of conflict, light weapons are often the principal instrument for violence, criminality, suffering and the destruction of human life. In that light, such weapons are light in name only, given their detrimental impact on societies. Specific cases confirm irrefutably the direct link between the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons (SALWs), the activities of armed rebel groups, the illegal exploitation of natural resources, including the involvement of child soldiers in conflict, widespread violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, piracy, terrorism and transnational crime.

Even in countries not experiencing civil war, the ease with which anyone can procure a weapon has often contributed to violence and political instability. Those weapons, unlike their victims, survive conflicts and are potential instruments for spreading conflict, as they are recycled or transferred from one region or conflict to another by traffickers. In their criminal activities the traffickers exploit the shortcomings in the legal system of States, or exploit weaknesses in national law-and-order institutions, or the lack of regulatory control therein.

Africa, like other continents, has hardly been spared the phenomenon of the uncontrolled spread and use of SALWs. Quite the contrary, the scope of the problem is particularly worrisome. Indeed, Africa today is, unfortunately, the most profitable market for traffickers of weapons and also has the highest number of victims. Moreover, weaknesses and shortcomings of all kinds in the States of the region have led to the persistent trafficking in weapons and the permanent vulnerability of the continent. Given the situation, controlling the proliferation of SALWs is a *sine qua non* for the stability of States, for conflict prevention and for the success of peacebuilding processes. In that regard, we would like to welcome the subregional and regional initiatives in that area, which were touched upon in the statements by Nigeria on behalf of Africa and by Mali.

In the context of efforts to combat the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons and in line with other countries that are concerned about the

scope of the phenomenon and its impact on international peace and security, Togo established the Togolese National Commission to Combat the Proliferation, Illicit Circulation of and Traffic in Small Arms and Light Weapons in 2004 in order to coordinate actions on and combat and control the spread of such arms through awareness-raising meetings for civil society representatives on the threat of the spread of that category of weapons and the collection of arms acquired by unauthorized individuals. Furthermore, assisted by its development partners, the Commission is currently making progress on the marking of firearms collected from or handed in by civilians, who often have acquired them for ritual purposes.

Along those lines, in addition to its accession to a number of international, regional and subregional agreements, Togo cooperates bilaterally with neighbouring countries in order to facilitate investigations and legal proceedings with regard to trafficking in conventional weapons. Likewise, Togo welcomed the Arms Trade Treaty by signing it on the day that it opened for signature.

Mr. Gumende (Mozambique): Let me warmly congratulate you, Mr. Chair, on your election to preside over the First Committee. I also congratulate the other members of the Bureau.

In the interests of time, I will only highlight some parts of my written statement, which will be available on the QuickFirst web page.

Mozambique continues to attach the utmost importance to the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects as a contribution to the global efforts to address the multifaceted impact of the illicit trade in such weapons on peace, security, stability and, ultimately, development. More than a decade after the adoption of the Programme of Action, we have witnessed considerable progress in its implementation.

Taking into consideration the complexity of the phenomenon of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, Mozambique has adopted a holistic approach to addressing that scourge, which includes, *inter alia*, civic education campaigns, reinforced cooperation among State authorities, and the adoption of a handbook on procedural rules to support the victims of firearms, as part of the nation's efforts to address domestic violence against women and children.

The successful implementation of those measures requires a certain set of conditions, including technical and financial resources. In that context, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the United Nations and other partners for their continued commitment to the cause of the Programme of Action on Small Arms and for the support that they provide.

In addition, as part of our efforts to improve regional security, Mozambique has established bilateral agreements with neighbouring countries in order to address organized crime. We established one such agreement with South Africa in 1995 to improve cooperation and mutual assistance. As a result of its impact on the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and on the prevention of crime, that agreement was acclaimed as one of the best disarmament policies in 2013. That led to the two countries being awarded Honourable Mention 2013 by the World Future Council at the Future Policy Award 2013 ceremony, held in New York on 23 October.

We associate ourselves with the previous speakers in welcoming the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty, which is a milestone of immeasurable value in our common efforts to regulate and set the highest possible common international standards for regulating the international trade in conventional arms, as well as to curb and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms and prevent their diversion.

As part of our commitment to the disarmament agenda, Mozambique will host the third Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, to be held from 29 June to 4 July 2014. I would like to reiterate the invitation made by His Excellency Armando Guebuza, President of the Republic of Mozambique, during the general debate at this session of General Assembly to all Member States, observers and international organizations, as well as civil society, to participate in the Conference (see A/68/PV.5). The Conference will be an opportunity to evaluate the results of our common efforts to end the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines and to reinforce our commitment to achieving our noble goals of eliminating landmines.

Mr. Filipsons (Latvia): Latvia fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union, the full text of which is available on the PaperSmart portal (see A/C.1/68/PV.18).

The international community is showing an increasing awareness of the threat caused by illicit trafficking in conventional weapons, including small arms and light weapons. Some even compare such arms to weapons of mass destruction (WMD), but we should maintain a clear technical distinction between the two categories. Indeed, the illegal use of conventional weapons causes sufficient violence and destruction in various parts of the world to be regarded as one of the most serious security challenges of our time.

Latvia, along with the majority of the international community, welcomes the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). We were among the countries that signed the Treaty on 3 June. Currently, the national procedure for our ratification of the Treaty is under way. The ATT has a great potential to increase peace and security in the daily lives of millions of civilians. We therefore encourage all States to contribute to the Treaty's entry into force without delay.

The successful adoption of the ATT does not diminish the importance of other instruments in the field of conventional arms control. For that reason, we should continue to examine ways to improve their effectiveness. The United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects is one such major tool at our disposal. We welcome the successful outcome of its second Review Conference last year and reiterate our commitment to the further development of the Programme of Action. We would also like to express our full support for the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, as well as for its review by the Group of Governmental Experts this year. We note the tendency of national reporting to the Register to decline and encourage all States to submit their annual reports, including their voluntary reports on small arms and light weapons.

Latvia underscores the importance of international mechanisms that establish provisions and help to coordinate actions to curb the illicit trade in conventional weapons and other such actions. However, it remains a national responsibility to enforce effective control over the transfer of goods for military purposes. In many aspects, Latvia has taken such measures to a higher level than that required by any international instrument. Let me point out a few examples.

First, Latvian laws prescribe that a transit or brokering licence is required for every single transfer, including the import, export or transit, of dual-use or

military equipment. Secondly, Latvian customs officers received specialized training on the identification of dual-use and military equipment in 2012 and 2013. All customs brokers and customs declarants must pass an introductory course on the export controls on strategic goods before they become certified. Last but not least, in 2012 a seminar on dual-use equipment was organized for Latvian exporters and transport companies in order to facilitate industry outreach. It should be noted that such measures are relevant to other activities besides the transfer of conventional arms, as they also strengthen our capacity to prevent potential WMD-related trafficking.

I would like to conclude by affirming Latvia's readiness to contribute to all efforts aimed at containing the illicit flows of conventional weapons, which fuel devastating armed conflicts around the world. During the past decade, Latvia has gained substantial experience that could be useful to other States currently building their capacities in the field of export controls. We are willing to share our knowledge and experience with interested States through consultations, seminars or other activities.

Mr. Lupan (Republic of Moldova): In order to save time, I will read out only an abridged version of my statement. The full version will be available online.

The Republic of Moldova associates itself with the comprehensive statement on conventional weapons delivered by the representative of the European Union (see A/C.1/68/PV.18).

From our national perspective, we first of all welcome the adoption by the General Assembly of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The Republic of Moldova voted for and signed the Treaty and has expressed its firm commitment to ratifying it as soon as possible.

During debates in the Committee on Disarmament, we have stated that it is our understanding that the Treaty will ensure transparency and accountability in the transfer of conventional weapons and will therefore prevent illicit trafficking in such arms, particularly, from the perspective of our concerns, transfers to unrecognized separatist entities. That is why we signed the Treaty and will ratify it. We have already called for the support of our partners and on their expertise to help us improve our national export control legislation and practices. The European Union has also been very helpful in bringing us closer to the ratification of the ATT.

On small arms and light weapons, the Republic of Moldova has strictly fulfilled its obligations under the Programme of Action on Small Arms and is also undertaking additional measures. A new law governing the weapons that can be used by civilians has also entered into force.

With the support of the international community, we aspire to develop a national mechanism for tracing small arms and enhancing the management of stockpiles. Currently, the relevant authorities are tasked with destroying a set of small arms deposited with the Ministry of the Interior. As was the case with the preparations for the ratification of the ATT, all of the necessary actions aimed at the elimination of current and earlier stockpiles of small arms in the Republic of Moldova were undertaken with the support of our international partners, requiring both global and regional partnerships in the fields of conventional arms control.

Thirdly, the Republic of Moldova has signed and ratified the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, and with the support of our Canadian partners we have destroyed all the stockpiles, also demining all remaining minefields in the country in post-conflict areas. A Moldovan contingent of deminers also contributed to clearing minefields in Iraq. A national discussion is under way to deploy a small mixed infantry and demining team in the Kosovo peacekeeping mission, in cooperation with Italy, for which we thank the Italian authorities. It is our view that such actions make a contribution to international security and to the goals of the Convention. We encourage all Member States to continue thinking about taking similar steps. On cluster munitions, my country was among the first States to destroy its inherited cluster munitions, thereby gathering experience in that field that we are now ready to share with other Member States.

Lastly, we would like to stress in particular that, based on our national experience in the field of conventional weapons control, we strongly advocate for a combination of global and regional conventional arms control arrangements. Such a global and regional perspective has proven to be more holistic. However, we note the existing impasse around the functioning and future of the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) talks and support efforts aimed at revitalizing and modernizing that important arms-control regime.

In that regard, we would welcome early progress and results on conventional arms control agreements in

Europe. Any future control regime should be based on a legally binding system of information exchange and verification measures, taking into full consideration other relevant aspects of the CFE. In the case of Moldova, such a regional regime would need to conform to the principles of the Helsinki Final Act, leaving no scope for ambiguity. Therefore, such a conventional arms control arrangement should only serve to strengthen respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States parties.

In conclusion, we firmly believe that, as part of a new Euro-Atlantic arrangement, one of the most important considerations would be to reinforce the principle of getting the consent of host States before foreign military forces are deployed in their territory.

The Chair (*spoke in Arabic*): I call on the representative of Germany to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/68/L.44.

Mr. Biontino (Germany): I will take the floor only briefly to introduce a draft resolution that has already been submitted, contained in document A/C.1/68/L.44.

If they are not stored properly, stockpiled munitions can become unsafe. Unexpected explosions at ammunition depots have affected over 60 countries worldwide, leading to thousands of casualties over the past 15 years. Moreover, when depots are not well managed, they can form an unremitting source for the diversion of ammunition to armed groups and criminals, thereby sustaining conflict and armed criminal activity. For many countries, cooperation among States, the United Nations and specialized non-governmental organizations in the field of ammunition management can contribute to a substantial increase in security. We would like to call on States to consider that option.

Together with France, Germany has tabled a draft resolution arising from the challenges of the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles and surplus weapons. The draft resolution is similar to those tabled by Germany and France in earlier years, in particular in 2004, and later adopted by consensus by the General Assembly. Changes to resolution 66/42 deal with the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines, which were drafted following recommendations by a group of experts on ammunition and examined by a technical review panel earlier this year. The draft resolution also makes reference to the inclusion of ammunition in the Arms Trade Treaty. All States Members of the United Nations have welcomed

the completion of the international technical guidelines and the establishment of the United Nations Safeguard programme. The draft resolution encourages States wishing to improve their national stockpile management capacity to contact the programme.

The Chair (*spoke in Arabic*): I call on the representative of Rwanda to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/68/L.53.

Mr. Bagabo (Rwanda): The Rwandan delegation aligns itself with the statements made in the general debate by the representatives of Nigeria on behalf of the African Union and of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (see A/C.1/68/PV.3).

My delegation takes the floor in its capacity as the current Chair of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (UNSAC) and on behalf of the following Member States: the Republic of Angola, the Republic of Burundi, the Republic of Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Gabonese Republic, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe, the Central African Republic and the Republic of Chad.

My delegation would like to express its appreciation to the Chair and secretariat of the First Committee for their assistance and cooperation prior to the introduction of the draft resolution entitled "Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly: Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa", contained in document A/C.1/68/L.53.

More than a decade after the adoption of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, Members States have, overall, made tremendous progress towards measures aimed at better managing and controlling small arms and light weapons. Beyond dealing with traditional disarmament, the draft resolution being put forward by Rwanda in its capacity as Chair of UNSAC addresses two new security threats that have reached very alarming proportions in recent years: maritime piracy in the Gulf of Guinea and poaching in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad and Gabon. In that context, the draft resolution welcomes the adoption of the Code of Conduct concerning the Prevention and Repression

of Piracy, Armed Robbery against Ships, and Illegal Maritime Activities in West and Central Africa, as well as the decision to establish an interregional coordination centre in Cameroon for coordinating the implementation of the regional strategy.

It is worth mentioning that poachers are another new source of threat in the region, as well as armed groups, who use sophisticated weapons that are acquired through income generated by the illegal ivory trade. That is why that practice remains a serious security threat to the Central African region. We take this opportunity to commend the Department for Disarmament Affairs and the Department of Political Affairs for their continued support to regional efforts.

In conclusion and in view of critical security issues that this draft resolution seeks to address, we would like to appeal to Members States to adopt it, since it will have a great and positive impact on the security situation in the Central African region.

Mr. Jang Won (Republic of Korea): I will be brief, and the full text of my statement will be available on QuickFirst.

This year has marked a meaningful milestone in our collective work on conventional weapons, disarmament and non-proliferation issues. The Arms Trade Treaty and Security Council resolution 2117 (2013), the first-ever on small arms and light weapons, were adopted. The Security Council resolution contains a number of key points, including the full and effective application of international standards, such as the Programme of Action on Small Arms and as well as a call to join the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) at an early date. As a legally binding international framework, the ATT will contribute to the regulation of how States conduct responsible trade in arms. It will also simultaneously address the various issues arising from the uncontrolled proliferation and illicit transfers of weapons, and will thereby enhance international peace and security.

As one of the original signatories, the Republic of Korea is in the process of taking the necessary steps for ratification. We strongly support the universalization of the Treaty and hence call for the swift signing and ratification by all States. Furthermore, the implementation of the ATT and Security Council resolution 2117 (2013) should both be reinforced by existing international standards, such as the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and

Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, the International Tracing Instrument and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition. In that regard, we hope that the next Biennial Meeting of States on the Programme of Action on Small Arms will yield fruitful results.

More attention should be paid to illicit brokering activities, which spread instability and pour fuel on the fires of conflict worldwide. Indeed, that issue is one of the most serious threats with regard to small arms and light weapons. In that context, the Republic of Korea has worked alongside Australia, since the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, to co-author the biennial draft resolution on preventing and combating illicit brokering activities.

My delegation would like to reaffirm our commitment to the 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 (CCW). This year marks the thirtieth anniversary of the CCW's entry into force. For three decades, the CCW has served as the centrepiece of the contemporary disarmament machinery in the promotion of the principles of international humanitarian law. As a State party to the CCW, the Republic of Korea attaches great importance to the indispensable role of the Convention in addressing humanitarian concerns in a manner consistent with the national security concerns of States.

In that vein, the Government of the Republic of Korea has enacted appropriate national legislative measures and continues to raise awareness through regular education and training courses for military personnel. In addition, the Republic of Korea has made a contribution of more than \$5.1 million since 2000 to demining and victim assistance efforts worldwide. We will continue to join global efforts, working in cooperation with other countries, international organizations and civil society. We are committed to sharing our demining experiences and techniques with mine-affected countries.

Mr. Kiliç (Turkey): In the interest of time, I will read an abridged version of our statement. The full version will be distributed.

During this year's session of the First Committee, we have so far deliberated on weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, chemical and biological

weapons. We have also discussed their impact and destructiveness. We have voiced our expectation that they will never be used again. However, there is another category of weapons — conventional weapons — that are used on a daily basis in all corners of the world, in developed and developing countries, causing mass casualties and suffering. Each State has the legitimate right to manufacture, import, export, transfer and retain conventional weapons for its self-defence. But we need to pay more attention to their adverse effects.

In that context, we would like to highlight especially small arms and light weapons. Of all types of weaponry, small arms and light weapons are the most suitable for unauthorized individual and non-professional use. The illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread and misuse of small arms and light weapons pose a significant threat to global peace and security, as well as to the social and economic development of many countries. Furthermore, there is a well-documented relationship among the illicit trade in such weapons, terrorism and organized crime.

It is therefore a multidimensional issue that should be considered from two broad, separate, but closely interrelated dimensions. First, from an international, regional and national security perspective, it should be viewed as a disarmament issue. Secondly, from the perspective of human life, in terms of safety and socioeconomic issues, it should be viewed as a humanitarian and development issue. Given those far-reaching consequences, addressing the risk effectively calls for a common and concerted global effort. To alleviate risks associated with small arms and light weapons and other conventional arms, a comprehensive and binding regulatory framework on the trade in such items is required.

Turkey was therefore heartened by the conclusion and signing of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). From the early days of negotiating the Treaty, Turkey has supported and actively participated in the process, thereafter signing the ATT. We intend to ratify it as soon as possible. The Treaty's real strength will lie in its universalization and implementation. Turkey will continue to actively contribute to all efforts, within the United Nations and other forums, for the establishment of effective norms and rules aimed at eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

In that regard, Turkey remains committed to the effective implementation and further strengthening of

the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the International Tracing Instrument. We were therefore pleased that the 2012 Review Conference of the Programme of Action yielded results, and look forward to seeing similar results during the fifth Biennial Meeting of States. We also welcome Security Council resolution 2117 (2013), as the first resolution on small arms and light weapons.

Confidence-building and transparency play an important role in our efforts to strengthen global peace and security. In that context, we value and support instruments such as the Register of Conventional Arms and the United Nations Report on Military Expenditures. Furthermore, we support the inclusion of small arms and light weapons as a mandatory category of the Register. On the other hand, given the fast pace of technological development, our approaches to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control need to be forward-looking. We need to be able to react to such advances and incorporate them effectively into our various instruments, arrangements and regimes.

Turkey favours and will continue to favour global overall disarmament and supports all efforts in the field of sustaining international security through such mechanisms. However, we believe that the most effective method to address the ill effects stemming from conventional weapons is to tackle the root causes of conflict. The peaceful settlement of disputes, the non-use or threat of use of force, respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, international and regional cooperation, as well as development, are vital in promoting and cementing regional and global peace and security and thereby providing a safer world for ourselves and future generations.

Mr. Shishechiha (Islamic Republic of Iran): Consideration of issues related to conventional weapons should take place in an open, transparent, balanced, comprehensive and non-discriminatory manner. Negotiations must be carried out within the United Nations, with the equal participation of all States, and all decisions should be made by consensus.

Nothing shall affect the inherent rights of any State to security, self-defence and territorial integrity. The sovereign right of any State to acquire, manufacture, import, export and retain conventional arms, their ammunitions, parts, components and related technologies and know-how for its self-defence and security needs should be fully observed. It was on the

basis of those principles that my country constructively participated in the United Nations conferences on an arms trade treaty, expecting the conclusion of an effective, robust, balanced and non-discriminatory treaty aimed at reducing the human suffering resulting from the illicit trade in conventional arms.

However, the process was redirected towards narrow national agendas and regional policies, and the draft treaty fell far short of meeting those expectations. Accordingly, my delegation was compelled to join others in objecting to the adoption of the draft treaty, in particular for the following reasons. The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), adopted by resolution 67/234 B, failed to incorporate the prohibition of arms transfers to aggressors and foreign occupiers. That is a clear legal flaw in the ATT. We have been the victim of acts of aggression in recent history, and the Treaty adopted is totally unacceptable to us.

The international movement of conventional arms by or on behalf of a State party for its use was exempted from the Treaty's application. The Treaty also provides grounds for exempting the transfer of arms between member States of military alliances and contains similar exemptions at the bilateral level. Those exemptions are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Treaty. Such arms transfers have, in some cases, been used to commit aggression and occupation, causing human losses and destruction of infrastructure in a number of countries, including in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf.

There is also no balance between the rights of arms-exporting and arms-importing countries. While the rights of arms-exporting countries are well preserved in the ATT, in the form of exceptions and protections, the most basic and inherent rights of importing States are subject to the discretionary judgment and extremely subjective assessment of exporting States. The Arms Trade Treaty does not prevent arms from falling into the hands of criminals, illegal armed groups, terrorists or extremist groups. It also does not require the limitation of the production and transfer of conventional arms.

The Chair (*spoke in Arabic*): We have heard the last speaker on the list for the cluster on conventional weapons.

We shall now hear from those speakers on the list for the cluster on other disarmament measures and international security.

Mr. Raafenberg (Suriname): I will deliver this statement on behalf of the States members of the Union

of South American Nations (UNASUR), with respect to the thematic debate on other disarmament measures and international security.

The UNASUR countries wish to express their position regarding the agenda item on "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security". We thank the chairperson of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/24 for the presentation of the Group's final report (see A/68/98). We welcome the Group's conclusion that international law, particularly the Charter of the United Nations, is applicable and essential to the maintenance of peace and stability and to promoting open, secure, peaceful and accessible information and telecommunications technologies.

In our view, information and communications technology should serve as a tool for the promotion of inclusion and development and should not be used by any State or non-State actor to violate international or human rights law, the principle of peaceful relations among sovereign nations, or the privacy of citizens. In that regard, the most recent UNASUR summit of Heads of State and Government, held in Paramaribo on 30 August, strongly rejected the interception of telecommunications and espionage actions in our countries by the National Security Agency of the Government of the United States, or whoever may be engaging in such activities, which constitute a threat to security and a serious violation of human, civil and political rights, of international law and of national sovereignty, and which damage relations among nations.

In order to address that issue in South America, the UNASUR Heads of State and Government also decided to accelerate the development of cyberdefence projects and the safer interconnection of fiber-optic networks in our countries. The aim is to make our telecommunications more secure, strengthen regional technology development and promote digital inclusion. UNASUR States are encouraged by the recommendation of the Group of Governmental Experts that regular institutional dialogue under United Nations auspices should be strengthened in order to build trust, transparency and confidence.

We also support the call for further international cooperation to build capacity for information and communications technology security. We are ready to engage in a constructive debate to highlight the importance of respect for the sovereignty of nations,

the right to privacy and the inviolability of our official communications. In that regard, we support the establishment of a new group of governmental experts to further examine those important issues. UNASUR members also believe that the membership of that group of governmental experts should be based on a broad and equitable geographic representation.

Mr. Hasan (Bahrain) (*spoke in Arabic*): I am speaking on behalf of the Group of Arab States. The Arab Group aligns itself with the statement to be made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

With respect to the issue of other disarmament measures, the Arab Group reaffirms that the solutions agreed upon in a multilateral context, based on the Charter of the United Nations, are the only lasting means to address the issues of disarmament measures and international security. Accordingly, the Arab Group calls upon all members to renew their individual and joint commitments to multilateral cooperation.

We reaffirm our belief that the United Nations plays a leading role in the sphere of disarmament and non-proliferation. We are concerned about the increase in global military expenditures. Those resources could be otherwise used to eradicate poverty and tackle numerous diseases, particularly in developing countries, including in the Arab countries. In that context, we reiterate the necessity of implementing the action programme contained in the final document of the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development and of addressing the implications of increased military expenditures on achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

The destruction caused by weapons of mass destruction, and their modernization, are one of the major challenges to peace and security, also threatening the ecological balance of the planet and sustainable development. The Group therefore highlights the need for forums dealing with disarmament matters to consider relevant environmental standards in the context of the negotiations on the various disarmament and arms control instruments. All States must participate in the implementation of environmental norms and standards in that regard.

Our Group also expresses concern regarding the possible use of political, military, economic and scientific technologies against the interests of certain States. For that reason, we welcome the positive United

Nations efforts in that area, particularly through the establishment of a group of governmental experts tasked with addressing developments in the field of information and communications technology in the interests of international peace. We stress the need for international cooperation in that connection.

The Chair (*spoke in Arabic*): I call on the representative of Indonesia to introduce draft resolutions A.C.1/68/L.14, A.C.1/68/L.15 and A.C.1/68/L.17.

Mr. Cassidy (Indonesia) I am pleased to deliver this statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

The revolution in information and communication technologies (ICTs) continues to change the world rapidly in fundamental ways, creating a fast-widening digital divide between the developed and the developing countries. That digital divide, which has taken on new dimensions, includes a growing gap in the capacity to defend territories and protect national sovereignty, which must be bridged if developing countries are to benefit from the enormous potential of ICTs as important tools for economic, social and political development. The Movement underscores the need to prevent all discriminatory practices and policies that hinder access by developing countries to the benefits of information and communication technologies and to networks established in developed countries.

While noting that considerable progress has been made in developing and applying the latest ICTs and means of communication, NAM expresses its concern that such technology and means can potentially be used for purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international security and may adversely affect the integrity of the infrastructure of States, to the detriment of their security in both the civil and the military fields.

In that regard and while taking into account the ongoing efforts within the United Nations, NAM calls upon Member States to further promote the consideration at the multilateral level of existing and potential threats in the field of information security, as well as possible strategies to address the threats emerging in that field. NAM emphasizes that such technologies and means should be utilized by Member States in a manner consistent with international law and the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

Furthermore, the Movement will this year once again introduce draft resolutions, entitled “Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control” (A/C.1/68/L.14), “Relationship between disarmament and development” (A/C.1/68/L.15) and “Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation” (A/C.1/68/L.17). NAM calls on all Member States to support those draft resolutions.

Mr. Toro-Carnevali (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): I wish to associate my delegation with the statements just delivered by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and by the representative of Suriname on behalf of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR).

For the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, information and communication technologies (ICTs) are a tool for inclusion and development and should not be used by States or non-State actors to violate international law or the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, especially those dealing with respect for sovereignty, non-interference, the sovereign equality of States, the pacific settlement of disputes and refraining from the threat or use of force.

We therefore reject the interception of telecommunications and the acts of espionage perpetrated by the National Security Agency of the Government of the United States or by any other State or actor involved in such activities. Such activities have a negative impact on international peace and security as well as on civil and political rights, in particular the rights enshrined in article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which establish that no one shall be subject to arbitrary or illegal interference in their private life, family, residence or correspondence, and that all individuals have the right to protection under the law against such interference or attacks.

The revelations of extraterritorial espionage perpetrated by the Government of the United States have made it quite clear that espionage has been carried out against the national energy industry in Venezuela with the aim of obtaining information concerning its commercial operations. Likewise, it was revealed that communications between Latin American leaders

were intercepted at the Summit of the Americas, held in Trinidad and Tobago in 2009. Likewise, during the official visit of the late President Chávez to Rome in 2006, the National Security Agency of the United States carried out an unprecedented spying operation of electric surveillance.

As a result, it is quite clear that the illegal and arbitrary interception of private communications, including information regarding citizens’ and State businesses, among other things, has been undertaken for specific purposes that are not transparent. The violation of the principles of non-interference and respect for sovereignty are a serious obstacle to peace. The perpetrators of such illicit acts must cease their interventionist activities and provide explanations as to why they implemented such monitoring programmes.

Our country fully supports the agreements reached among the member States of UNASUR to expedite the development of cyberspace defence projects and to establish interconnections between secure fibre-optic networks in our countries. The purpose of such measures would be to ensure greater security in telecommunications, strengthen the development of regional technologies and strengthen and promote digital inclusiveness. Information technologies must not be used for other ends.

Mr. Louis (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): Colombia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Suriname on behalf of the Union of South American Nations.

While we in the First Committee have addressed the issues of conventional weapons, nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, we cannot leave out the initiatives related to regional disarmament, which, together with confidence-building measures, represent ideal mechanisms for promoting international cooperation and exchanging experiences and good practices in the field of disarmament and international security.

With regard to regional disarmament, our country has always supported draft resolutions on that topic, which, among other things, affirm that global and regional disarmament approaches are complementary and must therefore be pursued simultaneously in order to promote regional and international peace and security. This year’s draft resolutions urge Member States to integrate, wherever possible, agreements on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, disarmament

and confidence-building measures into their regional and subregional plans.

Colombia firmly shares the aforementioned principles and implements them actively, as can be seen from the fact that we are a State party to the Tlatelolco Treaty and to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as a non-nuclear weapon State, as well as from my country's implementation of a safeguards application agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). That has enabled us to broaden the scope and strengthen the efficacy of the IAEA safeguards system. We highlight the importance of such actions as confidence-building measures under the nuclear non-proliferation regime, as they ensure State transparency with regard to civilian nuclear activities.

It is equally important to underscore that, for Colombia, the central objective of confidence-building measures is to contribute to the strengthening of international peace and security. Measures to be adopted should take into account the specificities of each region, so as to guarantee the decisive support of States parties. In the context of the Organization of American States, my country has been working towards the establishment of confidence- and security-building measures to enhance relations among the members of that Organization and cooperation in the field of security. These measures have been compiled in a document entitled "Consolidated list of confidence- and security-building measures", which is updated every two years.

Allow me therefore to reiterate today Colombia's resolve to support confidence- and security-building measures at the regional level and under the auspices of the United Nations.

Mr. Sano (Japan): As a country that has suffered the use of nuclear weapons, Japan has a sense of mission to increase awareness of the importance of nuclear disarmament among people around the world. In that regard, Japan started participating in the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme in 1983, inviting young diplomats and Government officials to Hiroshima and Nagasaki. To date, 811 United Nations fellows have visited both cities, and most of them have described it as an eye-opening experience.

Japan also started two programmes: Special Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons, in 2010, and Youth Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons, in 2013. Under those programmes,

Hibakusha — or surviving victims of the atomic bombings at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, whose average age is now 78 — and younger generations have shared their experiences and what they learned about the tragic consequences of the use of nuclear weapons. We have high hopes for what can be accomplished through those programmes. Japan has also undertaken efforts to make the testimonies of the Hibakusha more widely available. Testimonies translated into English and other languages can be accessed on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

Japan exhibited remnants of the atomic bombings in New York in 1983 and in Geneva in 2011 in United Nations premises. Those exhibitions contributed to greater public awareness of the consequences of the use of nuclear weapons. Unfortunately, the exhibition in New York was relocated to a smaller space when the current refurbishment of the United Nations buildings started. The number of exhibited articles has been greatly reduced, and few people notice the existence of the exhibition. Japan requests the United Nations Secretariat to allocate greater space and to further improve the quality of the exhibition, once the reconstruction has been completed next year.

The Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) underscored education as a useful means to achieve a world without nuclear weapons. Its action plan encourages all States to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education (A/65/160). One recommendation calls for various educational and dissemination efforts to be carried out not only by Governments, but also together with civil society organizations. Based on that recommendation, the Japanese Government and the United Nations hosted the Global Forum on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education in Nagasaki. The Forum compiled best practices and developed partnerships to advance disarmament and non-proliferation education.

Finally, I would like to reiterate that a peaceful and secure world free of nuclear weapons cannot be realized without the firm support of people worldwide. Believing in the potential of education for future generations, Japan will redouble its efforts in disarmament education and calls on all Member States to join it in doing so.

Mr. Woolcott (Australia): I wish to congratulate the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts

on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security on its report (A/68/98), which is before the Committee for consideration. The report is groundbreaking in its recommendations and will, in our view, change the international cyberpolicy landscape. Its key recommendation is that existing international law is applicable to States' use of cyberspace. That is a fundamental principle that will provide a firm foundation for all future work in relation to rule-building in cyberspace.

As the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Julie Bishop, said at the Seoul Cyberspace Conference on 17 October,

“Cyberspace is not lawless. Existing international law applies to States' use of cyberspace. In the event of conflict, the Charter of the United Nations, the law of armed conflict and other related bodies of existing international law apply in cyberspace, as they do elsewhere”.

That is a simple yet fundamental proposition. Australia is happy to support the draft resolution on the topic (A/C.1/68/L.37), but we note that it is silent on that key issue. Australia calls on other States Members of the United Nations also to affirm that international law applies to States' use of cyberspace.

The report also makes recommendations in relation to States' meeting their international obligations regarding internationally wrongful acts attributable to them, in particular that States must not use proxies to commit such acts and that States should ensure that their territories are not used by non-State actors for the unlawful use of information and communication technologies (ICTs).

The report observes that States have jurisdiction over the ICT infrastructure within their territory and that State sovereignty and the norms and principles that flow from sovereignty apply to State conduct in cyberspace. Those statements are important in themselves. They also set a direction and begin the task of elaborating the existing framework of international law in a number of areas that are of particular interest and concern to Member States. The report makes solid recommendations in relation to cyberspace confidence-building measures. That is a long-term task. In the short term, there is a need for measures to address confidence and trust among States in cyberspace. The report puts cyberspace confidence-building measures firmly on the international security map.

Developing and elaborating measures to address problems of misperception and miscalculation so as to prevent escalation and possible conflict between States will have a positive and direct impact on regional and international security. Australia is working with partners in the Regional Forum of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to advance that important agenda. Capacity-building is now an integral element in the international dialogue on cyberspace. The report affirms the importance of that topic.

The report makes important observations on the leading role of the United Nations in relation to the issues of international security in cyberspace. At the same time, the report observes that cyberspace is a multi-stakeholder domain. Both the private sector and civil society have important contributions to make to norms, confidence-building and capacity-building. The report also notes that further work is needed to develop common understandings about how international law applies to State behaviour and to States' use of ICTs. It also notes that additional norms could be developed over time.

The draft resolution proposes that there be a further United Nations group of governmental experts and sets out a mandate. In Australia's view, elaborating how international law applies to States' use of cyberspace, including in relation to armed conflict and to actions below the level of armed conflict, are key tasks for the next Group of Governmental Experts.

The work of the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts is a priority for Australia. We were pleased to be invited to participate in the work of the Group, and we were honoured when called upon to chair it. We will continue to accord priority to that work. We are ready to serve in a further group and will do so in whatever capacity we may be called upon to do so.

In closing, we wish to refer to the recent Seoul Conference on Cyberspace. We congratulate the Republic of Korea for hosting that important event. The report was referred to throughout the Conference and was heavily drawn upon in the outcome documents. Given the significance of the report, wider circulation should be encouraged.

Mr. Luque Márquez (Ecuador) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier by the representative of Suriname on behalf of the Union of South American Nations.

The history of humankind, and hence of the Organization, has been marked by enhancements in the rights of all human beings, building on and consolidating at each step rights that had previously been taken for granted, such as privacy and the inviolability of communications. It is unfortunate, however, to observe that now, as technological progress has enabled every man or woman on the planet to communicate with any other man or woman around the globe, we have discovered the extent to which one Power has armed itself with a global surveillance mechanism that does not respect the borders of any country or distinguish friend from foe or criminal from lawful citizen.

It should be noted that it is not the existence of such a mechanism for intrusion into the private lives of all inhabitants of the world that has caused such surprise — to a certain extent, we all suspected as much. It is rather the extent and scope of that global espionage, which knows no boundaries and has no respect for the sovereignty of all States or for the rights to privacy and freedom of expression of all citizens, that has shocked us all.

Ecuador certainly recognizes the capacity of each State, in the application of its own legislation, to intervene in electronic communications within its territory with the aim of combating crime. At the same time, my country rejects, in this case as in any other context, the deliberate extraterritorial application of national laws. While the law of one country apparently authorizes its intelligence services to intercept private communications, including those of Government officials within Ecuadorian territory, I can say emphatically that my country rejects any such claim, and I wish to inform this Committee that Ecuador's laws treat electronic interceptions without prior authorization from a competent judge as a serious crime. There can be no denying that the revelations of a massive surveillance network, which has extended to the Governments of States that are allies of the Power behind it, has had a serious effect on the trust that should exist between States, injecting an additional element of instability into international relations and thereby damaging global peace and security.

I will conclude by saying that, in Ecuador's view, that attack, not only on the human rights of every inhabitant of the planet but also against the international law that governs relations among States, should be discussed seriously and deeply in the United Nations. For that reason, my country is a sponsor of

draft resolution A/C.1/68/L.37, on "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security", in the hope that establishing the group of governmental experts with a membership that, we believe, should be as broad as possible, based on the principle of equitable regional representation, will enable it to make a significant contribution to the discussion of the obligation that all States have to respect international law, including in the area of telecommunications and information technology.

The Chair (*spoke in Arabic*): I call on the representative of India to introduce draft decision A/C.1/68/L.22.

Mr. Vipul (India): India associates itself with the statement made during this thematic debate by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

India has the honour to introduce draft decision A/C.1/68/L.22, which proposes the inclusion of an item entitled "Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament" on the provisional agenda for next year's session of the General Assembly.

It is clear that scientific and technological progress is critical for the economic and social development of any society and should be maintained and encouraged. Developing countries are especially dependent on access to scientific developments and new technologies for the purposes of development and active participation in global trade. We therefore believe that international cooperation in the peaceful uses of science and technology should be promoted through all means, including technology transfer, the sharing of information and exchanges of equipment and materials.

At the same time, we recognize that scientific and technological developments can have both civilian and military applications. The military applications of scientific and technological developments can contribute significantly to the improvement and upgrading of weapons systems, including weapons of mass destruction, as well to the invention of entirely new weapons systems. For instance, the international community has expressed concerns about the misuse of information and communications technologies for criminal or hostile purposes, as well as for the development of lethal autonomous robots. We believe that scientific and technological developments that may

have a negative impact on the security environment and disarmament should be closely monitored, particularly when they give rise to proliferation concerns.

Although progress in science and technology for civilian applications should be encouraged, it is also important to ensure that international transfers of dual-use goods and technologies and advanced technology with military applications are effectively regulated, while keeping in mind the legitimate defence requirements of all States. National regulations and export controls of appropriate standards in the field should be strengthened and implemented effectively. It is also important that relevant international agreements in the field be implemented in a manner that does not hamper the economic or technological development of States parties to those agreements.

For all these reasons, the role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament is an important and dynamic subject that affects the interests of all States. There is therefore a need for a dialogue among Member States aimed at finding a viable, forward-looking approach that takes into account current trends and possible future directions. We therefore hope that, as it has done in past years, the First Committee will endorse the draft decision submitted by India.

Ms. Liu Ying (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): Countries coexist with common interests and share good and ill in cyberspace. In order to assure their own security, countries should respect and accommodate the security of others, meeting their needs for security by ensuring the security of the entire international community.

First, we should promote the concept of shared security accompanied by peaceful development. Countries should comply with the Charter of the United Nations and the basic principles governing international relations, ensuring the peaceful nature of the Internet, with no use or threat of use of force and through the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Secondly, we should maintain a balance between freedom and law. Countries should not use information and communications technologies (ICT) to interfere in other countries' internal affairs or undermine their political, economic, and social stability or their cultural environment. No country should take advantage of a dominant position in cyberspace to undermine another's right to independent control of its ICT products and services.

Thirdly, we should promote the establishment of equitable and democratic Internet governance. Every country should be able to participate equitably in the distribution of Internet resources, play an equal role in formulating international standards and obligations in cyberspace and make joint efforts to address shared cybersecurity challenges, with a view to building multilateral, democratic and transparent international governance.

Fourthly, we should facilitate cooperation for the benefit of all in cyberspace. All sides should strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation and provide support to developing countries.

China believes that we should take the following measures to jointly realize a peaceful, secure, open and cooperative cyberspace.

First, a set of universal and effective international standards and rules should be developed governing activities in cyberspace. China, together with Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, submitted to the General Assembly a draft international code of conduct for information security as early as in 2011 (A/66/359). We welcome the fact that Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan will be co-sponsoring a draft document this year, which we are updating and improving based on other countries' comments and suggestions. China is ready for a dialogue with other countries on that code of conduct with a view to reaching an early consensus.

Secondly, we should make full use of the important platform of the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security. China welcomed the Group's June report (see A/68/98), which identified the principles of State sovereignty in cyberspace and the peaceful use of ICT. China supports the continued role of the Group in the United Nations.

Thirdly, we should fully acknowledge Governments' leading role in this area. At the national level, Governments should take the lead for all stakeholders, including the private sector, in addressing network challenges and strengthening legislation and institutional capacity-building. At the international level, all sides should cooperate in preventing and combating cybercrime and cyberterrorism, protecting critical information infrastructure and ensuring the stable and secure functioning of information and communication systems.

Mr. Aljowaily (Egypt): At the outset, I would like to associate my delegation with the statements delivered earlier by the representatives of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and of Bahrain on behalf of the Group of Arab States.

Our remarks will focus on the issue of information and communications security. Egypt participated actively in the activities of the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security and contributed to the discussions that led to its report (see A/68/98). The report offers a starting point for further work on many aspects, and particularly on issues related to the international legal framework.

Today we wish to highlight the following points. In their use of information and communications technologies (ICTs), States must observe their obligations under paragraph 3 of Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations to settle international disputes by peaceful means, as well as the prohibition in paragraph 4 of Article 2 on the threat or use of force. In the context of ICT security, which is the subject covered by the Group of Governmental Experts, the threat or use of force would also encompass the destruction or harm caused in any form to any of the layers of the ICT infrastructure, whether physical or digital, of a Member State. I would specify in particular the three interlinked layers of the internet: first, telecommunications and related infrastructure; secondly, technical standards; and thirdly, content and its related applications.

Gaps in capacity related to ICT security among States increase vulnerability in an interconnected world and present additional challenges to developing countries, given their limited resources. Developing countries are most affected by the negative impact of the adverse and malicious uses of ICT, and thus commensurate capacity-building and adequate transfer of knowledge and technology should be integral to any multilateral initiatives regarding ICT security.

Establishing attribution for attacks on ICT and the related aspects of State responsibility requires enabling, to the fullest degree, the participation of all countries, especially developing countries, in all arrangements related to the management and governance of the critical Internet infrastructure. The contribution of Governments in areas related to the public-policy aspects of ICT security should be recognized in that regard.

We have highlighted a few issues of priority related to ICT security. There are many other issues that need to be addressed as well. For that reason, Egypt strongly supports paragraph 29 of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts (see A/68/98), which states that the Group “recommends regular institutional dialogue with broad participation under the auspices of the United Nations”.

We call on the First Committee to consider alternatives in that regard. Pending the establishment of such a mechanism, Egypt supports the continuation of the work of the Group of Governmental Experts, as recommended by draft resolution A/C.1/68/L.37, of which we are a sponsor. In the light of the increased interest in the issue of ICT security and wishing to take advantage of the progress thus far achieved, we reiterate our position that the size of the Group should be increased so as to ensure parity with larger groups of governmental experts established by the First Committee.

Egypt stands ready to contribute to the discussions of the upcoming session of the Group of Governmental Experts, as part of the cumulative expertise in that regard. The work of the United Nations remains indispensable, as it provides the only universal and truly multilateral forum for deliberations and consensus-building related to ICT security. Such efforts within the United Nations build upon the global consensus contained in the outcome documents of the two phases of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Geneva in 2003 and in Tunis in 2005. Those efforts should be geared towards safeguarding cyberspace from becoming an arena of cyberconflict and ensuring instead its exclusively peaceful use, which would enable the full realization of the potential of ICT for contributing to social and economic development.

Mr. Hashmi (Pakistan): The fast pace of technological innovations is changing the way international law can and should govern their deployment, development and use. The way some of the new and emerging technologies are used has an impact on and implications for international peace and security.

First, a few words on the use of armed drones. In our view, the use of armed drones, especially against civilians, constitutes a violation of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and international humanitarian and human rights law. Their use

contravenes State sovereignty and the Charter restrictions on the legitimate use of force for self-defence, in the absence of imminent danger and without express permission from States in whose territory the armed drones are used. The established principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution are also violated when armed drones are employed. The use of drones in such a manner does not fulfil the zone-of-conflict criterion as defined in international law. As is well known, drones are being operated and used against civilians outside the conflict zone as defined by international humanitarian law.

Drone use is also characterized by a lack of transparency and accountability. Information on the chain of command and on responsibility is opaque or unavailable. Civilians are targeted and killed through signature strikes. In the absence of credible information against the targeted individuals, such strikes are tantamount to extrajudicial killings, since no due process of law is followed.

Even from an operational and pragmatic point of view, the use of drones is counterproductive in fighting terrorism. Since no information or due process is visible to the general public, drone use is perceived as a blunt tool using brute force to kill human beings. Notwithstanding the few tactical gains, the proliferation of drone technology over time will make their use more dangerous and vulnerable.

Let me now address the related issue of lethal armed robotics and the implications for international peace and security. Autonomous or independent target selection and the use of lethal force against such targets pose serious legal and moral questions and have implications for the laws of war. In the absence of any human intervention, such robotics may, in fact, change the nature of war. Wars and the threat of use or resort to the use of force may become more frequent. The use of lethal armed robotics also raises serious concerns about the targeting of civilians and noncombatants. It may also flow into the domain of signature targeting. There is no clarity as to the determination of responsibility and no human control in the judgment employed in the use of such weapons. In the light of those factors, the use of lethal armed robotics violates international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law.

In recent years, other challenges linked to the use of information and communications technologies (ICTs) have also emerged. There have been recent

reports of indiscriminate surveillance and the use of computer malware, which amount to violations of the international legal regime, including the right to privacy, freedom of expression and information.

The nature of contemporary challenges arising from ICTs has been highlighted by the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security in its report (see A/66/89). We take note of the assessment, conclusions and recommendations of the Group. The misuse and unregulated use of such technologies could have serious implications for international peace and security, in particular in the event of a cyberattack launched on critical infrastructure such as electricity grids, or a disruption of satellites or weather forecasting. In that context, the hostile use of cybertechnologies could indeed be characterized as the use of weapons of mass destruction and disruption.

As the proliferation of such technologies is inevitable, it will be both useful and essential to regulate their use sooner rather than later. The evolution of legal norms and laws are urgently needed not only for ICT, but also for drones and lethal armed robotics.

The Chair (*spoke in Arabic*): Before I give the floor to the next speaker, I would like to thank members for their understanding and cooperation with the Chair, which has resulted in significant progress being made since yesterday. If we can maintain this momentum, we will be able to start considering draft resolutions and decisions tomorrow.

As is the usual practice in the Committee, the Secretariat has prepared a non-paper that includes a list of the draft resolutions and draft decisions that will be considered first. The non-paper, which has been distributed in the Chamber, will be updated on a daily basis. I have requested the secretariat to add to the list of draft resolutions before the Committee, in the framework of the correct cluster, an additional draft resolution A/C.1/68/L.53, which was submitted by a group of States, provided that it is understood that adding that draft resolution at this late stage is done on an exceptional basis and will not constitute any kind of precedent whatsoever. I trust that all delegations will continue to respect the deadline that has been agreed upon to submit draft resolutions and draft decisions.

Mrs. Ledesma Hernández (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): We wish to highlight the relevance of

three of the draft resolutions to be adopted under the thematic clusters, namely, A/C.1/68/L.14, entitled “Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control”; A/C.1/68/L.17, entitled “The promotion of multilateralism in the sphere of disarmament and non-proliferation”; and A/C.1/68/L.15, entitled “Relationship between disarmament and development”.

Cuba has a wealth of experience in the adoption and application of laws and policies. They have enabled us to abide by environmental standards in all sectors of societal life. We believe in the importance of upholding environmental norms and standards when negotiating treaties and agreements on disarmament and arms limitations; such norms must be strictly upheld by all Member States.

As regards the promotion of multilateralism, Cuba reiterates the need to achieve negotiated solutions in the multilateral context. Multilateralism and peacefully negotiated settlements, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, remain the only adequate way to resolve conflicts and to progress towards general and complete disarmament.

With respect to disarmament and development, my delegation underscores that both themes represent some of the principal challenges that humankind faces, above all, on account of the global nature of the dire economic, social and energy crises that affect us all.

Finally, we are perturbed that \$1.75 trillion are being allocated annually to military expenditures, monies that could have been spent to combat the extreme poverty affecting 1.2 billion people worldwide or to feed over 800 million people living in hunger.

The Chair (*spoke in Arabic*): I call on the representative of Romania to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/68/L.45.

Mrs. Miculescu (Romania): I am taking the floor on behalf of Germany and Romania on agenda item 89 (b), entitled “Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures”, in order to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/68/L.45, of the same title. The goal of the draft resolution is to underline the need for strengthened transparency and increased confidence-building among countries, in particular with regard to expenditures related to military enhancements.

The idea that reductions in such expenditures might occur as a result of the active, voluntary engagement of

States to abide by a mechanism that registers national resource allocations for military purposes arose as early as in 1981. In that year, the United Nations Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures — recently renamed the United Nations Report on Military Expenditures — was established to promote trust with regard to military enhancements.

In 2011, for the first time, a group of governmental experts (GGE) examined that report’s operation to uncover what was preventing countries from reporting on military expenditures. The GGE also gave recommendations on how to make the reporting instrument more efficient. The GGE consensual report (see A/66/89) was subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 66/20 of 2 December 2011. Following the GGE’s recommendations, the present draft resolution is calling for the convening of a second GGE in 2016 to assess the impact of the Report and ensure its continued relevance to the disarmament process.

That constitutes the main addition in the new draft. Otherwise, the version previously adopted by the First Committee has been largely preserved. Today, it is being jointly introduced by Germany and Romania. Such a draft resolution has been introduced biennially for over a decade, and it has traditionally being unanimously adopted. We hope that Member States will endorse the draft resolution and its end goal in the same way, as well as co-sponsor it.

Ms. Markoff (United States of America): My remarks today have been condensed, but a full length version will be published on the website of the United States Mission to the United Nations.

Last June, the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security achieved a historic consensus. In the Group’s report (see A/68/98), the United States sees a growing global consensus emerging on the following core ideas.

First, the international community seeks a peaceful and stable environment that allows all States to take advantage of the positive benefits of cyberspace. Secondly, the international community seeks to create incentives for cooperation on shared threats and to avoid conflict. Thirdly, it seeks to create disincentives for States to disrupt one another’s networks or infrastructure. The United States has long been a leader

and strong proponent of that effort. We believe, and the GGE report affirmed this, that to be successful, any effort must be based on international law and practical confidence-building measures. Taken together, they must provide the essential tools to build peaceful intergovernmental relations in cyberspace.

As a GGE participant, the United States has sought to enhance the common understanding on cyberissues of critical national and international significance, in particular in the following areas: first, the need to promote international stability, transparency and confidence in cyberspace; secondly, existing international law should guide State behaviour in the use of cyberspace; thirdly, practical confidence-building measures are needed to build transparency and confidence; fourthly, cooperation with the private sector and civil society is essential; and fifthly, the international community should help build the cybersecurity capacity of less-developed States to help them participate in that process. We believe that the experts contributed substantially on all of these issues.

From the United States perspective, the Group's affirmation that international law is applicable and essential to maintaining peace and stability in cyberspace was the most significant achievement of the consensus. That affirmation was coupled with other agreements. First, States must meet their international obligations regarding internationally wrongful acts attributable to them. Secondly, States must not use proxies to commit internationally wrongful acts. Thirdly, States should seek to ensure that their territories are not used by non-State actors for the unlawful use of information and communication technologies (ICTs). The experts also affirmed that State efforts to address ICT security must go hand-in-hand with respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments.

Together with applying those rules, the United States believes that practical cooperative confidence-building measures are needed to enhance predictability and reduce the prospect that misattribution or misperception might erroneously lead to conflict. The GGE agreed that practical transparency and confidence-building measures, such as high-level communication and timely information-sharing, can enhance trust and assurance among States. They can also help reduce the risk of conflict by increasing predictability and by reducing misperceptions. The Group agreed that capacity-

building was of vital importance in enhancing global cooperation in securing cyberspace. It reaffirmed the importance of an open and accessible cyberspace, since the latter promotes economic and social development. The Group confirmed that the combination of all those efforts contributes to a more secure cyberspace.

The application of international law to actions in cyberspace includes rules governing the use of force by States and the law of armed conflict. Those rules regulate the use of ICTs in armed conflicts of all kinds, whether or not the conflicts begin in cyberspace. The application of those rules is fully consistent with the desires of all States for peace and stability in cyberspace. Just as we are all parties to the Charter of the United Nations, which seeks to prevent war of all kinds, we also subscribe to the Geneva Conventions, recognizing their central role in minimizing civilian suffering during armed conflict.

The United States was pleased to join the consensus affirming the applicability of international law to cyberspace. That clear affirmation sends a strong signal that in cyberspace States must act under the established international rules and principles that have guided their actions for decades.

Ms. Lai Zhenling (Singapore): As a small State, Singapore is keenly aware that today's security challenges cannot be resolved by any one State alone. Multilateral cooperation is fundamental to addressing disarmament and international security issues in an effective and sustainable manner.

As a State party to the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention, Singapore hopes to see the universalization of both. We are also committed to the ultimate goal of complete nuclear disarmament. We echo Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's comment that it is time for new binding legal commitments. That must begin with the revitalization of the disarmament machinery, especially the Conference on Disarmament (CD). Singapore thus urges States to demonstrate the political resolve needed for the CD to overcome its current impasse.

It is critical for the international community to reinforce and uphold the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Singapore calls upon all States parties to ensure the full and effective implementation of the 2010 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

action plan and urges all States outside the NPT regime to accede to it without delay.

We would like to emphasize that disarmament and non-proliferation are two sides of the same coin. There is, therefore, a need to work towards the full realization of article VI of the NPT, with the nuclear-weapon States taking the lead on critical issues, such as the reduction of nuclear arsenals, no first use, and negative security assurances. We also urge all remaining States, particularly annex 2 States, to accede to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and to secure its entry into force.

Singapore strongly supports the establishment and development of nuclear-weapon-free zones as a practical and concrete confidence-building measure. We hope that the conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons can be convened without further delay. Within our region, we seek to preserve South-East Asia as a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. Singapore will therefore continue to work with other Association of Southeast Asian Nations members and nuclear-weapon States to comprehensively resolve any outstanding issues and to facilitate the accession of nuclear-weapon States to the protocol of the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone without reservations.

While multilateral cooperation on disarmament and non-proliferation is important, its success also depends on effective implementation at the national level. States need to maintain high standards of security in order to ensure that dangerous materials do not fall into the wrong hands, in violation of Security Council resolutions.

For our part, Singapore remains fully committed to the goals of disarmament and non-proliferation. We were the first country in South-East Asia to implement an exports control regime, and we continually review and update our legislative and administrative processes to ensure that our system is robust and aligned with international best practices. Singapore also plays an active role in counter-proliferation initiatives, including the Nuclear Security Summit process and the Proliferation Security Initiative. However, the fight against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in today's interconnected world requires collective vigilance, and all States, especially those along the supply chain, must do their part.

We believe that the international community needs to demonstrate renewed commitment to and collective political will for disarmament. Continued progress in strengthening the international framework will require multilateral cooperation, underpinned by the actions of individual States to uphold their obligations and responsibilities.

Ms. González Román (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to address the security aspects of information and communication technologies, and in particular the Internet.

Such technologies contribute in an extraordinary way to economic growth and development. Open and free cyberspace allows for better political and social integration and favours the exercise of the freedoms of expression and association. However, it also creates challenges and poses difficulties for the security of nations and the privacy of individuals, and we therefore deem it essential and urgent to resolve the existing legal loopholes and to establish sanctions for specific actions or types of conduct in order to dissuade the perpetration of attacks and crimes committed on the Internet.

International cooperation is essential, both in order to help build capacity and to exchange information and technologies and thus facilitate the prosecution of crimes and ensure the enforcement of the law. The Seoul Conference on Cyberspace 2013, which took place this month, was a step in the right direction. Spain supports the conclusions that have been collected in the framework document of that Conference, the Seoul Framework for and Commitment to Open and Secure Cyberspace.

Within the United Nations, Spain supports the recommendations reflected in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on cyberissues recently issued (see A/68/98) and considers it important for the United Nations to play a leading role in the process in order to attain an international consensus in those matters. That process must contribute towards establishing an international body of law that will promote universal access to information and communications technologies, which at the same time guarantees security on the Internet, the protection of information and respect for human rights.

We believe the initiatives that have been developed to date within the United Nations are insufficient to respond to the significant challenges that we must tackle and to technological change. Therefore, the upcoming

meeting next year of the Group of Governmental Experts, as has been proposed in the draft resolution submitted by Russia on “Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security” (A/C.1/68/L.37), will be a step in the right direction, and it must be followed by further steps. To our mind, there is a need for an institutional debate on those issues within the United Nations, one that will promote the participation of States and thus contribute to international cooperation, providing for the establishment of global standards, best practices and international regulation that will guarantee peace and security in the use of information technologies.

In order to establish a free and secure cyberspace, Spain is currently developing its national strategy for cybersecurity for 2013, to be adopted in the next few weeks, which establishes a comprehensive approach to cybersecurity, in line with the European Union’s cybersecurity strategy.

The Spanish strategy creates a system of national coordinated points to address cyberattacks on our national territory, ensuring international collaboration of the relevant organizations and companies, in particular those whose activities are considered strategic or critical. In the same vein, we have also included essential elements aimed at raising awareness, entrepreneurial corporate social responsibility and a code of conduct for the responsible use of new technologies. Spain is also involved in various cybersecurity initiatives that are currently being developed by a number of international organizations, especially in promoting proactive international police and judicial cooperation to combat cyberterrorism and cybercrime.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate my delegation’s call to the United Nations to adopt new initiatives in that sphere and to support States to promote international cooperation that is broader and more participatory.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.