



General Assembly

Sixty-sixth session

Official Records

First Committee

17th meeting

Thursday, 20 October 2011, 10 a.m.
New York

Chair: Mr. Viinanen (Finland)

*In the absence of the Chair, Mr. AlMutairi (Kuwait),
Vice Chair, took the Chair.*

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda items 87 to 106 (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 Acting Chair: We will begin by listening to the remaining speakers on the list for the conventional weapons cluster. Before proceeding, I should like to note that this year we have witnessed a marked increase in the number of delegations wishing to take the floor under this cluster. Consequently, we are now lagging behind our programme of work, considering that we were originally scheduled to conclude our deliberations on the conventional weapons cluster two days ago.

To enable us to cover this time lag, I urge all delegations to adhere to the stipulated time limit of 10 minutes when speaking in a national capacity and 15 minutes when speaking on behalf of several delegations. As suggested previously by the Chair, all delegations are encouraged to read summarized versions of their statements and to submit the full text to be posted on the First Committee web portal, QuickFirst.

We will now hear the remaining speakers from yesterday's rolling list.

Mr. Kwon Hae-ryong (Republic of Korea): Considering the impact on the ground, the importance of legal instruments regulating conventional weapons cannot be exaggerated. In the coming months, we will hold the Fourth Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties 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), the final session of the Preparatory Committee and the Diplomatic Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), and the Preparatory Committee and Second Conference to Review 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.

The CCW forms an essential part of international law applicable to armed conflicts. Adherence to the Convention and its Protocols has steadily increased, but the number of States parties to the Convention still falls short of universal membership. We encourage countries that have not yet joined the Convention to become parties to it. The Convention's Amended Protocol II marks significant advancement in addressing humanitarian concerns related to landmines. As a State party to the Protocol, the Republic of Korea also attaches great importance to international efforts to mitigate the humanitarian sufferings caused by landmines. The Republic of Korea has been making meaningful contributions to demining and victim assistance projects through various channels, and will continue to do so.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

11-55676 (E)



Please recycle

We need the CCW to be a dynamic instrument that responds to the urgent humanitarian challenges before us. The adoption and entry into force of Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War demonstrated that the CCW is an important, living instrument of international law. The Republic of Korea continues to be strongly committed to Protocol V, which promotes effective action on explosive remnants of war.

We share the international community's concern about the humanitarian impact caused by the irresponsible use of cluster munitions, and we support the work of the CCW's Group of Governmental Experts to negotiate a protocol that strikes the right balance between humanitarian considerations and legitimate security needs. In this light, the Republic of Korea has actively participated in the Group of Governmental Experts in a constructive manner, and looks forward to a successful outcome during the forthcoming Review Conference in November. At the November Fourth Review Conference of the CCW, we will need to review our past performance and decide future actions. The Republic of Korea will continue to do its part in advancing the effective implementation of the CCW.

Since the three rounds of previous Preparatory Committee meetings, we have witnessed the ATT beginning to take concrete shape. The adoption of General Assembly resolutions, follow-up measures and the deliberation process during previous Preparatory Committee meetings signal an unambiguous and resolute demonstration of the emphatic global support for the need to control the unregulated spread of conventional arms. It is in the interests of the international community that the international trade in conventional arms be regulated by a legally binding instrument containing common standards for transfers of conventional arms. In this connection, the Republic of Korea resolutely reaffirms its support for the goals and objectives behind the ATT. My delegation believes that the ATT should be delivered with the maximum participation of member countries.

The illicit trade and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons keep posing a great threat to the peace and security of the international community. Currently, the United Nations Programme of Action is the only global instrument to regulate the illicit transfers of small arms and light weapons. At the Third and Fourth Biennial Meetings of States and at the first Meeting of Governmental Experts, we recommitted

ourselves to fighting the scourge that the illicit transfer of small arms and light weapons entails.

My delegation sees the forthcoming second Review Conference as a refreshing opportunity to assess past achievements, and it will serve as a stepping stone for further enhancing its effectiveness. The Republic of Korea is committed to the further enforcement of the Programme of Action and looks forward to working closely to make the second Review Conference a success.

Mr. Najafi (Islamic Republic of Iran): The Islamic Republic of Iran, aware of the impact of the illicit trade in arms — in particular small arms and light weapons — on innocent civilians, attaches great importance to the consideration of the issue of conventional weapons within the United Nations by all Member States.

We are of the view that, as stipulated in the Final Document (resolution S-10/2) of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, such measures should take into account the security needs and interests of all States; be based on the principle of the undiminished security of all countries; take place in such an equitable and balanced manner as to ensure the inherent right of each State to security in accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter; and ensure that no individual State or group of States may obtain advantages over others at any stage.

Accordingly, any arms instrument the negotiation of which must be carried out multilaterally in an open and transparent manner and be based on consensus — and above all without pressure from certain arms-producing and exporting cartels and countries — shall contain a clear commitment of its parties to fully respect these principles and refrain in any manner, in particular in restricting or applying unilateral coercive measures, from undermining these fundamental rights.

Many member States in their statements have stated that the main problem in the arms trade, especially in Asia, Africa and Latin America, is the illegal trade in small arms. The illegal transfer of many conventional arms, such as aircraft, warships, missiles and tanks, cannot take place easily. Therefore the central objective of any effort should be to promote coordination among States to prevent the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. The best way would be to strengthen the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms

and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects instead of creating new treaties.

No arms treaty would be conducive to civilian suffering in regions of conflict or tension as long as its focus is on trade. The current ongoing process should not be aimed at pursuing narrow national agendas or regional policies. Accordingly, rather than being a commercial-oriented instrument to ensure the commercial interests of certain arms-producing and exporting cartels and countries and their shares in the world market, any arrangement should protect affected countries as well as the right of each State to participate in the legitimate international transfer and trade of conventional arms for their national security needs, interests and defence capabilities.

We also believe that the universality of an arms instrument is of vital importance. The mere fact that more than 85 per cent of the global trade in conventional weapons is dominated by a handful of countries proves that the realization of the objective of future treaties is subject to the membership of exporting countries in the treaty. Accordingly, the entry into force of the forthcoming agreement should be made conditional on certification by at least 10 major arms-producing and exporting States.

Likewise, and as a complementary measure, major arms-producing countries should be committed to gradually reducing their arms production to a defined level. In the view of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United Nations Programme of Action, and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, which have been negotiated within the United Nations based on a progressive approach and adopted by consensus, are still the main international platforms for addressing the multifaceted challenges of small arms and light weapons. In this context, we believe that the 2012 Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action will provide the best opportunity to review the progress made in its implementation and to strengthen its effectiveness.

On the issue of conventionally armed missiles, having had the bitter experience of eight years of imposed war during which Iranians in defenceless cities — even in the capital — were under constant missile attack by Saddam, my country was obliged to develop its indigenous missile technology for its self-defence.

Needless to say, Iran was the last country in the region to resort to missile technology. In the meantime, my country fully supports any comprehensive and non-discriminatory approach towards addressing the issue of missiles in all its aspects within the United Nations. A discriminatory approach outside the United Nations will not contribute to comprehensively addressing this important issue. We have a clear defence policy and our conventionally armed missiles are exclusively for defending our country and therefore pose no threat to any State.

The anti-missile system developed by the United States under the pretext of the so-called missile threat is aimed only at gaining supremacy over other Powers in the European neighbourhood and the Far East. Spending billions of dollars for the development of an anti-missile system in continuation of the original so-called Star Wars of the 1980s has no justification and will definitely add neither to the security of host countries nor to the security of a country operating such a system. It would be an unfortunate cause of a new arms rivalry.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, at the invitation of the Government of Lebanon, for the first time attended the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions as an observer. Our presence at the Beirut Conference was also an indication of our support to the people of Lebanon who are the main victims of cluster bombs.

During the 30-day war, the invader army used a large amount of cluster munitions against civilians in Lebanon. According to the United Nations, the Zionist regime's aeroplanes unleashed about 4 million bomblets in southern Lebanon during that time. Up to 1 million of them failed to explode and have endangered civilians after the conflict. Illogically, the quantities of cluster munitions fired during the last three days of the 30-day war after a United Nations ceasefire deal showed the irresponsibility of that regime, which was confident of the United States full support in the Security Council for its unlawful actions.

Many civilians, in particular children, have been killed in southern Lebanon as a result of explosions of the leftover cluster bombs since the war ended in August 2006. This brutality against civilians in southern Lebanon and later in Gaza is not only a grave violation of international law, but also goes against all basic norms and ethics prevailing in human society.

We share the humanitarian aspects of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. After the end of the eight-year imposed war on Iran, we are faced with a huge problem of lands contaminated by left-over mines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war used by Saddam's army. The remnant of more than 20 million mines, cluster munitions and other explosives mark the south and west of my country as the most contaminated area in the world. The Islamic Republic of Iran, immediately after the end of the imposed war, started cleaning up the contaminated regions. Due to disarmament security implications relevant to regulations governing the aspects of cluster munitions, we believe that these regulations should be concluded in a multilateral environment within the framework of the United Nations.

Needless to say, if it is to be effective, a convention regulating the various aspects of cluster munitions should include the major players in this regard. If a convention on cluster munitions or other sophisticated weapons does not include those major producers or possessors, it will naturally be faced with a lack of effectiveness. In this context, in recent years cluster munitions were used on a large scale in Iraq and Afghanistan. From 2001 and 2002 the occupying Powers dropped almost 250,000 cluster munitions in Afghanistan and their forces together used almost 2 million cluster sub-munitions during the first three weeks of the invasion of Iraq in 2003. As long as the major producers and users of such weapons act outside the internationally agreed regulations, the future of the said Convention, its universality and effectiveness will remain ambiguous.

In conclusion, I should reiterate that we fully support the statement made on this cluster by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (see A/C.1/66/PV.16).

Mr. Thalassinós (Panama) (*spoke in Spanish*): As this is the first time we are speaking at this session of the First Committee, may I begin by congratulating the Chair on the significant work he is doing at the helm of the Committee. I also extend my congratulations to the members of his Bureau.

The Republic of Panama is firmly committed to the process of working towards an arms trade treaty, in the understanding that this instrument would serve to promote and strengthen the arms trade and prevent effects to destabilize international peace and security.

My country's foreign policy is based on disarmament and the non-proliferation of conventional weapons, and we therefore consistently support these initiatives in international, regional and subregional forums. Panama joins those States that have endorsed an arms trade treaty as a legally binding instrument geared to establishing common international norms on the export, import and transfer of conventional weapons.

We are aware that concluding an arms trade treaty would be the culminating process in putting an end to the illicit trade in and irresponsible transfer of arms that have serious social, humanitarian and economic consequences for many of our countries. We note that every year sees an increase in the number of human victims as a result of the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons. In today's world, the international community faces a number of challenges in the area of the trade in conventional weapons, and it is therefore necessary to work to prevent their diversion, especially to illicit activities.

Panama is fully aware of the regional and global threat of the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons. It is a complex problem, and mechanisms need to be introduced to control the illicit trade. In this regard, Panama welcomed the consensus adoption of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. My country believes that it is necessary to apply international and national instruments to enable States to identify, in a timely manner, small arms and light weapons that are being illicitly trafficked.

In that regard, I am pleased to report to the members of the Committee that the Government of Panama has strengthened its current situation legally by enacting new legislation on weapons — Law No. 57 of 27 May 2011, entitled "Firearms, Ammunition and Related Materials Act". That legal provision regulates the activities of middlemen in the trade of small arms and light weapons; introduces a new, modern and effective registry of weapons and obligatory marking of these weapons; regulates licensing and authorizations for intermediation, as well as applicable sanctions for all illicit activities of middlemen that take place under the jurisdiction and control of the Panamanian State; and promotes the surrender of illicitly obtained small arms and light weapons.

Likewise, the Law establishes a legal framework to regulate ownership, possession, import and export, trade and sale, storage, intermediation, transport and trafficking of weapons, munitions and related materials by individuals. The Law complies with the need to modernize and unify norms in effect in this area, and responds to the social and commercial realities requiring new regulations that are adapted to our country's socio-economic needs and public national security.

With this legal instrument, the Republic of Panama is optimally positioned to fully honour the commitments it has undertaken under the international instruments it has ratified to control the scourge of armed violence and promote peace and security in Latin America and throughout the world.

Before concluding, my country wishes to express its firm support for the work of the Chair of the Preparatory Committee of next year's United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty. We also reiterate our appreciation to Ambassador Roberto García Moritán of Argentina for his leadership of the Preparatory Committee. The document presented by Ambassador García Moritán is transparent and contains all the elements needed to begin negotiations on an arms trade treaty.

Ms. Mongwa (Botswana): My delegation shares the concerns about the significant work that still needs to be done in the area of conventional arms control to make the world a safer place. Addressing the problem of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is of particular importance to Botswana and to the rest of Africa.

The use of illicit small arms and light weapons in violent crimes, including robbery, transnational organized crime and piracy, is among the major causes of insecurity in our region. In other words, this class of weapons poses a serious threat to countries in the region and further undermines their efforts to achieve sustainable economic and social development, including regional integration. There is therefore a need for stronger and more robust cooperation to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons at the national and regional levels.

In this regard, Botswana remains fully committed to the 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, as well as to measures mandated by regional

and international legal instruments, including the Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons, and the Southern African Development Community Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials.

Botswana also commends measures taken by the United Nations system and other relevant partners to enhance international assistance and cooperation. We note in particular the encouragement of donors to provide technical and financial assistance to facilitate technology transfer and assistance for the implementation of regional agreements, as well as the use of regional and subregional organizations to facilitate practical cooperation within and between regions. In this regard, greater international assistance and cooperation remain critical, particularly in the areas of border control, marking and recordkeeping.

We also encourage continued efforts towards the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, including through the development and enhancement of follow-up mechanisms. Also important is the process of matching needs with resources because it enables the efficient and systematic implementation of identified projects that further advance the goals of the Programme of Action. My delegation further recognizes and appreciates the important role played by initiatives, such as the Group of Interested States on Practical Disarmament Measures, in promoting the implementation of relevant disarmament agreements, including the Programme of Action.

Botswana notes with appreciation the convening of the Meeting of Governmental Experts on small arms in May, which brought together senior law enforcement experts to exchange views on the challenges and opportunities of implementing the Programme of Action. We believe that it provided a useful platform on which new strategies and tools could be developed in order to tackle existing and emerging challenges in implementing the Programme of Action.

In this regard, my delegation also believes that it provides useful input for the 2012 Conference to Review the Progress Made in the 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. We hope that, during the review process, the issue of the means of implementation will remain high on the agenda.

We take this opportunity, therefore, to congratulate Her Excellency Ambassador Ogwu, Permanent Representative of Nigeria, as the Chair-designate for the Review Conference. We wish her all the best in the discharge of her duties. Let me also assure her of the support and cooperation of my delegation.

Botswana also attaches great importance to the conclusion of an arms trade treaty in 2012. We hope that it will be a comprehensive, balanced and legally binding instrument setting the highest possible common international standards for the transfer of conventional weapons. Our appreciation also goes to Ambassador García Moritán for the excellent manner in which he has been steering the preparatory process towards the arms trade treaty. My delegation hopes that we will resolve all outstanding issues on the deliberations towards the arms trade treaty without compromising its quality as a valuable instrument for preventing the illegal acquisition of weapons, as well as acquisition by those who would use them for criminal acts or the perpetration of atrocities against innocent people.

Mr. Sokveng Ngoun (Cambodia): Cambodia associates itself with the statement delivered yesterday on this theme by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (see A/C.1/66/PV.16).

Cambodia strongly believes that conventional weapons continue to threaten regional and international peace and stability. There is no doubt that the negative impact of these weapons is immense, claiming human lives indiscriminately. They have a long-term, negative impact on human life and impede the country's socio-economic development efforts. The Royal Government of Cambodia is strongly committed to addressing the problem of conventional weapons.

Like many other countries across the globe, Cambodia was a conflict-affected country awash with the legacy of small arms. Cambodia fully supports the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, which is the cornerstone of efforts to address the issue of conventional weapons. I should like to reiterate that the Kingdom of Cambodia adopted the United Nations Programme of Action in 2001 and has been complying with it ever since.

Moreover, Cambodia has played a leading role in its efforts to control conventional arms. It has organized various seminars on small arms and light weapons in relation to the United Nations Programme of Action, and has enacted a law on the management of weapons, explosives and ammunition.

My country looks forward to the convening of the 2012 Conference to Review Progress Made in the 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, which will provide an opportunity to further strengthen the implementation of the Programme.

Landmines and explosive remnants of war are the most silent and indiscriminate killers of men, women, children and even animals. Cambodia's problem of landmines and explosive remnants of war is the result of a protracted sequence of international and regional conflicts that affected the country from the mid-1960s until late 1998. The nature of the landmine and explosive remnants of war contamination in Cambodia is highly complex. The north-western regions bordering Thailand are heavily affected, while other parts of the country, mainly in the east, are considered to be moderately scattered with landmines, and mainly explosive remnants of war.

The Royal Government of Cambodia has a clear vision to rid itself of the threat of anti-personnel landmines and minimize the risks from anti-tank mines and explosive remnants of war. The country also strives to promote the rights of the survivors of landmines and explosive remnants of war and their communities, undertaking a bold mission to ensure that women, men and children live safely; that development can take place in a safe environment; and that the provision of services, assistance and use of mine action resources is coordinated in a more effective and efficient manner.

It is worth emphasizing that the responsibility of the State and the cooperation of its partners are critical to success in tackling the problem of landmines and explosive remnants of war. Until now, Cambodia and its partners have successfully responded to the humanitarian and development imperatives by returning several thousand hectares of contaminated land to communities. Cambodia expresses profound thanks to the international community for the level of support that has been extended to its mine action

programme over the past two decades, and is proud to share demining experiences with others.

Being a State party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, Cambodia continues to exert efforts to clear anti-personnel landmines and explosive remnants of war from the country, and is committed to promoting regional and international stability and disarmament. In this regard, Cambodia has dispatched hundreds of demining soldiers to different United Nations peacekeeping missions, such as the United Nations Mission in the Sudan.

Likewise, in order to further raise awareness of the impact of mines and to assess progress made and the challenges remaining in tackling the mine problem, Cambodia will host the Eleventh Meeting 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 in Phnom Penh at the end of next month.

Although we have come a long way, with 157 States on board the treaty, with large tracts of land cleared, millions of stockpiled mines destroyed and, most importantly, a sharp drop in casualties, we are still far from the final goal of a mine-free world. We look forward to welcoming all States parties and States not party to the treaty to Phnom Penh, and hope that delegations will bring good news of their recent achievements and next steps in regard to joining or implementing the Convention.

This year, Cambodia, together with Albania and Norway, is co-sponsoring the annual General Assembly draft resolution on the Mine Ban Convention. Similar resolutions in past years have recorded high levels of support. We hope that the level of support this year will be higher for the sake of the humanitarian goal of a mine-free world.

The Acting Chair: We have now completed the list of the remaining speakers on cluster 4, "Conventional weapons". Before we turn to cluster 5, I shall give the floor to those speakers who wish to exercise their right of reply.

Ms. Adamson (United Kingdom): I take the floor to exercise my right of reply to the right of reply made yesterday by the representative of Argentina.

The United Kingdom has no doubt about its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, and the surrounding maritime areas. The principle of self-determination enshrined in the United Nations Charter underlies our position on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands. There can be no negotiations on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands unless and until such time as the Falkland islanders so wish. The islanders regularly make it clear that they have no wish either to lose British sovereignty or to become independent.

Ms. Poroli (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): With regard to the United Kingdom's statement in right of reply on the issue of the Malvinas Islands, the Argentine delegation reiterates in all its terms the statement made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of the Republic of Argentina to the Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization Committee).

The Government of Argentina recalls that the Malvinas, South Sandwich Islands and South Georgia Islands and the surrounding maritime passages are an integral part of Argentine national territory. They are illegally occupied by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and are subject to a dispute of sovereignty between the two countries. That is recognized in a number of different international organizations.

The illegal occupation of the United Kingdom led the General Assembly to adopt resolutions 2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25, all of which recognize the existence of the dispute over sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands and urge the Governments of the Republic of Argentina and the United Kingdom to renew negotiations with a view, as quickly as possible, to finding a peaceful and lasting solution to this dispute. For its part the Special Committee on Decolonization has repeatedly taken a stance in this regard, most recently through the resolution adopted on 21 June. Likewise, the General Assembly of the Organization of American States in 2011 adopted a new, similarly worded statement on this matter.

Argentina regrets that the British Government turns historical facts on their heads with the obvious purpose of drawing a veil across its invasion of 1983, which was subject to continuous and repeated protest by Argentina. This procrastination also highlights the

United Kingdom's uncertainty concerning its so-called rights over the Malvinas Islands.

Argentina reiterates that the free determination of peoples, the only element on which the United Kingdom claims to found its supposed rights — and which it asserts exclusively in the case of the Malvinas Islands — is completely without precedent and not applicable to the dispute between the two countries on sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands.

Along the same lines, Argentina regrets that the United Kingdom continues irresponsibly to generate expectations of the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands based on the illicit appropriation of Argentine natural resources, in open violation of international law and in contradiction of the statements of international organizations. In this regard, we recall that the interests of the inhabitants and their way of life are appropriately overseen by the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Constitution of the Argentine Republic, respectively. The Republic of Argentina reaffirms its right to sovereignty over the Malvinas islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands, and the maritime spaces around them, which are an integral part of the national territory of Argentina.

The Acting Chair: In accordance with our work programme, we will now proceed with the thematic debate on cluster 6, "Other disarmament measures and international security".

Mr. Wang Qun (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): The twenty-first century is the century of information. Information and cybertechnology represent advanced productivity, and their rapid development and wide application have given a strong impetus to contemporary economic and social development and the progress of human civilization. They are also transforming people's lives and the way human society works in a profound way. Information and the cybernetwork system have become critical infrastructures for the countries of the world.

While countries enjoy the great convenience offered by information and cybernetworks, they also find themselves more vulnerable in terms of security because of the interconnected nature of information and cybernetworks and the multiple sources of potential risks and threats existing in information and cyberspace.

In recent years, in addition to the vulnerability of its own information and cybernetworks, China has been subjected to increasing cyberattacks from abroad that have caused enormous damage. China has become one of the major victims of cyberattacks. That has led us to understand that, as a result of the interconnectivity of information and cybernetworks, the countries of the world have become members of a community of common destiny in which our security is inseparably linked. Therefore, maintaining information and cyberspace security means maintaining the security of the entire international community, not just that of one country.

At present, information and cyberspace security represents a major non-traditional security challenge confronting the international community. Effective response to this challenge has become an important element of international security and a major topic of multilateral arms-control diplomacy.

China believes that the international community should view this issue from the new perspective of a community of common destiny, and work together towards peaceful, secure and equitable information and cyberspace. To this end, the following five principles should be followed.

The first is the principle of peace. In contemporary history, humankind has experienced two world wars and at times come to the brink of nuclear war. In the information age, we must not revive the old pattern of suffering the pains of wars first and learning to cherish peace afterwards. The international community should engage in active preventive diplomacy and promote the use of information and cybertechnology to advance economic and social development and people's welfare, and to maintain international peace, stability and security.

Countries should commit themselves not to use information and cybertechnology to engage in hostile activities to the detriment of international peace and security, and not to proliferate information weapons, cyberweapons and related technologies. In the meantime, countries have the right and responsibility, in accordance with their respective national laws and regulations, to protect their information, cyberspace and critical information infrastructure from threats, disturbance, attack and sabotage. Countries should work to keep information and cyberspace from becoming a new battlefield, prevent an arms race in

information and cyberspace, and settle disputes on this front peacefully through dialogue.

Second is the principle of sovereignty. Sovereign States are the main actors in the effective international governance of information and cyberspace. In this area, we must also respect national sovereignty, territorial integrity and other principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter, as well as other universal basic norms of international relations.

Countries should act responsibly and constructively in the area of information and cyberspace, take multiple approaches to strengthening effective management so as to build a comprehensive and integrated national management system that comprises, *inter alia*, sound legal norms, self-discipline by industries, security safeguards and social education. While ensuring the healthy development and effective utilization of information and cyberspace, it is also necessary to keep information and cyber technology from being turned into another tool to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries.

Third is the principle of balance between freedom and security in information flow. While fully respecting the rights and freedom of all stakeholders in information and cyberspace, countries should uphold the rule of law so as effectively to maintain order in information and cyberspace. The rule of law should be the guiding beacon to activities in information and cyberspace. Moreover, the practice of power politics in cyberspace in the name of cyberfreedom is untenable.

Fourth is the principle of cooperation. Since information and cyber networks are interlinked with each other and fall within different sovereign jurisdictions, no country is able by itself to manage only its own information and cyber business, still less ensure its information and cybersecurity. Such a task requires all countries to work together and to further strengthen international exchanges and cooperation.

Fifth is the principle of equitable development. Developed countries should help the developing countries enhance their capacities in information and cyber technology and narrow the digital divide to enable the latter to share the dividends of the development of information and cyber technology in this globalized world and information age so as to realize genuinely equitable and universal development.

In this information age, the information highway has reached almost every corner of our planet. It is worrisome, however, that in this virtual space, where traffic is very heavy, no comprehensive traffic rules have yet to be drawn up. As a result, traffic accidents in information and cyberspace constantly occur with ever-increasing damage and impact. Therefore, the development of international norms and rules guiding activities in information and cyberspace has become an urgent task to maintain the information and cyberspace security of various countries.

As the most universal and authoritative international organization, the United Nations is the most appropriate forum for the formulation of such norms and rules. In September, China, together with Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, submitted to the current session of the General Assembly an international code of conduct for information security (A/66/359, annex) with a view to launching an open and transparent process for developing, within the framework of the United Nations, international norms and rules for information and cyberspace security, which we hope will prompt countries to act responsibly and constructively in information and cyberspace and address the concerns of all parties in a balanced way. We wholeheartedly welcome comments and proposals from Member States so that the code will better reflect the concerns of all parties.

The information and cyber network has linked all of us closely together, making distances between countries a matter of microseconds in many cases. Let us work together to intensify our exchanges and cooperation in the field of information and cyberspace security, and reach an early consensus on the code with the objective of building a peaceful, secure and equitable information and cyberspace. Let us also work together to make information and cyber technology produce more development dividends and better serve world peace and the well-being of humankind.

Mr. Woolcott (Australia): Australia, like all other Member States, has a growing interest in cyberspace as a vital platform for commercial, intellectual and social exchange. Australia supports the commencement of an international dialogue on the development of international norms for cyber. Such a dialogue is needed; the current international consideration of cyber issues lacks coherence. Admittedly, this type of dialogue is difficult to have in the United Nations framework because the topic, in its many different dimensions, does

not fit readily into the General Assembly's committee structure. Cyberspace covers a range of issues, only some of which relate to international security and the First Committee's work.

We all know that developing international norms is a long-term enterprise. We expect the task of developing international norms for cyberspace to be particularly challenging. We need a balanced and pragmatic discussion that separates out the many different cyberissues and identifies an appropriate international path for each of them within the United Nations system. Australia considers that this is possible.

Australia takes this opportunity to set out clearly some of our principles on cyberissues. Australia's starting point is that existing international law, including laws relating to the use of force and international humanitarian law, applies to the international security aspects of cyberspace. That body of law cannot be ignored; it needs to be built upon and elaborated as it relates to cyber.

Secondly, many of the concepts and terms used in relation to this issue are unclear or not readily or easily understood. A common understanding among Member States is necessary for a meaningful dialogue. There is clearly a need to do much very basic work in this area.

Thirdly, Australia supports the existing multi-stakeholder governance framework for the Internet and does not support control of the Internet by Governments. The private sector, which built and owns much of the Internet, is critical to its continuing success.

Lastly, Australia is committed to freedom of speech and freedom of expression. These are rights protected under international human rights law. Great care needs to be taken in seeking to qualify such rights by reference to national laws of individual States.

As we have said, an international dialogue can help to clarify what needs to be done by the international community to develop norms for cyberspace. For that reason, Australia looks forward to the International Conference on Cyberspace in London in November, which we hope will set an international agenda on cyber. Australia also hopes that the group of governmental experts to be established in 2012 under resolution 65/41 can further contribute to this issue in ways that build upon the consensus established by the 2010 report of the Group of Governmental Experts.

Before closing, I take this opportunity to welcome yesterday's announcement that Burundi has become the 165th State party to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). Following Mozambique's accession to the BWC in March and ahead of December's Review Conference, that is very good news. A more universal BWC is a stronger BWC, and Australia hopes that those States that have not yet joined the BWC will do so as soon as possible.

Mr. Amano (Japan): The Final Document (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)) of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) underscored the importance of disarmament and non-proliferation education as a useful and effective means to achieve a world without nuclear weapons. In its action plan in the Final Document, the NPT Review Conference also encouraged all States to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/57/124) regarding the 2002 United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education produced by the Group of Governmental Experts, of which Japan was a member. To this end, Japan has been engaged and will remain engaged in a wide range of efforts to promote education in the area of disarmament.

Japan, as the only country to have suffered atomic bombings, has undertaken the task of passing on the experiences of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as well as the importance of peace to people throughout the globe as part of its disarmament education activities. Last year, Japan started a programme of appointing hibakusha, atomic bomb survivors, as special communicators for a world without nuclear weapons. The main purpose of this programme is to share with people throughout the world, especially the younger generations, the first-hand experiences of hibakusha.

So far, a total of 39 special communicators have been involved in 21 events worldwide. In this connection, Japan will hold side events, in cooperation with the United Nations, during United Nations Disarmament Week from 24 to 30 October. The first event, which will take place on Tuesday, 25 October, will introduce two special communicators and announce the winners of the Poetry for Peace contest. The second event, to be held on Wednesday, 26 October, will feature presentations by the two special communicators, who will deliver their testimonies and engage in discussions with the

audience. We invite all Member States and civil society to participate in these events.

Japan has also undertaken efforts to make the testimonies of the hibakusha more widely available. Testimonies have been translated into English and other languages and can be accessed on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. In this regard, we welcome the efforts of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs to maintain and update its website “Disarmament education: resources for learning”. As of September, it has become available in all the official United Nations languages. Moreover, the aforementioned testimonies can also be accessed on that website.

Japan is also working closely with the United Nations in the area of disarmament education. First, every year since 1983 Japan has been honoured to host participants in the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme. Twenty-five Fellows, who are with us here in the First Committee, visited Hiroshima and Nagasaki and learned about the realities of the terrible devastation caused by the atomic bombings.

Secondly, every year since 1989 Japan has hosted the United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues in a different Japanese city. This year, the Conference was held in the city of Matsumoto in August. Fruitful discussions were conducted by the participants and the Conference concluded with great success.

Beyond our cooperation with the United Nations, we will also actively promote disarmament and non-proliferation education with the members of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI). Next year marks the tenth anniversary of the Secretary-General’s report on the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education. We call upon all Member States, relevant international organizations and civil society to renew their commitment to implementing the recommendations contained in the report. In this regard, it may be appropriate to review and update the recommendations on this occasion.

Lastly, no disarmament and non-proliferation education programme can succeed without the involvement of all the relevant actors and every opportunity, big or small, must be seized to complete actions related to these activities. For its part Japan will continue to cooperate with civil society groups in order to develop concrete measures and to make a positive

contribution to the ongoing efforts at the national, regional and international levels for the promotion of disarmament and non-proliferation education.

The Acting Chair: I now give the floor to the representative of South Africa to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/66/L.39.

Mr. Gumbi (South Africa): South Africa is committed to a rules-based international system and to strengthening multilateral governance in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. As far as the disarmament machinery is concerned, there seems to be growing impatience at the continuing lack of substantive progress on the disarmament agenda, and there is general agreement that it can no longer be business as usual.

In this context, the meeting convened by the President of the General Assembly in July this year again highlighted the general sense of frustration. However, the meeting also reflected the divergent positions of States on how the continuing impasse in their multilateral disarmament bodies can be overcome. Even as consensus on the appropriate remedies continues to elude us, there seems to be broad agreement on the need to ensure that these institutions serve the purpose for which they were created and fulfil their respective mandates.

Current endeavours to address concerns regarding both weapons of mass destruction and conventional arms continue to be characterized by actions that serve narrow interests, which paralyse the multilateral forums specially mandated to address such issues. The understanding that the reality that efforts to secure and advance international peace and security are dependent on the collective participation of the international community therefore continues to elude us. South Africa has consistently argued that our collective security concerns require sustainable collective solutions that take into account not only the individual security needs of those that continue to hold the power in an unequal international system, but also those that reflect our shared security interests. While acknowledging its imperfections and the need for reform, we remain fully committed to the revitalization of the multilateral disarmament machinery.

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to recognize the efforts of this year’s six Presidents of the Conference on Disarmament aimed at ending the stalemate that has for too long prevented that body

from fulfilling its mandate as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. Despite these considerable efforts, it is indeed regrettable that the Conference on Disarmament has once again this year failed to commence substantive work on any of the items on its agenda.

We therefore share the disappointment of others that neither the Conference on Disarmament nor the United Nations Disarmament Commission has managed to generate any substantive results since the previous First Committee session. Conflicting priorities and a lack of the necessary flexibility and political will among States may well have added to the challenges facing the multilateral disarmament machinery. It is our hope that this First Committee session will be able to provide impetus to efforts aimed at enhancing the multilateral disarmament agenda and revitalizing its machinery.

The Conference on Disarmament has the responsibility to conduct multilateral disarmament negotiations, a core mandate derived from the first special session of the General Assembly in 1978. Due to its inability to fulfil that basic mandate for more than a decade, some have started to question whether it remains the appropriate vehicle to pursue disarmament objectives. The past achievements of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) speak for themselves, since the core disarmament instruments have been negotiated in that very forum.

Given the nature of the Conference on Disarmament as a negotiating body, South Africa believes that the Conference is able to engage in negotiations on any issue on its agenda, even though we acknowledge that the finalization of any international legally binding agreement in future may be more likely on some issues than others. In my delegation's view, disagreement over priorities should not prevent that body from dealing substantively with the issues on the multilateral disarmament agenda.

Given the many years of stalemate in the CD, South Africa believes that it is time to take stock and engage in a critical reflection on the approach that has been taken towards the conduct of negotiations in the Conference, as well as to explore options that would allow progress on the disarmament agenda in the relevant multilateral forums.

It is our hope that all delegations will seize this opportunity to provide renewed impetus towards progress in the disarmament arena that would contribute

towards increased security for all. While we recognize the hesitancy of some to engage in such an exercise, due to concerns about efforts that may undermine the disarmament machinery and/or agenda, South Africa believes that it is only through direct substantive engagement on issues of substance in a collective effort that would be able to transcend divisions and to build consensus irrespective of the difficulties that we may encounter.

As we reflect on the work of the Conference on Disarmament in this session of the First Committee, it is important to recall that nuclear disarmament was the subject of the first resolution 1 (I), adopted by the General Assembly in 1946, and the first item on the CD's agenda since its inception. We recall that the establishment of a subsidiary body in the CD to deal with nuclear disarmament was part and parcel of the consensus action plan of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (see NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)). Nuclear disarmament therefore remains at the heart of efforts to strengthen international peace and security.

It may well be that the arguments advanced by some that nuclear disarmament is not yet ripe for negotiation may also have provided a rationale for others to question the ripeness of other priority issues on the disarmament agenda, such as fissile material. It is because of my delegation's unwavering commitment to the pursuit of a world free of nuclear weapons that we support concrete, systematic and progressive efforts towards that goal, particularly those that meet the principles of transparency, irreversibility and verifiability.

South Africa strongly supports the commencement of negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other explosive devices that would fulfil non-proliferation and disarmament objectives alike. Despite our long-standing commitment to negotiations on such a treaty, we regret that the Conference on Disarmament has not yet been able to start substantive work on this issue. It is, however, important to recall that the lack of progress on this topic is not a new phenomenon.

One of the disarmament machinery's main contributions to international peace and security is to develop consensus norms to address issues in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. As with the Conference on Disarmament, it is also worthwhile recalling the valuable past contributions of

the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) in elaborating consensus recommendations that still facilitate our work today. South Africa was therefore disappointed that the UNDC, the sole deliberative body in the United Nations disarmament machinery, concluded another of its three-year cycles without any substantive results.

The question that confronts the multilateral disarmament machinery is whether these institutions, after so many years of inaction, will be able to regain their position as responsible multilateral institutions that can contribute towards consensus on matters affecting our common security. Can they live up to the expectations of the international community to fulfil their respective mandates? What can be done to revitalize the work of these institutions and take forward multilateral disarmament negotiations? To judge by the debates over the past two weeks, these are clearly questions on which a common view is yet to emerge. My delegation stands ready to work with all Members of the United Nations and civil society with a view to making substantive progress on the multilateral disarmament agenda in order to strengthen the multilateral system of governance and contribute towards the maintenance of international peace and security.

While I have the floor, allow me, on behalf of the Netherlands, Switzerland and South Africa, formally to introduce under agenda item 106, draft resolution A/C.1/66/L.39 entitled "Revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations". The draft resolution recognizes the role, function and past achievements of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, but expresses concern about the status of the disarmament machinery and the need for greater effort and flexibility to advance multilateral disarmament negotiations.

Among the wide-ranging views expressed in the draft, it invites States to explore, consider and consolidate options, proposals and elements for a revitalization of the United Nations disarmament machinery as a whole, including the Conference on Disarmament. It also urges the Conference on Disarmament to adopt and implement a programme of work early in its 2012 session.

It is the hope of South Africa, the Netherlands and Switzerland that the draft resolution, which contains a finely balanced reflection of the diverse views, will serve as an encouragement for a common endeavour

aimed at resuming substantive work within the relevant multilateral disarmament bodies. We also hope that the draft resolution can be adopted by consensus again this year.

Ms. Balaguer Labrada (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*):

My delegation wishes to begin by associating itself with the statement to be made later in this room by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. The draft resolutions presented to the First Committee under the cluster on other disarmament measures and international security address issues of great relevance. I should like to look into a couple of them that are of particular importance to my delegation.

With regard to promoting multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, Cuba reiterates that seeking negotiated agreements in the multilateral environment and the need for collective agreements are the only way to safeguard international peace and security. Practice has shown that the objective of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction cannot be achieved by applying unilateral measures, promoting agreements negotiated outside internationally recognized forums, or using or threatening to use force.

Multilateralism and peaceful, negotiated solutions in keeping with the United Nations Charter remain the only appropriate way to solve disputes and to work towards general and complete disarmament. In the context of the multilateral disarmament machinery, the stalemate in negotiations that we have seen in some years due to a lack of political will on the part of some actors simply increases the value of multilateralism.

As to disarmament and development, it is of vital importance to my delegation to reiterate that these issues are two of the main challenges facing humankind, particularly given the global nature of the very deep-seated food, social, energy, economic and environmental crises currently facing the world.

Over the past 10 years, military expenditures have increased by 49 per cent, reaching the astronomical figure of \$1.5 trillion. With the resources dedicated to weapons today, we could combat abject poverty, which is affecting 1.4 billion people in the world, feed the more than 120 million hungry people on the planet, prevent the deaths of the 11 million children who die of starvation or preventable diseases every year, or help the 759 million illiterate adults throughout the world. In this regard, Cuba reiterates its proposal for the creation

of a fund managed by the United Nations, in which at least half the world's current military expenditures would be invested in order to meet the economic and social development needs of the most needy countries.

Likewise, we reiterate our support for the action plan adopted at the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, including the international commitment of earmarking some of the resources that have been freed up by disarmament for socio-economic development.

We stress the relevance of observing environmental norms in drafting and implementing disarmament and arms control agreements. Cuba has accumulated vast experience in adopting and applying laws and policies that make it possible to observe environmental norms in all social areas, including in different disarmament and arms control international instruments to which it is a State party.

However, the existence of weapons of mass destruction and their continued updating are among the most serious threats to international peace and security, the fragile environmental balance of our planet, and sustainable development for all without exception. It is therefore of vital importance to take respect for environmental norms into account when negotiating treaties and agreements on disarmament and arms control, which should be strictly complied with by all States.

The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (CWC) remains the only international agreement that includes the verifiable destruction of these weapons and the factories that produce them, as well as measures to protect people and the environment. In that regard, the guiding principles and methods for the destruction of chemical weapons are of great importance and should be taken into account by States possessing such types of weapons when destroying them.

Strengthening the Biological Weapons Convention is also key to safeguarding the environment and biodiversity on our planet. With regard to nuclear disarmament, we urge the Conference on Disarmament to begin negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty within a set period of time and under strict international control. A nuclear disarmament treaty must also include measures to protect the environment.

The Acting Chair: I now give the floor to the representative of India to introduce draft decision A/C.1/66/L.44.

Mrs. Parkar (India): The international community has recognized that scientific and technological developments can have both civilian and military applications and that progress in science and technology for civilian applications needs to be maintained and encouraged. India is fully aware of the dynamic nature of scientific and technological developments and their impact in a globalized environment on international security, non-proliferation and disarmament. These developments also have a wide-ranging impact on related areas of human security — economic growth, trade and development, food security, information security, disease prevention and cure, energy security and protection of the environment.

As a developing country, we are also aware that science and technology are of vital importance to fulfilling the development aspirations of developing countries, which need access to scientific developments and new technologies. International cooperation in the use of science and technology for peaceful purposes, including the transfer and exchange of technology, is therefore essential.

Science and technology can also contribute to verification of relevant disarmament and non-proliferation agreements. At the same time, the international community should follow closely scientific and technological developments that may have a negative impact on the security environment and on the process of arms limitation and disarmament.

The international transfer of sensitive technologies and high technology with military applications should be effectively regulated, keeping in mind the legitimate defence requirements of all States. National regulations and export controls of the appropriate standards in this field should be strengthened and effectively implemented. Relevant international agreements in this field should be implemented in a manner designed to avoid hampering 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. There is thus a need for dialogue and cooperation among Member States to find

a viable, forward-looking approach, taking into account current trends and possible future directions.

My delegation has therefore introduced draft decision A/C.1/66/L.44, entitled “Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament”, to be included in the agenda of the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session. We hope that the First Committee will endorse the text as it has done in previous years.

The Acting Chair: I now give the floor to the representative of the Russian Federation to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/66/L.30.

Mr. Vasiliev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Bearing in mind your request, Sir, I shall abridge my statement. The complete version will be distributed to delegations, and I hope that it will be included in the relevant documents.

This year, the Russian Federation, along with 24 other States, is a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.1/66/L.30, entitled “Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security”. The draft is based on resolution 65/41 of 2010. It contains merely technical adjustments of the previous version. The new element is the renewed mandate for the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security in 2012.

The updated draft resolution states that the Group of Governmental Experts will focus its work on considering

“study existing and potential threats in the sphere of information security and possible cooperative measures to address them, including norms, rules or principles of responsible behaviour of States and confidence-building measures with regard to information space” (A/C.1/66/L.30, *para. 4*).

Bearing mind the positive experience and work carried out by the Group, as reflected in its 2010 report on information security (see A/65/201), which mentions concrete steps to be taken in this area, it would be logical for the Group of Governmental Experts to work on developing practical measures for cooperation and coordination among countries in the area of international information security.

The timeliness and topicality of developing norms or legislation on conduct in the information sphere is acknowledged by the majority of States and discussed within various international organizations, conferences and forums. We thank the sponsors of our draft resolution and, bearing in mind the importance of this particular topic, call on States to come forward as co-sponsors. We look forward to the adoption of the text by consensus, as in previous years.

Further to the initiative for the development of a code of conduct in the information sphere, a draft international code of conduct has been distributed under agenda item 93 as an official document (A/66/359, annex), with an accompanying letter signed by the Permanent Representatives of China, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and sent to the Secretary-General. The representative of China referred to that document earlier today.

The document is an invitation to discussion of this particular matter. We call upon all interested parties to participate actively in those discussions. We hope that this initiative will be a first step on the road to drafting a universal document, under United Nations auspices, that would take on board, to the maximum extent possible, the interests of the entire international community and comprehensively address the matter of international information security. Once again, I should like to underscore that the document is an invitation to discussion, and we do not intend to submit it to a vote.

I should also like to inform the Committee that the Russian Federation drafted and presented at the second International Meeting of High Representatives on Security Issues in Yekaterinburg in 2011 a draft convention on information security. The meeting was attended by representatives of more than 50 countries, and represented an attempt to consider international information security in the light of earlier international work and achievements in this area. The conceptual framework, which is also an invitation for discussion, will serve as a basis for the drafting of a United Nations convention. We hope it will unite the efforts of the interested community in this area. Electronic links to that particular document are contained in our written statement.

We look forward to further cooperation on international information security and to reach mutual understandings across the entire spectrum of the issue, both within the United Nations and in other

international organizations and forums. We believe that this will correspond to the interests of all parties in terms of international information security and stability as a whole.

The Acting Chair: I now give the floor to the representative of Indonesia to introduce draft resolutions A/C.1/66/L.8, A/C.1/66/L.6 and A/C.1/66/L.7, and draft decision A/C.1/66/L.12, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Cassidy (Indonesia): I have the honour to introducing three draft resolutions and one draft decision on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) for the consideration of the First Committee under the cluster “Other disarmament measures and international security”.

Before I talk about each of them briefly, I should like to state that NAM considers the texts of these draft resolutions and the decision to be extremely important, as their implementation will not only affect disarmament and international peace and security, but also profoundly impinge on global development, prosperity and stability, since the issues raised in these crucial drafts are cross-cutting.

First, NAM presents draft resolution A/C.1/66/L.8, entitled “Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation” under agenda item 98 (n). The Movement underscores that multilateralism and multilaterally agreed solutions, in accordance with the United Nations Charter, provide the only sustainable method of addressing disarmament and international security issues. It is vital that the General Assembly adopt a resolution that underlines the principle and merits of multilateralism and emphasizes international cooperation and the peaceful settlement of disputes. We reaffirm the absolute validity of multilateralism and that it is an essential way to develop arms regulation and disarmament negotiations. We call upon all Member States to renew and fulfil their individual and collective commitments to multilateral cooperation, and stress our conviction in the role of the United Nations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

Secondly, the Movement presents draft resolution A/C.1/66/L.6 entitled “Relationship between disarmament and development” under agenda item 98 (l). NAM is concerned about increasing global military expenditure, a substantial part of which could otherwise be spent to promote development and eliminate poverty and disease, particularly in the

developing countries. We underline the importance of exercising restraint in military expenditures, and reiterate the significance of following up on the implementation of the action programme adopted at the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, including the global development agenda that has emerged over the past decade.

The Group reiterates the invitation to Member States to provide information to the Secretary-General regarding measures and efforts to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development, with a view to reducing the ever-widening gap between developed and developing countries. The resources saved could be used for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, as well as other internationally agreed development goals.

Thirdly, NAM introduces draft resolution A/C.1/66/L.7 entitled “Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control”, under agenda item 98 (m). The continued sustainability of the global environment is essential to present and future generations. NAM stresses that international disarmament forums should fully take into account the relevant environmental norms in negotiating treaties and agreements on disarmament and arms limitation, and that all States through their actions should contribute fully to ensuring compliance with environmental norms in implementation of treaties and conventions to which they are parties.

We call upon States to adopt unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures to contribute to ensuring the application of scientific and technological progress within the framework of international security, disarmament and other related spheres, without detriment to the environment and with a view to achieving sustainable development.

Fourth, the Movement has put forth draft decision A/C.1/66/L.12 entitled “Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security”. We hope that the aforementioned draft resolutions and the decision presented by the NAM will be considered positively and supported by member States. For its part, NAM looks forward to continuing

to engage constructively with all delegations to make tangible progress in the First Committee.

Lastly, NAM would like to underscore the significance of displaying greater political will, particularly by the nuclear-weapon States, in undertaking their agreed commitments on nuclear disarmament. That is vital to international efforts to advance the global disarmament and non-proliferation agenda.

Mr. Reid (United States of America): I undertake to you, Sir, and your colleagues to be brief in accordance with your guidelines. The United States welcomes this chance to discuss the growing challenges and indeed the opportunities for greater dialogue in the cybersphere. This is a complex topic with broad implications for a wide range of global human activity. As our esteemed Australian colleagues have already remarked, it also does not easily fit in the existing United Nations structure. We understand that the challenge is one with which the United Nations groups of governmental experts have struggled in past years and likely will continue to address in their future work.

Again, as already stated by the Australians, we see this discourse as one based on important principles, which we can further develop in our work in the groups of governmental experts. A step-by-step approach is advisable here, in our opinion. For example, international humanitarian law is an important reference framework for further discussion in the cybersphere. Developing a common glossary of terminology for better detailed mutual understanding of these complicated multifaceted topics also is a priority for the international community.

The cybersphere is a public-private endeavour where freedom of speech, intellectual property rights, freedom of the press, and international contract structures require protection and deserve to be continuing foundations for the future. International dialogue aimed at describing these emerging norms would do best to reflect on how to perpetuate their priority in future frameworks.

Finally, like many others, we look forward to the forthcoming 2012 Group of Government Experts and certainly welcome the November International Conference on Cyberspace to take place in London.

Mr. Ugorich (Belarus) (*spoke in Russian*): The delegation of Belarus expresses its continuing concern at the potential for the use of information and communications technologies against the interests of

States in political, military, economic and scientific spheres. Belarus has consistently supported the need for broader international cooperation in the field of information and communication technologies. We welcome the United Nations positive contribution to consideration of this matter, including through the work of the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security in 2009 and 2010.

We welcome the fact that the results of the work of the Group of Governmental Experts led to a consensus on a draft report (see A/65/201), which reflects the main areas of activity of the international community in the field of information and communications security. We underscore the need to pursue international cooperation in this area, including bearing in mind the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts. We read with great interest the document on the draft international code of conduct in the information sphere (A/66/359, annex) and welcome it. We look forward to participating in the discussions on this matter.

The Acting Chair: We have heard the last speaker on other disarmament measures and international security.

The Committee will now turn to cluster 6, "Regional disarmament and security", beginning with a panel discussion.

It is my pleasure to welcome our panellists today: Ms. Agnès Marcaillou, Chief of the Regional Disarmament Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs; Ms. Mélanie Régimbal, Director of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean; Mr. Xiaoyu Wang, who will speak on behalf of the Director of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific; and Mr. Ivor Richard Fung, Director of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa.

Before giving the floor to our first panellist, I would kindly urge them all to limit their statements to no more than 10 minutes. Once we have heard all the panellists, the meeting will switch to an informal segment to afford delegations an opportunity to ask questions.

I now invite the Chief of the Regional Disarmament Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, Ms. Agnès Marcaillou, to address the Committee.

Ms. Marcaillou (United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs) (*spoke in French*): It is always a great pleasure and above all a privilege for me and my colleagues to have the opportunity to meet with and speak to the Committee about our activities. We in the Regional Disarmament Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs have always recognized the importance of showing how the Committee's support — be it financial, political or through the experts that the Committee provides to us — is being used.

It is important that, by meeting with us face to face and by hearing about the daily reality in the field, members understand that anything and everything we do here is intended to strengthen and bolster the decisions that the Committee makes in conference rooms here in New York and elsewhere to improve peace and security in their countries, subregions and respective regions. We are merely the structural and institutional link between the standards, papers and discussions of the Committee, on the one hand, and the resolution of the problems of their countries, regions and subregions, on the other, which are at the very source of the matters that the Committee discusses here at the United Nations.

If I may, I will begin this presentation by displaying a photograph that is a very good illustration of a cross-cutting question.

(*spoke in English*)

Gender is a cross-cutting issue in everything that we are doing at the United Nations. We get it from formal mandates and from the in-house policies of the Secretary-General. We work in an area where gender is important, and this picture shows gender mainstreaming in Disarmament Affairs. This is the work of the Regional Disarmament Branch.

We also cross-cut the role of women in peace and security in disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation, which is another mandate we have. Here again, we see the other side of gender. We see women actually at work. The two women in this photograph have been trained through our specialized training course on the destruction of weapons, ammunition and explosives. They, too, contribute to

the success of a disarmament operation in any given country.

The last picture I shall show is a fresh one. I am not here to promote the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago. However, on Saturday in Port of Spain, we announced the first destruction programme of the Caribbean region. We feel that it covers everything. It is women at all levels. She is the head of the Government, has taken the lead in supporting our disarmament programme in the Caribbean and is literally rolling up her sleeves and doing it. I should like to ask for members' indulgence. We have a 10-second video that we wanted to show the Committee. This is how we cut weapons before we bring in the right, efficient equipment.

The members of the Committee were shown a video presentation.

Ms. Marcaillou (United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs): For the newcomers, I shall explain what the Regional Disarmament Branch is. It is a New York office with three regional centres that were established by the General Assembly in the mid-1980s. We are located on four continents and act as one entity to assist more than 135 countries, including through South-South cooperation. We are the field presence of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and implement the Committee's decisions on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control at the national, subregional and regional levels.

The key word for this year and years to come will be "partnerships". We have decided this year not to go into a long dreary list of all the things we do. All that is in the Secretary-General's report that members have received in all languages. Rather, we have decided to highlight why partnerships are more important than ever.

First, they are on the rise. Success attracts success. We are now known and established in limited but very significant programmes — concrete, tangible, on the ground — and we have partners within and outside the United Nations system that are interested in working with us. Ultimately, many of us share the same mandates and it is very important for us, the Regional Disarmament Branch in the UNODA not to duplicate efforts or have members get tired of paying several agencies, actors and people to do the same thing. We do not want countries to be confused when many agencies are coming to talk about basically the same thing. They

would like to go back to their desks and do their work. In a nutshell, there is no need to reinvent the wheel.

How is this done? Our partners can subcontract the Regional Centres to adjust their existing programmes to include specific modules and other requirements in existing and proven programmes. We have the manuals. We have spent five, six or seven years in drafting standard operating procedures, in applying internationally accepted standards, and in promoting technical guidelines.

The United Nations as one is about partnership, so we can do the training for those who want agencies to do training with us. We can work together on marking, recordkeeping and tracing, because we are already doing it. We know how to take a machine and how to train countries on how to use it. We are doing that in various regions. My colleagues will talk about that. We are pretty good at stockpile management, weapons destruction and training. We train, we assist, we oversee and we supervise. We do not do it ourselves; we equip countries to do it after we leave. The ultimate “why” is that if our partners work with us, they can hit the ground running. They can complete their programmes faster and make better, more cost-effective use of the money they receive from Member States.

I should like to move very quickly to some housekeeping matters because Committee members are all long-time friends of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and ultimately need to know what is going on in the house.

For Africa, members will recall that we had helped the countries of Central Africa to draft the Kinshasa Convention. We drafted an implementation plan. We revitalized the work of the Standing Advisory Committee for Security Questions in Central Africa. Mission accomplished. We have done it. The Convention was opened for signature in Brazzaville last November. The 11 countries of Central Africa have signed it. We have done what we were asked to do, and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs has now transferred the secretariat of that Committee to the Department of Political Affairs.

What remains is that the United Nations Regional Centre in Africa will continue to assist the Member States of Central Africa in everything to do with disarmament. We will continue to carry out UNODA’s mandate and technical assistance on everything that relates to disarmament, arms control, and

non-proliferation. We will be the technical assistance of the Economic Commission of Central African States, which has become the secretariat implementing the Kinshasa Convention. That is the main thing we did in Africa.

In Asia and the Pacific, there has been a change of team. After three years spent in Kathmandu, Mr. Taijiro Kimura of Japan, the Director of the Regional Centre based in Kathmandu, and his colleague Mr. Roman Hunger of Switzerland have gone back to their respective Governments. All of us here would like to thank greatly the Governments of Japan and Switzerland for making their representatives available to the service of the United Nations. I should also like to thank, through them, my colleagues who have advanced the United Nations agenda of peace and security in Asia and the Pacific.

I am pleased to introduce to the Committee Ms. Mélanie Régimbal, the new Director of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. She is well known to all and is truly a great asset to Latin America and the Caribbean and, not to mention, to my own office. These were the housekeeping matters I felt needed to be reported to the Committee.

To finish and before my colleagues go into more detail about the highlights — members will not get a long shopping list this year — what of the future? What is the strategy of the Regional Branch for 2012-2015? 2012-2015 is four years because the United Nations budget cycle is two years at a time. The backbone of the strategy — although this is not everything we will do — will be to capitalize on the acquired experience, good practices and successes of the Branch. We will look at South-South transfers and each and every Centre’s response to the specificities and specific requirements of subregions, regions and countries. We have developed methods of work that have proven to be successful and we will endeavour to share that experience and expertise. We will not cut and paste. Latin America is not Africa or Asia and the Pacific. The Caribbean is not the Pacific. We will not reinvent the wheel. We will not duplicate members’ spending in redoing what we already do well. That is where the Centres will really work together even more closely in order to transfer that experience.

We can show which programme has been successful because the recipient and donor countries told us that

they were successful, as did the United Nations system as well. It is the training of security sector personnel. My colleagues will talk about that later.

Stockpile management and weapons destruction, marking, record-keeping and tracing, and brokering activities are the main concrete, practical modules that we carry out and that make a difference on the ground. Destroying weapons in a vacuum makes no sense. Twenty years of United Nations studies have shown that one does not make a difference if the proper training, legislative and regulatory frameworks, or the proper public security elements — as they are called in some regions — are not in place. That is what we do because we have been mandated to do it under the Programme of Action and under various regional and subregional instruments. That is what we are looking at now — not inventing new activities but capitalizing on what we have done well.

The other point is that an expansion of our agenda to other issues related to weapons of mass destruction under what most know as Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). Now we have Security Council resolution 1977 (2011), adopted last April, which applies to every country and specifically mentions the strengthening of the regional architecture of UNODA. Paragraph 22 of resolution 1977 (2011) — if delegations do not have a copy, I can elaborate on it when we get to questions and answers — basically draws on the regional architecture that the General Assembly established some 25 years ago and that can really help to support the Committee's efforts at all levels. I should now like to cede the floor to my colleagues.

The Acting Chair: I now give the floor to the Director of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, Ms. Mélanie Régimbal.

Ms. Régimbal (United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean): The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-LiREC) provides the Member States of Latin America and the Caribbean region with practical tools to implement the provisions of international and regional disarmament and arms control instruments in the field. This year, that translated into more than 40 activities in support of 20 Member States. Such activities were carried out

in close cooperation with regional and subregional organizations.

On the issue of training and capacity-building in the field of small arms and light weapons, UN-LiREC has found that standardized training is the best way to ensure that effective measures are set in place throughout the region to combat illicit small arms proliferation, and in particular their diversion into illicit markets. It provides concrete and practical tools for security sector personnel to sustain their country's fight against armed violence and illicit trafficking in firearms.

In 2010, UN-LiREC's inter-institutional training course on the combat of illicit trafficking in firearms, ammunition and explosives was awarded a best practice prize and recognized as a best practice for small arms control. This year alone, we have trained 550 security sector personnel in nine States of the region, including an innovative training for women only. These trainings are effective in raising the standards of security forces, while also acknowledging the crucial role played by women in promoting peace and disarmament and how strengthening their impact contributes to ensuring gender-sensitive responses to the reduction and prevention of armed violence.

In 2012 and 2013, we will continue to carry out our award-winning training, but also add specialized training on small arms for judicial operators with a view to reducing impunity in illicit firearms trafficking cases in the region. UN-LiREC will also bolster its training in explosives and border management at the request of Member States.

I turn now to the issue of technical assistance in stockpile management and weapons destruction. Destruction is irreversible, and hence the best way to ensure that surplus weapons and illicit firearms, including those confiscated from criminals, do not find their way back into the hands of those who threaten the lives of innocents. Adequate stockpile management, which includes record-keeping, marking and tracing, is the best safeguard against the diversion of weapons into illicit activities.

Combining these activities with national disarmament campaign initiatives helps to prevent and reduce the deadly impact of armed violence in our communities. Thus, the ongoing actions taken by UN-LiREC throughout the Caribbean, Central America and the Andean regions to reduce the volumes

of weapons and explosives, train personnel, and provide them with internationally accepted standards and technical guidelines constitute a crucial step in the permanent elimination of the tools of violence and the risks that they pose to our society.

For the future, in 2012 and 2013 we will continue the destruction of the 50,000 weapons and 35,000 tons of ammunition that have been identified for destruction. The programme was launched last week, as Ms. Marcaillou has said, in Trinidad and Tobago.

Regarding legal assistance and policy assistance on small arms and light weapons, without adequate controls and legal frameworks, States are unable properly to combat illicit firearms trafficking. The harmonization of national legislations with international and regional firearms instruments is the best way to ensure standardized and effective legal responses to this scourge. This year, UN-LiREC carried out 10 legal reviews and accompanied States in the drafting of new bills of law. Before the end of 2012, UN-LiREC will have completed the legal reviews of all States of Central and South America. In 2013 and late 2012, we will focus on the Caribbean region.

UN-LiREC also assists national commissions in defining and implementing their priorities for their national action plans. With the support of UN-LiREC, States and subregional organizations alike are better able to align their priorities and activities within their own regions. In 2012 and 2013, States will identify the need to develop tools to address the growing phenomenon of private security as it pertains to small arms. UN-LiREC will endeavour to assist States in this issue.

Finally, in closing I wish to give special thanks and pay tribute to the donors who have accompanied us in this process over the past few years, in particular the ongoing support of Canada, Spain, Sweden and the United States of America. I should also like to recognize in particular the Member States of our region that have made financial contributions to the Centre — Guyana, Mexico, Panama and Peru — and highlight finally the innovative cooperation and partnership, which transferred into financial support, received from the Organization of American States and the United Nations Development Programme. The Regional Centre is recognized by Member States and regional organizations alike as a centre of excellence and looks forward to further requests for assistance.

The Acting Chair: I now give the floor to Mr. Xiaoyu Wang to address the Committee on behalf of the Director of the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific.

Mr. Xiaoyu Wang (United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific): As you, Sir, and Ms. Marcaillou mentioned, I am speaking on behalf of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific because of the fact that the Director of the Centre, Mr. Taijiro Kimura, has completed his tour of duty. However, I should just like to give some highlights of the work he and his staff have done in the past year.

The Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific focused its work and activities last year on two main areas. The first was capacity-building. The Centre conducted the first training workshop series on combating illicit small arms and light weapons. The training aimed at providing law enforcement personnel with practical knowledge and skills on a number of small arms-related issues, such as international legal normative frameworks, marking, tracing and recordkeeping, stockpile management and weapons destruction. The training was done also to promote inter-institutional cooperation within a country and cross-border or subregional cooperation between countries.

As mentioned by Ms. Marcaillou at the beginning of her statement, we always involve relevant partners on the ground. In this training, our partners include INTERPOL, the World Customs Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, as well as civil society organizations. The first training was for Nepal, so we focused on the national and subregional contexts.

In the second category, capacity-building, the Centre organized best-practice seminars on armed violence prevention reduction. The first such workshop was for the South and South-East Asian regions. Seventeen countries from those two subregions participated, together with civil society organizations and researchers in this field. At the seminar, participants shared and documented best practices and lessons learned from within the region as well as from other regions. They documented several pages of such best practices. The information is available on the Centre's website.

The second area of the Centre's work focused on outreach and advocacy, under which it continued to promote dialogue and confidence-building by organizing annual conferences to address some of the most pressing issues at the global and regional levels in areas of disarmament and non-proliferation. For instance, the Ninth United Nations-Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Issues, which took place in Korea in December, focused on nuclear renaissance and its implications for international peace and security.

The Centre also organized, in close cooperation with the Government of Japan, the twenty-third United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues, under the theme "Urgent and united action towards a nuclear-weapon-free world", which took place in the city of Matsumoto, Japan, in July. From the numbers, members can see that both conferences are organized on an annual basis.

As someone who participated in the Conference, I should say that a unique feature of these two Conferences is that they brought together experts, Government officials, academics and scholarly researchers, as well as representatives of civil society, and in the case of the Japanese Conference, representatives of the press. This year in Jeju, we will also involve the press. Another unique feature is that the Conference provides the opportunity for the insiders of some of the disarmament and non-proliferation processes to share their insights into those challenging processes.

Under the second category of outreach and advocacy, the Centre organized a regional workshop, in cooperation with the Government of China and the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association, on strengthening the capacity of the media in advocating and promoting peace and disarmament in Asia and the Pacific. It was a regional workshop for East and South-East Asia and took place in Beijing in January.

The third category under outreach and advocacy is disarmament education, as the Japanese Ambassador said in his statement, under "Other disarmament issues". It is an important area for the Centre to work on with Governments such as Japan's. For instance, because we also work with local Governments, we organized a disarmament education event for high school students in Japan in the city of Saitama.

The Centre also organized disarmament education activities, together with international and local

volunteers, to carry out disarmament education in public schools in Nepal. That is another category.

For future activities, the Centre will conduct more and expanded training on combating illicit small arms and light weapons. The first training conducted by the Centre was the first of its kind in Asia and the Pacific. For future sessions and training, the Centre is looking at expanded training modules at the national and subregional levels. It will also organize regional workshops on armed violence prevention and reduction, focusing on sharing and documenting best practices. The Centre also plans to conduct more subregional workshops on promoting or strengthening the role of the media in order to promote disarmament and non-proliferation.

Additional areas the Centre is looking at to provide technical assistance and training upon request are areas such as small arms and light weapons stockpile management, the implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, combating cross-border trafficking of illicit small arms and light weapons, and implementing Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

I would emphasize that all programmes of the Centre rely on voluntary financial and in-kind contributions, so support from member States and other donors is key. The Centre will continue to enhance its cooperation with its partners. For more detailed information, I direct members to the Centre's website, www.unrcpd.org.np.

The Acting Chair: I now invite the Director of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, Mr. Ivor Fung, to address the Committee.

Mr. Fung (United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa) (*spoke in French*): It is always a privilege and a pleasure for me to be here with the Committee every year to describe our achievements in Africa. This year, I should like to update the Committee on two significant areas of our work: strengthening regional cooperation and technical support to States, intergovernmental organizations and civil society in Africa.

The work that I will be presenting is the result of cooperation and partnership with a number of different players. We do not work alone but in partnership, first and foremost with the Committee's

member States, subregional organizations such as the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and civil society organizations. I should like to discuss our work with the Institute for Security Studies in South Africa. That is how we work. As our leader, Ms. Marcaillou, underlined, what we are trying to do is to maximize efforts and reduce the duplication of efforts everywhere.

(spoke in English)

Along the lines of strengthening regional cooperation, I should like to turn now to the partnership with the African Union Commission that we have been building and which has been growing stronger and stronger this year into practical cooperation in two main areas. One was to help the Commission to mobilize efforts for an African Union Commission document that would capture an African common position on the arms trade treaty (ATT).

In this context, last month we helped to organize in Lomé, Togo, a meeting of governmental experts of the African Union (AU). Forty-seven countries out of the 54 countries in Africa participated in the meeting, and the governmental experts adopted a draft common position. While this agreement is only a draft, the AU Council of Ministers will meet in January 2012 to formally endorse the common position developed by the experts. The draft common position provides a number of detailed suggestions for States to consider for the forthcoming ATT negotiations in July 2012.

Another achievement at the recent meeting in Lomé was the adoption of a draft African Union strategy on small arms and light weapons that the AU Steering Committee — to which the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa belongs and in which it participates as an observer — has been able to adopt. The AU member States agreed to this draft strategy, which is entitled “African Union strategy on the control of illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons”. The strategy calls on African Union members to push for items such as the creation of a standing committee on small arms and light weapons within the AU, greater cooperation and coordination at the regional and continental levels, the promotion of coordination in the implementation of regional and continental agreements, and enhanced

interregional cooperation through, among others, the exchange of information and experiences and the sharing of best practices.

That is what we were able to do with the African Union Commission in 2010 and 2011. We also provided support to other subregional organizations, particularly with regard to achieving a common understanding on the ongoing negotiations on the ATT.

In this context, the ECOWAS draft common position developed at the experts level, which member States adopted at the beginning of this year, and which was drafted with the support of the Regional Centre, will be submitted also to the ECOWAS Ministers for formal adoption.

In March this year, in the context of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, the Centre provided technical support in drafting the ECCAS common position on the arms trade treaty. That common position was adopted and signed by all the Ministers of the 11 member States of the Standing Advisory Committee.

I shall now move on to the second area of work that I specified earlier, namely, substantive and technical support to African States and intergovernmental organizations. Here, I should like to recall my report to the Committee last year on the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunition, Parts and Components that can be used for their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly, known as the Kinshasa Convention. The Convention has now been signed by all 11 States members of the Standing Advisory Committee. In this context, the Regional Centre and the secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States are working in partnership to ensure the early ratification and entry into force of this important instrument in Central Africa.

We were also able to provide similar support in the area of legislation with ECOWAS, when, as in other subregions, ECOWAS member States realized that they had national legislation that was not always in tune with the Convention that was adopted in 2006 and entered into force in 2009. They called on the Regional Centre to help to draft a guide that would help to harmonize national laws with the Convention. That guide has been drafted and submitted to ECOWAS, and has now been adopted formally as an instrument that will help the 15 States members of ECOWAS to harmonize their

national laws with the Convention. In a similar fashion, we also provided support to the ECOWAS Commission in designing and installing a database on national legislation on small arms and light weapons.

Another important area of difficulty when it comes to the implementation of regional legally binding instruments that have been adopted in Africa — either the ECCAS Convention or the Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa — is the issue of brokering. Since national laws do not tackle the issue, States parties to the Nairobi Protocol have requested the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States to help in regulating brokering activities in the region.

We have started the work, and as I report today, we have completed work in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. The work consists of establishing an inventory of brokers in small arms and light weapons in each of the participating States, issuing brokering licences, and producing software on the registration of brokers. The project also set up special computers that will help the member States concerned, and train those who would be using these tools in the various countries.

That is what we have been able to achieve in 2011. It is only a snapshot. There is more in the Secretary-General's report, which the Committee already has. I will now tell the Committee what the future will look like.

Based on the requests that we have received from member States in the African region and the Regional Commission, we will be focusing our efforts in coming years, as of 2012, in helping the African Union Commission in the implementation of the Pelindaba Treaty. To this end, we have been asked by the AU Commission to help in building the capacity of the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE). I am happy to see Mr. Abdul Minty, who is closely associated with AFCONE, in this room. We would also be providing support for stockpile management in West and Central Africa, focusing on capacity-building, tracing and marking, and the collection and destruction of weapons in these two subregions.

As I said earlier, we will continue to work with the ECCAS secretariat to ensure the complete and effective implementation of the Kinshasa Convention once it

enters into force. That is why right now we are working with member States and civil society organizations to push for its ratification.

We will also work to implement Security Council resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1977 (2011) in 2012 and 2013. The kind of support we will be providing, and which was constantly requested when the three regional meetings were organized in Africa, has been in border control and law enforcement. We will endeavour to provide support in cooperation with our partners to interested member States in the region.

With regard to security sector reform, which is a big area of our work, as was underlined by Ms. Marcaillou a few minutes ago, we will extend that programme to southern Africa and focus mainly on parliamentary defence committees, and strengthening these institutions in the SADC region with regard to the role that parliaments play in the implementation of regional international instruments on disarmament.

The last area of work, which has already started but which will be developed further in 2011 and 2012, is the work that we started in Mozambique to provide support to the Mozambican Police Academy in developing a teaching curriculum on small arms and light weapons. We will organize a training programme in Maputo in December.

I should like to seize this opportunity to thank all the donors that have made financial and in-kind contributions to the Centre, including Austria, Finland, the Netherlands, Togo and Cameroon.

The Acting Chair: To give us an opportunity to have an interactive discussion with our panellists, I shall now suspend the meeting.

The meeting was suspended at 12.50 p.m. and resumed at 12.55 p.m.

The Acting Chair: We have heard the last speaker for today. The next meeting of the Committee will be held tomorrow morning at 10 a.m., when we will hear the remaining speakers on the rolling list for regional disarmament and security. Time permitting, we will then take up cluster 7, "Disarmament machinery", beginning with a panel discussion with the President of the Conference on Disarmament and the Chairman of the Disarmament Commission.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.