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Sixty-fifth session

First Committee

16th meeting

Thursday, 21 October 2010, 10 a.m.
New York

Chair: Mr. Miloš Koterec (Slovakia)

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

Agenda items 88 to 104 (continued)

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

The Chair: We shall now hear the remaining speakers under cluster 6, “Other disarmament measures and international security”.

Mr. Lauber (Switzerland): I would like to make a brief statement with regard to draft resolution A/C.1/65/L.39/Rev.1, entitled “Women, disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation”, which was introduced yesterday by the representative of Trinidad and Tobago.

It is my delegation’s view that all our efforts in the field of disarmament and arms control must be comprehensive in their approach. In order to be comprehensive, the approaches that we devise should include the gender perspective. Practical measures aimed at the prevention and reduction of armed violence are a useful illustration of that.

With regard to armed violence, the experiences of men and women tend to differ considerably. Therefore, if we really want to make progress in this field, that difference in experience must be taken into account.

We therefore hope that all delegations in this room, as well as those that are not here now, will subscribe to those basic principles underpinning the

draft resolution. We therefore call on all delegations to support it.

The meeting was suspended at 10.10 a.m. and resumed at 10.15 a.m.

The Chair: I now give the floor to the representative of India to introduce draft decision A/C.1/65/L.40.

Mr. Rao (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. In India, we are 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.

Such developments also have a wide-ranging impact on related areas of human security, such as economic growth, trade and development, food security, information security, preventing and curing disease, energy security and the protection of the environment.

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 on the use of science and technology for peaceful purposes, including the transfer and exchange of technology, is therefore essential.

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

The international transfer of sensitive and high technologies with military applications should be effectively regulated, keeping in mind the legitimate defence requirements of all States. National regulations and export controls of appropriate standards in that field should be strengthened and effectively implemented. Relevant international agreements in that field should be implemented in a manner designed to avoid hampering the economic or technological development of States parties to those agreements.

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 therefore 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.

India has therefore submitted a draft decision entitled "Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament", which calls for the inclusion of an item of the same title in the agenda of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly. We express the hope that the First Committee will adopt it by consensus.

Ms. Ng (Singapore): Please allow me to begin by congratulating you, Sir, and the members of the Bureau on your elections. My delegation looks forward to working with you in the remaining weeks of this First Committee session.

Singapore is heartened by the many positive developments in the disarmament agenda last year. In particular, significant gains were made in the field of nuclear disarmament with the signing of the new Treaty on Strategic Offensive Arms between the United States and the Russian Federation in April and the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in May.

More recently, efforts were expended to move the work of the Conference on Disarmament forward. Singapore remains firmly committed to the goal of

disarmament. We therefore encourage all actors and players to use the leverage of the positive momentum generated by those events to continue charting concrete gains on disarmament. There is much work to do to rally the political will for the goal of disarmament.

At the same time, we must also carry on the concurrent fight against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). In today's interconnected world, the high volume of trade and the increased ease of information flows have provided more options and flexibility for proliferators to obtain WMDs, their delivery systems and related materials.

In its *Nuclear Security Report* issued in August, the International Atomic Energy Agency disclosed that more than 200 cases of illicit trafficking, loss and theft of nuclear and radioactive material were reported in the past year. Should those materials fall into the hands of terrorists, the consequences would be unthinkable. Singapore has therefore consistently supported non-proliferation treaty regimes, such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention.

We must not forget the critical importance of those regimes being accompanied by effective national implementation. As a global trans-shipment hub located at the juncture of key lines of communication, Singapore recognizes that we have a practical and important part to play in preventing the proliferation of WMDs, their delivery systems and related materials. We place particular emphasis on two key areas.

First, we continually review and enhance our export control regime, which is backed by strong national legislative and enforcement measures. Our strategic goods control act, which was implemented in 2003 with a partial control list to govern the export and trans-shipment of goods and technology with potential WMD application, was subsequently expanded and updated in 2008 in order to ensure that our export control system remains robust and in line with international best practices.

Secondly, we also participate actively in multilateral counter-proliferation efforts. One such example is the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), which aims to encourage international cooperation in the interdiction of WMD-related material shipments, in accordance with relevant international law as well as

national legislation. As a committed PSI member, we regularly host PSI exercises and activities, the most recent of which was Exercise Deep Sabre II in October 2009.

At the regional level, Singapore also actively contributes to efforts complementing key multilateral counter-proliferation initiatives. With China and the United States, we are co-hosting a series of Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Forum (ARF) intersessional meetings on non-proliferation and disarmament, centred on the three pillars of the NPT, namely, non-proliferation, disarmament and the right to peaceful uses of nuclear technology. By allowing ARF countries to exchange views and to develop practical cooperation on non-proliferation and disarmament, the intersessional meetings provide a useful forum to facilitate regional capacity-building in that area.

This July, Singapore hosted the second intersessional meeting, focused on the third pillar of the NPT, following Beijing's hosting of the inaugural intersessional meeting last year. The United States will host the third intersessional meeting next year.

As the threat of proliferation grows more complex and multifaceted, a collective effort is urgently required by the international community to implement effective and useful disarmament and non-proliferation regimes. In this era of increasing interdependence, it is critical that we continue to work together towards bringing about a more peaceful world environment.

Mr. Macedo Soares (Brazil): Modern societies depend heavily on the constant availability of information and telecommunications services and infrastructure. Information and communications technologies have become an extremely valuable resource, crucial to the prosperity of nations and the well-being of their citizens.

Nevertheless, dependence on those new technologies has also provided the opportunity for new vulnerabilities that can undermine the activities of Governments, public services, private companies, banks and stock markets. In addition, those new technologies also represent an asset for use as cyberwarfare. There are already national armed forces with specialized military units trained and equipped to disable, or even to destroy, critical infrastructure through the intrusion and disruption of information

networks. The same tactics may also come to be used by terrorist individuals or organizations.

In the light of those new developments, Brazil believes that the international community should strive to build appropriate tools for dealing with criminal and terrorist activities involving information technology. In a complementary approach, the international community should also consider the need to develop international instruments to cope with the emergence of cyberwarfare.

Criminal and terrorist activities should be discussed in the relevant forums. The United Nations should play a relevant role in assisting Member States, as required, in their efforts to achieve some of the following goals: first, establishing emergency and alternative networks to protect critical infrastructure; secondly, assessing national network structures, analysing interdependencies and identifying effective methods of protection; thirdly, implementing tools and measures to enable authorities to trace the origin of cyberattacks; fourthly, qualifying national institutions to conduct testing and evaluation of the security level of information systems; and fifthly, avoiding discriminatory mechanisms that could prevent countries from accessing high technology in the fields of telecommunications and information systems.

The United Nations should also play a leading role in discussions on the use of information and telecommunications as cyberwarfare in inter-State conflict situations, paying special attention to the following elements: the identification, characteristics and classification of information warfare, the identification and classification of information weapons and means that can be used as information weapons and the establishment of multilateral rules for the use of information weapons.

Brazil was a member of the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security, established by the Secretary-General in pursuance of resolution 60/45, of December 2005. In its final report (see A/65/201), which was adopted by consensus, the Group acknowledged the existence of potential threats, risks and vulnerabilities in the field of information security. The Group recognized that uncertainty regarding the attribution of disruptive activities and the absence of a common understanding on acceptable State behaviour could

create the risk of instability and misperception. The Group therefore presented a number of confidence-building and other measures to reduce the risk of misperception resulting from disruptions to information and communications technologies, which we consider to be a valuable contribution in the field of information and telecommunications security.

While we support those recommendations, we note that they were focused mainly on confidence-building measures. Brazil hopes that, in the near future, discussions can be resumed so as to address additional measures, such as the development of necessary international legal standards in the field of information and telecommunications security.

Brazil supports the draft resolution presented by the Russian Federation entitled “Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security” (A/C.1/65/L.37). We are grateful for the leading role that the Russian Federation has taken on that issue for several years, as well as for its partnership with Brazil in that area, as reflected in the signing of a bilateral agreement on cooperation in the field of international security for information and communication during President Lula’s visit to Moscow in May.

The Chair: I now give the floor to the representative of Mexico to introduce draft resolutions A/C.1/65/L.53 and A/C.1/65/L.52.

Mr. Arrocha (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): As a country that promotes international peace and security, Mexico reiterates its deeply held conviction that disarmament and non-proliferation education is an essential tool in efforts to achieve global reductions in all types of weapons. That is true not only in terms of efforts to ensure peace at the international, regional and national levels, but also as a fundamental element in efforts to promote the development of peoples.

In the words of former Secretary-General Kofi Annan,

“Disarmament education seeks to inform and empower citizens to work with their Governments for positive change. I hope that Governments, the United Nations family, other international organizations, disarmament-related organizations, non-governmental organizations and others in a position to contribute will do their part to sustain the process of consultation and

cooperation started by the Group of Experts, so that disarmament and non-proliferation education becomes an integral — and natural — part of the education of the next generation.” (*see A/57/124*)

With that conviction, my country believes that efforts are needed to promote an increasingly broad scope of application for disarmament and non-proliferation education, with a view to fostering greater understanding at all levels of society of the social, political, economic and cultural repercussions of the existence and proliferation of weapons.

That is why my delegation is pleased to once again introduce in the First Committee draft resolution A/C.1/65/L.53, entitled “United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education”. In general terms, the study focuses on the need for arms reduction as a means of lessening both the possibility and the gravity of armed conflict. It also analyses how to incorporate that type of education into post-conflict situations as a contribution to peacebuilding. To that end, it is essential to ensure coordination among the competent entities of the United Nations system, the international community and civil society organizations.

In that spirit, Mexico is continuing to promote initiatives to fully implement the recommendations made in the study. To that end, my country continues to insist on including pertinent references in that regard in the relevant documents and resolutions on that subject over the 2009-2010 period — for example, Security Council resolution 1887 (2009), which was the outcome of the Council’s summit-level meeting on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation held in September 2009; the Outcome Document of the Second Conference of States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia, held on 30 April (NWFZM/CONF.2010/1); and the Final Document of the eighth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in May (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)).

Likewise, my delegation once again urges all States to thoroughly and comprehensively implement the 34 recommendations contained in the Secretary-General’s study by the Group of Experts (*see A/57/124*), which Mexico chaired. We also call upon States to continuously report on this matter, pursuant to the draft resolution to be adopted by the First Committee on this matter.

Without a doubt, along with the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/65/160, the contributions of Member States and non-governmental organizations and the recommendations of the United Nations and other international and regional organizations will make it possible to better promote disarmament and non-proliferation education.

Lastly, I wish to refer to draft resolution A/C.1/65/L.52, entitled “United Nations Disarmament Information Programme”, which Mexico is pleased to introduce. The text of the draft resolution recognizes the importance of the Programme as a valuable source of information that can provide inputs to all Member States during their deliberations and negotiations on disarmament at various United Nations bodies, while at the same time assist them in complying with various international instruments in this area and contribute to mechanisms for transparency.

My delegation would also like to thank the Office for Disarmament Affairs for its publication of the *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*. We also wish to acknowledge the assistance of the Department of Public Information and its information centres in achieving the Programme’s goals.

The Chair: That concludes the list of remaining speakers under cluster 6.

We shall now turn to cluster 5, “Regional disarmament and security”, beginning with a panel discussion.

It is my pleasure to welcome our panellists today, namely, Ms. Agnès Marcaillou, Chief of the Regional Disarmament Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs; Mr. Ivor Richard Fung, Director of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa; Mr. Taijiro Kimura, Director of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific; and Ms. Carolyne-Mélanie Régimbal, Acting Director of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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

I will first suspend the meeting due to technical reasons.

The meeting was suspended at 9.35 a.m. and resumed at 9.40 a.m.

The Chair: I now give the floor to Ms. Agnès Marcaillou, Chief of the Regional Disarmament Branch of the Office for Disarmament.

Ms. Marcaillou (United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs) (*spoke in French*): It is a pleasure to again report to the First Committee on the activities conducted by the Regional Disarmament Branch in recent months. A few years ago, the Committee requested greater involvement in our activities and asked us to step up our efforts in the areas of transparency and responsibility, as the Regional Branch had been established by the Committee to serve the Committee and it is appropriate that we discuss our activities with our partners.

(*spoke in English*)

Those who have been members of the Committee for a few years will recall that when we started this exercise we spoke about patients, namely, the original centres that were part of the original branch. The Branch was in need of care. We were in the emergency room. Last year, I explained to the Committee that the patient had left emergency care but was still in the hospital and was not strong enough to walk by himself. This year, I am glad to report that it is mission accomplished.

The decision taken last year in the General Assembly — to allocate some regular budget funding to the regional centres to cover their minimum operating costs, as well as to allocate to the centres one Professional and one General Service post to ensure that the administrative and financial duties were in good hands — has allowed us to leave the emergency care unit that we were in. This year, we have moved into what I would call long-term care.

In that regard, I would like to thank the donors, those among the members who have been in a position to match their statements and political support with practical support in cash and in kind. I would also like to thank those donors, whom we will mention later, that have supported projects and activities with the necessary funds, and those that have also provided us with the associated experts and United Nations Volunteers who have beefed up the teams in the field as

well as beef up our expertise. As part of the good news for this year at the Branch level, I would like to mention briefly that we have been thoroughly audited and the audit has turned out pretty satisfactorily for us. I think it is fair that we inform the members of our board — the Member States — that when they invest their money and their support in us, it is well managed and effectively used.

I would like to go back one slide to Regional Disarmament Branch mandates. In the Committee's annual resolutions — such as A/C.1/65/L.4, A/C.1/65/L.6, A/C.1/65/L.16 and A/C.1/65/L.36 — Member States reaffirm that to be effective, disarmament and non-proliferation must be pursued simultaneously at the global and regional levels. Regional measures and approaches are also referred to throughout the Outcome Document of the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States (A/CONF.192/BMS/2010/3). Member States have designated the Regional Disarmament Branch as their executive disarmament entity. In doing so, they have established a relationship and given the Regional Disarmament Branch privileged access to policymakers at national, subregional and regional levels, as well as to participants here at the global level.

Coherence and effectiveness are really the mantra of our office. For the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs to operate effectively at the regional and national levels, the intergovernmental machinery, regional organizations and the Regional Disarmament Branch must work seamlessly. Expanding partnerships with civil society, including women's organizations, is of the utmost importance if the Regional Disarmament Branch is to be as effective as possible. To assist those most in need, the Office for Disarmament Affairs must be able to give increasing support to operational and field-based programmes.

What is our *modus operandi*? As can be seen in the brochures before the Committee today, the Regional Disarmament Branch programmes and projects can be clustered under capacity-building and training; outreach and advocacy; and technical assistance. The details are in the brochures before the Committee. What we mean by this is putting an end to what I would call *ad-hoc-ism*: no more stand-alone projects, people approaching us with one project on this and one on that. Our focus continues to be on subregional project integration, partnerships and coherence. We are working at Headquarters and in the

field as part of the United Nations delivering as one. We avoid duplication and overlap, and in doing so we increase the impact of United Nations actions when working in the field on matters related to international peace and security.

I would briefly like to mention the highlights of the year, before my colleagues go into the details of what they have done. I will spend two minutes on Africa, because this year the Committee has not received the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly on the activities of the Regional Centre for Africa. It is fair to say that we have succeeded in our task. Also, as can be seen from the configuration on the podium, Mr. Ivor Fung has just resumed his duties in Lomé as Director of the Africa Centre, after his two-year stint in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. As most here know by now, Ms. Jacqueline Seck Diouf assumed the Director's duties and responsibilities over the past two years.

Today, I would like to go back over four highlights. First, what has the Committee done, and what have we done? With regard to the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee for Security Questions in Central Africa, on which there is a draft resolution before the Committee — they are the 11 members of the Central African region recognized by the United Nations, meaning the Economic Commission for Africa countries plus Rwanda — adopted in Kinshasa in April the legal instrument on small arms and light weapons for Central Africa, also known as the Kinshasa Convention.

At the request of Member States, the Branch, and specifically its Regional Centre for Africa, drafted both the implementation plan and the very ambitious instrument itself, which covers small arms and light weapons as well as ammunition and parts and components that are necessary for their manufacture, repair and assembly. The Kinshasa Convention will be open for signature in Brazzaville in mid-November, when the Ministers of the 11 Central African countries will also adopt the implementation plan for the Convention.

It may be recalled that the African Union Peace and Security Architecture designated the Regional Centre in Africa as its partner for the Union's strategy on small arms. It also designated the Regional Centre as its partner in helping to bring the Pelindaba Treaty into force. This shows that we have moved from

focusing solely on issues of conventional arms and are now also covering non-proliferation issues. The Regional Centre was also designated as the technical implementing partner by all subregional organizations. We are now working jointly on projects, particularly on disarmament measures, in all subregions of sub-Saharan Africa.

Finally, the successful project on brokering that we have conducted in East Africa has been recognized by African countries and institutions. We have now been asked to transfer our lessons learned and best practices to West Africa before moving the brokering project to other regions we cover around the world.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, one major highlight that I would like to mention today, although it will be made public next week, is the training course that is the flagship activity in Latin America. We have trained more than 3,000 law enforcement officials in Latin America, and the training course has been recognized and designated a best practice by our United Nations working partners.

In Asia and the Pacific, the Committee continues to praise the value and importance of the two annual conferences on non-proliferation issues that the Centre organizes in Japan and Korea.

In summary, I would like to say that the process is simple: tell us what is needed, and we will make it happen. Our mandate is to help Member States, at the national and regional levels, to meet their international obligations while ensuring regional coherence.

All the projects that my colleagues will now present were conceived along the lines that I have set forth. For those projects to continue to be implemented and to have a positive impact at the country, subregional and regional levels, we need representatives to help us help them.

My colleagues will now walk participants through their respective regions.

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

Ms. Régimbal (United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean): I would like to thank the First Committee for providing me the opportunity to

brief it on the work undertaken by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-LiREC).

Since we met in October 2009, I am happy to report, we have received 28 requests for assistance from Member States, which means that this year UN-LiREC's activities focused on improving control over the legal firearms trade and preventing their illicit trafficking, mainly through technical assistance in firearms destruction, stockpile management, law enforcement capacity-building and the provision of legal support to States.

There was also a focus on outreach and advocacy activities aimed at promoting international disarmament instruments and supporting national and subregional policy development. As Ms. Marcaillou outlined earlier, our activities basically focused on three areas: capacity-building, technical assistance and outreach and advocacy. Examples of those will be given later today, but our focus has been primarily on firearms control simply because that is what States request of us. Those 28 requests focused on such areas of assistance.

Since we last met, training to increase the capacity of law enforcement officials has been at the forefront of the Centre's intervention in Peru, Bolivia, Colombia and Costa Rica in both national and subregional level courses. Such courses were the first to make use of the completely revamped and improved version of UN-LiREC's flagship training manual, which now mainstreams the inclusion of human rights, gender equality, youth and child protection in the area of criminal interrogation, and the use of force, among others. Of course, it also includes the priority topics and issues identified in the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States on Small Arms outcome documents regarding intelligence, border controls, tracing and marking, stockpile destruction, firearms management, intelligence, crime scene management and other issues.

We believe that by targeting the field operators responsible for the implementation of firearm controls, we apply and ensure a direct impact in the field. First responders are better equipped to fulfil their daily professional tasks and are able to exchange their best practices among a group of their peers at the national and subregional levels. UN-LiREC believes, with great pride, that the law enforcement training undertaken this

year was the single most important contribution we made to public security in 2009 and 2010.

Building on the recent baseline studies in the areas of the illicit transit in firearms and border controls and the mapping exercises that we undertook, geographically and thematically focused assistance packages were developed for each subregion and circulated to potential donors' partnering agencies, as part of the Centre's long-term resource mobilization strategy.

In that connection, 2009 and 2010 marked the launching of UN-LiREC's firearms destruction and stockpile management assistance package for Caribbean States. Technical assistance in the destruction of firearms ensures that weapons are permanently taken out of circulation, and thus never make their way into illicit markets; while strengthening and modernizing record-keeping systems and storage facilities likewise impede the diversion into illicit activities. They all represent indispensable tools within UN-LiREC's subregional toolkit. Eight island States in the Caribbean region benefit from that assistance, which is a three-year project. We have just completed the first year, with the support of the United States Government.

This year, UN-LiREC also launched an assistance package for the Andean region, which builds on multisectoral and subregional approaches to enhancing public security through technical and legal assistance to policymakers and lawmakers. That represents the best possible means of promoting and implementing both national and international obligations to contribute to a sustainable regional disarmament culture. Within the package, support was provided for the formalization of Andean Community decision 552 and for comparative legal studies of each of the four target States, which are Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia.

The immediate impact of our work in that subregion entailed ensuring that the issues at hand made their way into the national agendas, programmes and policies, and that they remained there. I am proud to say that this is something at which we have been extremely successful.

In Central America our focus was on capacity-building for law enforcement officials and a partnership with the Organization of American States in the compilation of a legal study on the

implementation of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials. That is an extremely important partnership because it reaffirms the recognition of our peers as technical partners and the importance of partnership at the subregional level.

Central America also benefited from our assistance in the area of armed violence prevention programmes. I am proud to say that, in November, we will host the third regional seminar on armed violence and development, an issue on which we are partnering with the United Nations Development Programme.

The last issue is the thematic focus for 2011 and 2012. As in the past, our focus for those two years will be dictated by the needs and requests of States of the region and the willingness of donors to financially support the initiatives brought forth by UN-LiREC. The Centre will continue to support ways and to create opportunities for States to strengthen domestic and regional controls to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the region.

In that connection, I am happy to announce that the Centre will co-host a facilitation event for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in Lima, Peru, next month. Opportunities will be provided for collective dialogue on how to translate resolutions on armed violence into practical actions in the field and on how disarmament and arms control measures can positively contribute to the reduction and prevention of armed violence in the region. Such forms will facilitate the elaboration of subregional workplans, including exploration into issues of private security regulations, firearm policies in schools and the creation of gun-free schools. As this is the youth decade, we believe that it is an area of particular importance.

As I just mentioned, UN-LiREC will co-organize a seminar on armed violence and development next month in La Antigua, Guatemala. UN-LiREC will also continue to reinforce its role as the only United Nations regional entity specialized in disarmament and non-proliferation in Latin America and the Caribbean by continuing to deliver practical assistance to States in line with their express needs and requests and by creating innovative disarmament-related responses and tools to meet those needs.

In conclusion, on behalf of UN-LiREC and the Regional Disarmament Branch, I wish to thank the four

principal donors that have supported the activities of the Centre and enabled us to align the tools that we develop with the needs of the subregion and donor funding — specifically, the Governments of Canada, Spain, Sweden and the United States — as well as the States of the region that have helped us to ensure that we are able to meet their needs and continue to develop our assistance packages. The Governments of several countries, including Panama, Peru, Mexico and Guyana, have also made important contributions towards ensuring the Centre's stability and its ability to deliver activities at the request of Member States.

The Chair: I now give the floor to Mr. Taijiro Kimura, Director of United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific.

Mr. Kimura (United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific): I am also very pleased to have a chance to report to the First Committee on the current and future activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific.

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Member States, including the Centre's host country, Nepal, for their generous support. Over the past year, the Centre has made modest but steady progress in implementing its mandate. I would like to begin by explaining the main activities carried out by the Centre.

First, with the goal of promoting global norms on disarmament, the Centre's work is focused on regional implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, in particular the strengthening of brokering controls. Brokering is one of the most important areas of cooperation identified by the Third Biennial Meeting of States. The issue has taken on more relevance in Asia owing to the increasingly globalized network of illicit trade in small arms.

Secondly, we have promoted dialogue on disarmament by organizing two annual conferences on the subject, one in Japan and one in the Republic of Korea. By aligning the work of the conference in Jeju, Republic of Korea, with the preparations for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, I believe that the Centre was able to contribute in a modest way to the successful outcome of the Review Conference. The

conference in Saitama, Japan, was very useful in confirming the need to implement the action plan agreed at the Review Conference and in discussing the way forward. On the margins of the conference in Saitama, we organized a workshop for high school students, which proved to be very useful for disarmament education.

As the Committee is fully aware, the Centre was relocated from New York to Kathmandu two years ago. Since then, we have stepped up our efforts in providing assistance to Member States. We began helping Member States to prepare their Programme of Action national reports. We established a working group on small arms in Nepal, in conjunction with UNICEF, the United Nations Mine Action Team and the United Nations Development Programme to assist in the implementation of the Programme of Action in Nepal. The Centre also held the first capacity-building workshop for local non-governmental organizations and Government staff. We want to expand that assistance to other countries upon request. In all of those activities, the Centre works in close partnership with all stakeholders.

Finally, I would like to speak about our activities for next year's cycle. The Centre recognizes a growing need to enhance capacity-building and training projects on small arms, as those projects make a real difference in our efforts to combat the scourge of illicit small arms. The first project — a training course to combat the illicit trade in small arms — responds to that need. The Centre wants to enhance abilities to execute training projects to address the real needs on the ground by making the best use of the excellent examples set by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. We plan to launch the first training course in Nepal next spring, with financial support from Japan. The objective of the course is to give police and law enforcement agencies the necessary knowledge and expertise to address stockpile management and weapons destruction, marking and tracing.

The second project involves media training. The media plays an important role as an intermediary entity between the public and the disarmament community. The project aims to raise awareness of the media in disarmament and to improve communication between the disarmament community and the media, with a view to enhancing their role. Thanks to the financial

support of the Government of China, we will organize our first regional workshop for the media of East and South-East Asia, to be held in Beijing in January next year.

Armed violence reduction and prevention is also a priority for the Centre. We will hold a regional meeting for South and South-East Asia on best and promising practices next spring, in partnership with Switzerland, the United Nations Development Programme and the secretariat of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development.

Lastly, with support from Austria, the Republic of Korea and Japan, we plan to hold a regional meeting in the Pacific to lay the groundwork for the 2011 meeting of governmental experts and the 2012 Review Conference to push forward the implementation of the Programme of Action at the regional level.

Finally, I wish to reiterate that the Centre will continue to do its utmost to live up to the high expectations of Member States and other partners in the region. At the same time, we would like to ask Member States to take full ownership of the Centre and support its programmes.

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

Mr. Fung (United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa): Allow me, first of all, to take this opportunity to say how glad I am to be here once again to make a presentation, which enables the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa to report to the Committee on its activities over the past year and those it has planned for the future.

Let me start with the Centre's activities in 2009 and 2010. As members of the Committee will note from the Powerpoint presentation, we have been present in all of the subregions of Africa. I will begin by discussing the Centre's activities in West Africa, where we are executing two major projects in support of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

The first project involves the preparation of a guide for the implementation of the provisions of the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials. The guide is specifically intended to assist

in the harmonization of national legislation. The other project, which is closely related to the first, entails designing a database on the respective national legislation of West African countries. In addition to its support for the Economic Community of West African States, the Centre also supports several countries in the drafting of their respective national plans of action for the implementation on the Programme of Action.

In East Africa, as my colleague Agnès Marcaillou just mentioned, for the past year, we have been executing a major project — the first of its kind in Africa — for the regulation of small arms brokering. This project, which aims to support the implementation of the Nairobi Protocol, is currently being carried out on an experimental basis in six countries, namely, Djibouti, Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. It allows us to conduct a survey on illicit brokering in those countries while also making it possible to design software to enable participating States to register official brokers electronically. We intend to expand the project, about which I will say more later.

We were also active in Central Africa in support of the formulation of the Kinshasa Convention, which was mentioned earlier. The Convention was adopted on 30 April, and arrangements have now been made for its signature. The other day, the representative of the Republic of Congo announced that his country would host the ministerial meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee at which the Convention is expected to be signed. Also in Central Africa, we have supported the formulation of an implementation plan for the Convention. The draft plan will be considered and adopted at next month's meeting in Brazzaville. Once the Convention is signed, we will be ready to implement it and to ensure its ratification and entry into force.

Also in Central Africa, we have continued to play our role as secretariat of the Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, which, as was mentioned earlier, brings together 11 Member States. The Committee, which meets twice a year, will next meet in November for the second time this year. That will also be the Committee's thirty-first meeting at the ministerial level.

In Southern Africa, we provide support and work in collaboration with the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Southern

African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (SARPCCO) and the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), in particular in connection with the implementation of the SADC Protocol and the Pelindaba Treaty, where with the ISS we have organized consultations to assist the African Union (AU) with preparations for the meeting of States parties. We are also working with the ISS and SARPCCO on research activities, including, at the moment, two publications. We also provide support to SADC in defining priorities on small arms control in the context of the AU Commission's regional meetings.

In North Africa, our weapons destruction branch recently supported the organization in Cairo of a meeting relating to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

The Regional Centre also carries out cross-regional security sector reform activities, in particular in the framework of our peace mandate. Some years ago, we reported to the Committee the launch of the African Security Sector Reform Programme, whose activities continue. Specifically in 2010, we supported electoral processes in Togo and Guinea, namely, capacity-building and training for law enforcement officers on maintaining peace in the context of crisis situations and elections.

At the subregional level, in particular in East Africa and, very soon, in West Africa, we support the organization of seminars on best practices with regard to armed violence and development. It is hoped that the next seminar will be held in Nairobi next January. Along with our partners, we also continue to support regional meetings on the implementation of the Programme of Action.

One of the major areas of our work during 2010 has been the provision of technical assistance to the African Union Commission. Owing to our participation on the Steering Committee on Small Arms and Light Weapons, we are the only United Nations entity participating in this continental group of the African Union Commission charged with designing a strategy.

A number of activities have taken place with regard to that strategy, including meetings organized by the Regional Commissions. The Regional Centre plays a technical role in support of the organization of those regional meetings, including the one that took place in Accra last month and another planned for Central Africa, which will likely be held in Yaoundé. However,

we also provide support for the formulation of background working documents for such meetings, provide presentations and help determine priorities for each subregion in the area of small arms and light weapons.

I should now like to refer to some of the major projects planned for 2011 and 2012. These cover three main areas, namely, conventional arms, where we are planning activities in the area of technical assistance to States in general, and in particular to the Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa with regard to the implementation of the Kinshasa Convention. As I just explained, the Convention should be signed next month; after the signing ceremony, it is expected that many of the activities that are already included in the implementation plan will be carried out. The Regional Centre has been tasked by the Committee and its 11 member States to continue to provide the support required to implement the Convention.

With regard to advisory services on technical assistance to States, subregional organizations and the AU Commission in connection with the arms trade treaty, we recently discussed with the Commission the support that the Regional Centre could provide in enabling the Commission to mobilize member States in the African region to support the treaty. Our role here would be at two levels, namely, the organization of consultations at the national level to allow interested Member States to better understand the technical aspects of the treaty and support at the regional level for the organization of the AU continent-wide meeting on this issue.

We also plan to extend the project on the regulation of brokering activities to West Africa, in the context of the ECOWAS five-year priority plan to implement its Convention. Two activities have been identified and assigned to the Regional Centre, namely, the regulation of brokering activities and the harmonization of legislation in West Africa. That is in effect a continuation of what we are already doing. Following the elaboration of the relevant guide, we will turn to the implementation aspect in order to help member States to harmonize their national legislation. This work is also being planned in East Africa. Support to SADC and SARPCCO in the harmonization of legislation on small arms and light weapons is another area of our work that is now under discussion with those bodies.

We also plan capacity-building efforts for civil society organizations in Central Africa, in particular women's organizations. In that regard, we are working with the International Action Network on Small Arms with a view to starting those efforts by mid-2011.

There has been a specific request from Togo in the area of security sector reform. In that connection, along with UNDP and the support of the European Union, we are planning the establishment of a police school. The role of the Regional Centre with regard to the establishment of the school will not be a logistical one; rather, it will pertain to the development of curriculum modules on disarmament. We are also planning training programmes for parliaments in the area of practical disarmament destined for defence committees.

In the third area, namely, weapons of mass destruction, we continue to provide advisory services and technical assistance to States, subregional organizations and the African Union Commission for the implementation of the Pelindaba Treaty. The Commission will convene a meeting of States parties next month, to which the Regional Centre will provide logistical and substantive support.

Last but not least, there is the support for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), in collaboration with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to that resolution and the Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.

With regard to our focus in 2011-2012, the strategy has already been laid out by Ms. Marcaillou. I would just say that we plan to continue to strengthen coordination and enhance the coherence of action at the continental, subregional and national levels. That includes providing support to the AU Steering Committee on Small Arms and Light Weapons; integrating programmes into subregional and regional strategies; and strengthening partnerships, bearing in mind, especially in the context of other United Nations agencies, that we contribute to the One UN concept.

With regard to international organizations, we work with the Armed Violence Prevention Project, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency and Interpol. They will continue to be our major partners.

In terms of regional and subregional organizations, we work with the African Union, United Nations regional economic commissions, ECOWAS, the Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, the East African Community, SADC, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the Regional Centre on Small Arms.

With regard to civil society, we work with the International Action Network on Small Arms, the West African Network on Small Arms and the Institute for Security Studies' Small Arms Survey.

Those are our partners and the entities with which we will continue to build partnerships. As mentioned earlier by Ms. Marcaillou, we do not duplicate others' work. We work with others to strengthen our activities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our donors, especially Austria, which provides financial support for the activities I cited earlier, including the Convention in Central Africa and our work in West Africa and East Africa.

The Chair: I shall now suspend the meeting in order to hold an interactive discussion with our panellists.

The meeting was suspended at 11.25 a.m. and resumed at 11.55 a.m.

The Chair: I shall now give the floor to representatives who wish to make statements or introduce draft resolutions under cluster 5, "Regional disarmament and security".

Mr. Macedo Soares (Brazil) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) and associated States, namely, Argentina, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and my own country, Brazil.

The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-LiREC), which has its headquarters in Lima, was established by the General Assembly in 1986 through resolution 41/60 J. UN-LiREC differs from other centres of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs by virtue of its mandate, which includes not only the implementation of peace and

disarmament measures but also the promotion of economic and social development.

Based on that strengthened mandate, the Centre has succeeded in establishing programmes of work that are characterized by their interdisciplinary approach and the level of coordination with the various actors in the region, including other United Nations agencies, national Governments, provincial and municipal authorities and civil society representatives. Its programmes include, among other issues, first, the promotion of confidence-building measures; secondly, conflict prevention and resolution; thirdly, support to States in the region for compliance with their arms control commitments; and fourthly, education and awareness-raising on problems that affect peace and security in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Assisting States in reducing and preventing armed violence by means of increased arms control has been an important area of the Regional Centre's work in recent years. In line with its mandate, the Centre has undertaken a range of activities at the national, regional and subregional levels, among which we underscore the following: training courses to combat illicit arms trafficking, which have trained more than 2,700 enforcement officials since 2002; technical assistance in stockpile management and firearms destruction; a review of national legislation compatibility with the international commitments of States in the region with regard to disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation; the promotion of greater coordination among national agencies in the field of security, which is still a major challenge to our region; and education on international instruments in the field of small arms and light weapons.

As the Secretary-General's report points out,

“The reporting period saw a rise in the number of assistance requests from Member States and regional organizations, demonstrating the increasing confidence in the Centre's effectiveness and its recognized role in this area.”
(A/65/139, para. 5)

MERCOSUR and associated States are grateful for the financial support that some Governments, within and outside the region, have provided with a view to developing the Regional Centre's activities. In that regard, we urge the international community to continue to provide support for the Centre's activities.

Taking into account the important role of the Regional Centre in promoting an agenda for peace, security and development in Latin America and the Caribbean, MERCOSUR and associated States support Peru's initiative in proposing, on behalf of the region, draft resolution A/C.1/65/L.21, on UN-LiREC's activities, which, we hope, will be adopted by consensus, as in previous First Committee sessions.

The South American Defence Council of the Union of South American Nations was established in December 2008 as a body for consultation, cooperation and coordination on matters of defence, with the objective of consolidating South America as a zone of peace, forging an identity on defence matters and promoting consensus for strengthening regional cooperation. In particular, the Council promotes progressive analysis and discussion of common elements of a collective perspective on defence matters; information exchange; the formulation of regional joint positions at multilateral defence forums; strengthening the adoption of confidence-building measures; and promoting cooperation in military education and training.

Since its inception, the Council has adopted its statute and biennial plans of action that emphasize as priorities actions in the area of defence policy; military cooperation; humanitarian actions and peace operations; defence industry and technology; and education and training. In that context, the Council has reached agreements on the establishment of a mechanism for confidence-building measures and regional security. In addition, discussions have been held on the methodology of measuring military expenditures in order to promote transparency, as well as on activities promoting issues such as the development of a defence industry and defence technology, participation in peace operations and modernization of the region's defence ministries. A decision was also taken to establish a centre for strategic defence studies as an institution for generating knowledge and disseminating information on a South American strategic approach to defence and security matters.

MERCOSUR and associated States welcome the important achievements of the South American Defence Council since its creation. We express our readiness to support this forum, which helps strengthen regional unity, peace and security.

MERCOSUR and associated States recognize the urgent need to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons, in view of the harmful effects of these activities on the security of all States, subregions, regions and the world as a whole, which, among other things, endanger the well-being of people and their economic and social development. In that regard, MERCOSUR and associated States reiterate the importance of continuing bilateral, subregional and regional efforts to further advance cooperation on security matters and implement the agreements, declarations and understandings adopted over the years in the areas of peace, stability, confidence and security. We also reiterate our commitment to continue to foster a culture of peace and promote peace education among the countries of the region. In so doing, we reaffirm our goal of continuing to devote more resources to the well-being of our peoples.

Mrs. Ledesma Hernández (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): While reiterating our firm support for multilateralism as a basic principle of disarmament and arms control negotiations, we reaffirm the importance of regional and subregional initiatives in that area. Such measures can contribute to strengthening peace and security at the regional and international levels, with the aim of allocating the resources freed up from military spending through disarmament to social and economic development, particularly for combating poverty and protecting the environment for the benefit of all peoples.

In that regard, we reaffirm that regional disarmament efforts must take due account of the characteristics specific to each region. No actions that might endanger the security of any State of a region should be imposed on that region. Global and regional approaches and confidence-building measures complement each another and should, as far as possible, be applied simultaneously, with a view to promoting peace and security at the regional and international levels. Through the promotion of bilateral and regional confidence-building measures that enjoy the consent and participation of all interested parties, we can avoid conflicts and prevent the undesirable and unintended outbreak of hostilities. This can help alleviate tension and contribute to regional stability.

States with greater military capacity have a significant responsibility in improving regional and international security. In that context, respect and

support for regional and subregional decisions and treaties aimed at achieving peace and security are of great importance. Nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions of the world contribute effectively to the strengthening of regional and global peace and security and should be respected.

In conclusion, allow me to reiterate that United Nations activities at the regional level that are geared to increasing the stability and security of Member States should be promoted in a substantive way by maintaining and revitalizing the Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament.

The Chair: I now give the floor to the representative of Peru to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/65/L.21.

Mr. Aquino (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): Since the General Assembly's adoption, 24 years ago, of resolution 41/60 J, by which it created the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the States members of that body have been aware of the significant synergy that exists between peace, disarmament and development. We therefore determined that the mandate of the Regional Centre should include substantive support for initiatives and other activities of Member States in the Latin American region aimed at implementing peace and disarmament measures, as well as promoting economic and social development through appropriate reutilization of the available resources.

Latin America and the Caribbean make up a heterogeneous region in terms of the development level of the countries that compose it; however, it is homogeneous in terms of the challenges we face, namely, poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, malnutrition, armed violence and the challenge of protecting the environment and democracy, among many other issues. Such challenges are common to most of the countries in the region, although, to be fair, we must distinguish between different levels of urgency. To address those challenges, Governments require political will as well as economic resources.

A significant portion of those resources are lost because of the negative repercussions of armed conflict in many countries in the region, which is itself the result, among other factors, of the illicit traffic in arms. Another portion of those resources is absurdly wasted on the disproportionate expenditure on weapons in the

region. Addressing that situation requires collective efforts to carry out activities to implement peace and disarmament measures. The Regional Centre plays an important part in that effort, both through the coordinated work with countries of the region and with the support of States and organizations outside the region that voluntarily help to finance the Centre's activities and initiatives.

Knowing how to identify those areas where the Centre should focus its work is vital. That makes it possible to direct efforts and scarce resources where they are most needed. That task of identifying priorities has been judiciously undertaken by the different administrations that have led the Centre, in particular by the current group of individuals charged with the planning and implementation of the Centre's activities. That team is led from New York by Ambassador Sergio Duarte, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, and Ms. Agnès Marcaillou, and on the ground by Ms. Carolyne-Mélanie Regimbal, the Centre's current Director. We would like to thank all of them.

In the past year, the Centre's activities included providing assistance in combating and preventing illicit arms trafficking. To that end, the Centre succeeded in carving out its own sphere in promoting capacity-building initiatives especially designed to support law enforcement services in fighting illicit trafficking in arms. The Centre was also able to provide assistance on matters pertaining to public safety, from the legal and norm-setting areas to border security, with a focus on fostering inter-institutional capacity-building.

In that regard, it should be highlighted that last year 201 law enforcement officials from 11 countries of the region took advantage of training opportunities using the instructors' training manual on combating illicit firearms trafficking. National courses held in Colombia, Peru and Bolivia trained 151 law enforcement officials, with the course held in Costa Rica training 50 law enforcement officials from Central American States, Mexico and the Dominican Republic.

Likewise, with a view to supporting the member States of the Andean Community in their efforts to implement the Andean Programme to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Traffic in Small Arms and Light Weapons, the Centre organized the first subregional forum on progress in implementing the Programme, held in Lima on 25 and 26 May.

It should likewise be underlined that the Centre also began to provide technical assistance to eight Caribbean States — Grenada, the Bahamas, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, the Dominican Republic and Belize — in the destruction of arms and the management of existing weapons. The Centre also instituted a subregional programme in three of the eight Caribbean States — Grenada, Jamaica and the Bahamas — including assessments of national capacity in arms destruction and arms management, which represents a significant step in the formulation of their respective national action plans.

In March 2010, Member States met in Lima to review progress in implementing the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. The goal of the meeting was to prepare States, through a broad consultations process, for the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States, as well as to demonstrate to the assembled global community the achievements and progress made at the national, subregional and regional levels.

The Centre also participated in organizing a regional workshop in Lima last March on international transparency in transfers of arms and military budgets as a means of fomenting mutual trust. The workshop provided a forum for States of Latin America and the Caribbean to exchange views and share experiences about presenting reports to the Register of Conventional Arms and the System for the Standardized Reporting of Military Expenditures.

All of this demonstrates that the Centre's work has without a doubt been significant and important. Nevertheless, disarmament efforts are never enough. That is why the Centre is already working to perpetuate various ongoing initiatives. This has made it possible to secure Canadian financing to continue to support the implementation of the project on the Andean Community Programme to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, among other activities.

The joint coordinated work among States, the United Nations — through the Regional Centre — other regional and subregional organizations, States that voluntarily provide financial support for the Centre's activities, and the efforts of civil society

organizations make it possible to be optimistic about making progress in peace and security in the region.

All of those initiatives are being carried out with scarce economic resources. We therefore urge all States of the region and other Member States to redouble their efforts through voluntary contributions that make it possible to expand the scope of the Centre's activities. States with significant investments in the region need to view such contributions not only as laudable efforts to achieve peace and disarmament but also as a way of collaborating in building security and institutional stability in the region, which will redound to the benefit of all — both the States of the region and those that invest in it.

For all the reasons I have outlined, my delegation once again has the honour to introduce the draft resolution entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean", which is contained in document A/C.1/65/L.21, with a view to submitting it to the General Assembly. The draft resolution reaffirms strong support for the central role of the Centre in promoting United Nations activities at the regional level to strengthen peace, stability, security and development. We in the region trust that, as in past years, we can count on the valuable support of all delegations to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

The Chair: I now give the floor to the representative of Algeria to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/65/L.30.

Mr. Moktefi (Algeria) (*spoke in French*): My delegation would like once again to sincerely congratulate you, Sir, on the excellent manner in which you are conducting the debates in the First Committee, as well as to assure you of our full cooperation in ensuring the success of the Committee's work.

On the issue of regional disarmament and security, Algeria has made a commitment to promoting international peace and security as an integral part of its foreign policy and a guiding principle of our engagement on the international stage. For that reason, Algeria is determined to support and participate in actions to promote and foster dialogue and cooperation and to enhance security in its traditional membership and solidarity frameworks, especially in the Mediterranean region. Algeria has therefore always conducted an active regional foreign policy in the

Mediterranean based on the principles of cooperation, friendship, good-neighbourliness and mutual respect.

In his report contained in document A/65/126/Add.1, the Secretary-General includes the response of Algeria on two points. The first is the entry into force in July 2009 of the Pelindaba Treaty, which establishes a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa. Algeria believes that denuclearization and security in Africa are an essential factor in strengthening peace and security in the Mediterranean region. The second point, which is tied to the first, concerns Algeria's initiative in the fight against terrorism in the Sahel region. It was because of the Algerian Government's initiative that genuine regional cooperation was established to fight and prevent terrorism in the Sahelo-Saharan strip.

It is undeniable that the worrisome situation in the Sahel has negative repercussions on security and stability throughout the entire African continent. That situation requires the redoubling of efforts and the strengthening of cooperation among the States of the subregion to combat this scourge. It also requires continued support from the international community to strengthen the capacities of the countries of the Sahel to confront this challenge. It is therefore clear that the challenges and dangers that threaten the stability of the African continent have repercussions in the Mediterranean region and undermine the capacities and potential for cooperation and assistance between the Mediterranean's northern and southern shores.

It is my delegation's honour and privilege to introduce to the First Committee at the sixty-fifth session, under agenda item 102, the draft resolution entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region", which is contained in document A/C.1/65/L.30. Apart from technical updates, the text of the draft resolution mirrors the text of resolution 64/68.

The draft resolution notes the efforts made by the Mediterranean countries to comprehensively and in a coordinated manner confront the challenges they share. The overall goal is to transform the Mediterranean region into a zone of dialogue, exchange and cooperation in order to guarantee peace, stability and prosperity.

The draft resolution also calls on all States of the Mediterranean region that have not yet done so to adhere to all legal instruments in the area of

disarmament and non-proliferation. It also encourages all States of the region to promote the creation of the conditions necessary to strengthen mutual confidence-building measures by fostering openness and transparency on all military matters, using the United Nations system to create standardized reports on military expenditures and providing accurate facts and figures to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms.

The draft resolution also encourages Mediterranean countries to further step up cooperation in the struggle against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the possible use of weapons of mass destruction by terrorists. Cooperation is also encouraged in the fight against international organized crime and illicit arms trafficking.

Finally, the text reiterates that security in the Mediterranean is closely linked to security in Europe, as well as to international peace and security. My delegation and the other sponsors of the draft resolution count on the support of all Member States for the adoption by consensus — as has been the tradition in the Committee — of this important draft resolution.

Mr. Ismayil-Zada (Azerbaijan): Azerbaijan joins other delegations in congratulating you, Sir, on your election as Chair of the First Committee. We also congratulate the other members of the Bureau on their well-deserved elections.

Azerbaijan recognizes the vital role of the First Committee in maintaining international, subregional and regional peace and security. We attach serious attention to joint efforts to address regional and global issues, with particular focus on regional security, combating terrorism, the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and ensuring energy security. We strongly advocate in favour of the South Caucasus and beyond as a zone free from weapons of mass destruction.

The security of each State and, more broadly, international and regional peace and security, depends upon whether States observe the norms and principles of international law and use them as a guiding tool to shape their foreign and security policies. Unfortunately, the unlawful use of force has still not been removed from the context of international and regional relations. Today, civilian populations are suffering in many places worldwide due to the manifest

failure of individual States to fulfil their basic and most compelling responsibilities. Armed conflicts, military aggression and foreign occupation involving the most serious international crimes are but a few vivid examples from our recent history of the bitter consequences of non-compliance by individual States with the norms and principles of international law.

Regional disarmament and security play a vital role in establishing peace in conflict situations. Unfortunately, in many instances uncontrolled arms are concentrated in areas of unresolved conflicts, which also provide fertile ground for transnational organized crime and other illegal activities.

The most vivid example of misconduct related to the norms and principles of international law is the almost two decades-long, and still unresolved, Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, which represents one of the major threats to international and regional peace and security. The conflict has resulted in the occupation of almost one fifth of Azerbaijan's territory and caused approximately one out of every nine persons in my country to become internally displaced or a refugee. The most serious international offences, including war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, have been committed in the course of this conflict.

It has been internationally recognized that Armenia bears the primary responsibility for the occupation of Azerbaijan's territories, committing the most serious international crimes during the conflict, including ethnic cleansing, and creating a monoethnic culture in the captured Azerbaijani territories.

Despite ongoing political efforts towards the early resolution of the conflict, military activities in the occupied areas of Azerbaijan are taking place in gross violation of international law. They serve to further consolidate the current status quo of the occupation, secure the results of ethnic cleansing and the colonization of the captured territories and cause serious obstruction in achieving a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Armenia intensively continues to build up its military presence and capability in the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Available data indicate that the numbers of persons unaccounted for and of uncontrolled arms in those territories have consistently increased since the occupation. We are seriously concerned by, inter alia,

the fact that the conventional arms control mechanism is not effective in those territories. The accumulation therein of great quantities of armaments and ammunition, which remain outside international control, poses serious threats to regional peace and security. In that context, we regret that members of the international community, especially those mediating the negotiation process, have shown some indifference to this problem, which negatively affects the prospects for the soonest possible resolution of the conflict.

Our particular concern relates to the possible use by terrorist groups of specific weapons, including individual anti-aircraft missile systems. In that regard, we deem it necessary to take more efficient measures aimed at preventing the acquisition of conventional weapons by those who maintain effective military and political control over occupied territories, as well as disclosing their attempts to deny responsibility.

It is curious that the statements of Armenian officials are full of accusations against Azerbaijan about its allegedly militaristic intentions and an armaments race. The Armenians are stirring up hysteria over Azerbaijan's rapid development. We understand that the true purpose of Armenia's misinterpretation in all international forums is to create a smokescreen to hide its intentions in the occupied territories and to gain time.

As for the increased military budget, Armenia has neglected to note that Azerbaijan's annual defence spending has remained in line with overall budget increases, that Azerbaijan continues to spend a much smaller percentage of its gross domestic product on its army than Armenia does and that the size of Azerbaijan's armed forces is proportional to its population, territory and the length of its borders, and remains less than Armenia's.

It is worth mentioning that the President of Armenia, Mr. Serzh Sargsyan, stated on 25 May, during his visit to NATO headquarters, that "the Armenian army has types of ammunition that countries 10 times the size of Armenia would dream of having". Those words are self-explanatory. It is not an accident that Armenia's military spending, as a percentage of gross domestic product, is one of the highest rates in the world. That is why Armenia, which implemented illegal military projects to supply its armed forces, continues to be a threat to stability and security in our region.

As a country suffering from the devastation of war and occupation, Azerbaijan strongly believes that faithful observance of the globally accepted norms and principles of international law concerning good-neighbourliness, friendly relations and cooperation among States, as well as their good-faith fulfilment of the obligations they assume, is of the greatest importance for maintaining international and regional peace and security. Azerbaijan's strategy is directed towards the liberation of all occupied territories, thus restoring our State's territorial integrity; the return of forcibly displaced people to their homes; and the establishment of durable peace and stability in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and the entire South Caucasus generally.

In conclusion, I wish to say that as long as Armenia continues to follow its aggressive policy, any talk about peace, stability and all-inclusive cooperation in the region is irrelevant. Before everything else, Armenia should ask itself about the reasons that such a situation exists.

Ms. Al-Nakib (Iraq) (*spoke in Arabic*): My delegation would like to recall Iraq's long-standing position on this agenda item, namely, that a region free of nuclear weapons, as an important confidence-building pillar at the regional level, can be a decisive tool in the area of nuclear non-proliferation. Nuclear-weapon-free zones can also be an expression of the values shared and promoted by many countries in the areas of nuclear non-proliferation, weapons-monitoring and disarmament. We should also take into account the fact that the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones should be a goal for nuclear-weapon States as well, as that would curtail nuclear proliferation horizontally — that is, vis-à-vis countries that do not possess nuclear weapons — and would thus help avert the possibility of nuclear conflict or war.

We know, of course, how sensitive the Middle East region is, having been the scene of one some of the world's worst conflicts, including the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. The escalation of the arms race would therefore have serious repercussions for international peace and security. If we were to compare international efforts to adopt regional treaties aimed at creating nuclear-weapon-free zones with efforts to create such a zone in the Middle East, we would come to the conclusion that it is necessary to redouble serious efforts and political resolve. In that regard, the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the

Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons gives us a glimmer of hope that this might be possible.

Iraq reaffirms its well-known position with regard to the need to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. We believe that the region is at present not free of nuclear weapons. The reason for that is the non-verification of Israeli military nuclear installations, while all other nuclear installations in the region have been subject to verification by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Iraq welcomes the outcome of the Review Conference with regard to the Middle East. We reaffirm the need for serious follow-up so that it may be implemented as necessary in order that its main goals are achieved, namely, the creation of a zone in the Middle East free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. We would also like to reaffirm that the decision of the 1995 Review Conference is still valid and in effect.

Iraq calls for the implementation of Security Council resolution 487 (1981), which requests that Israel put its nuclear installations and facilities under IAEA oversight without further delay. We also call for the implementation of paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991), which also calls for the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. Such measures would lead to the strengthening of international peace and security. We also reiterate the importance of implementing the goals of the 1995 and 2000 Review Conferences set out by States parties with regard to non-proliferation. That point was reiterated during the most recent Review Conference, which also called on the five nuclear-weapon States to reaffirm their 1995 commitments concerning the Middle East.

My Government believes that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone would strengthen the security of the countries involved and bring us closer to our ultimate goal of strengthening and preserving international peace and security. Iraq has therefore supported and contributed to the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in a number of regions throughout the world, including in the Middle East. My Government also understands that all efforts geared towards creating a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East must begin with the nuclear disarmament of Israel, its accession to the Treaty on the

Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the placing of its nuclear facilities under the IAEA's comprehensive safeguards system.

Mr. Mana (Cameroon) (*spoke in French*): As this is the first time that my delegation takes the floor, allow me to extend to you, Sir, our congratulations on your election as Chair of the First Committee, as well as on the skill with which you have steered our work. My delegation would like to assure you, Sir, of its full cooperation.

As part of this discussion on regional disarmament issues, my delegation would like to make a statement in connection with sub-item (f) of agenda item 98, entitled "Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa".

I would like to begin by thanking the Secretary-General for all the documents submitted to the Committee under this agenda item relating to the activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, in particular the report published as document A/65/176. I would also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Ms. Agnès Marcaillou and Mr. Ivor Fung for their presentations on this subject earlier this morning and, beyond that, for their highly appreciated involvement in the activities of the Standing Advisory Committee. The quality of the Secretary-General's report reflects the interest of the United Nations in peace and security in Central Africa, as well as the scope of efforts required in that regard.

At the time of its establishment, in 1992, the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa was given a mandate to develop, adopt and implement specific confidence-building measures for the Central African subregion. Over the years, such measures have indeed been carried out effectively and, if the Chair will allow, I should like to refer to some of them.

One such measure was the negotiation, in July 1999, of the Non-Aggression Pact among the States of Central Africa. Another was the establishment, in February 1999, of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa, whose three pillars — the Defence and Security Commission, the Central Africa Multinational Force and the Central Africa Early

Warning System — comprise the subregional segment of the continent's security structure.

A further measure was the adoption of the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly. In July, member States conducted a separate review of the plan for the implementation of the Convention, henceforth known as the Kinshasa Convention, and sent their observations to the Committee's secretariat.

Other measures include the current project to draft a code of conduct for the armed forces and security forces. The code of conduct sets forth several principles governing the conduct of the armed forces and security forces in fulfilling their missions, including respect for human rights, the rule of law and the sovereignty of peoples.

In addition, the practice of rotating ministerial meetings among the various capitals of the subregion has enabled ministers and the experts accompanying them to fully experience the realities of each Member State, which in turn builds confidence between Governments and peoples.

The Standing Advisory Committee plays a key role in efforts to prevent violence and maintain security in Central Africa. Its work in the subregion is very highly appreciated and has helped to slow the cycle of violence that would otherwise surely undermine prospects for development.

The Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa should continue to hold ministerial meetings and organize conferences and thematic debates on the most pressing security issues of the day. Its important activities should not be subject to budgetary restrictions or constraints, given that they are part of a strategy designed to preserve peace and security in Central Africa. My delegation is pleased that the Standing Advisory Committee's meetings were held as scheduled in 2010. However, more substantial

contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for the Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa are needed to ensure the continuity of the meetings. With a view to ensuring the effectiveness of the Standing Advisory Committee, my delegation believes that its secretariat should be relocated to Central Africa and that its partnership with the Economic Community of Central African States should be strengthened, as indicated during the consultations among Member States.

My country welcomes the establishment of the United Nations Subregional Office for Central Africa, which is headquartered in Libreville, Gabon. We very much look forward, following the decision of the Security Council in that regard, to receiving the proposals that the Secretary-General will submit to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee regarding the administrative and budgetary measures to be taken to make the Subregional Office operational as soon as possible. In that regard, the Secretary-General should work in close consultation and cooperation with the countries of Central Africa. My delegation calls on the international community to support the opening of the Subregional Office, whose importance is unquestionable in a region plagued by persistent and numerous intra-State crises.

The Chair: As I stated this morning, the awards ceremony for the 2010 United Nations Disarmament Fellowship certificates will now take place. I would ask all delegations to remain in their seats for the ceremony in order to congratulate and encourage our junior colleagues.

I shall now suspend the meeting in order to proceed with the ceremony in an informal mode.

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

The Chair: We have thus concluded our work for this morning.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.