



General Assembly

Sixty-seventh session

First Committee

14th meeting

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Official Records

Chair: Mr. Percaya (Indonesia)

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

Agenda items 86 to 102 (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: This morning the Committee will begin by listening to the remaining speakers on the list under the cluster “Outer space (disarmament aspects)” who did not get to speak when we ran out of time yesterday. Thereafter, the Committee will take up cluster 4, “Conventional weapons”.

Before we proceed, however, I should like to inform the Committee that we have a remarkably long list of speakers under cluster 4. Thus far, 70 delegations have inscribed their names to speak on that cluster. However, given that we are already one full day behind schedule, it will take us an extra three days or more to exhaust such a long list at the current rate.

As members know, the deadline stipulated by the General Committee for the conclusion of our work this year is 7 November. We are now seriously running the risk of not meeting that deadline, which will not reflect well on the Committee. Therefore, to help speed up our work — and this is very important — I propose, with the Committee’s concurrence, understanding, cooperation and support, to limit all statements henceforth to a maximum of five minutes when speaking in a national capacity and seven minutes when speaking on behalf of groups of States.

When a speaker reaches the allotted time limit, the red light on the microphone will start blinking. In that instance, I would request all speakers to kindly conclude their statements. From time to time I, as Chair, will use my gavel — which has remained idle here for quite some time — to gently alert all speakers when they exceed their time limit. Please forgive me if I have to remind members to conclude their statements.

In that regard, I invite all delegations with relatively long statements to deliver a short and concise summary of their text and to submit a hard copy of the full statement for posting on the First Committee’s web portal, QuickFirst.

Furthermore, I propose, also with the usual goodwill and cooperation of members, to close the speakers’ list for the conventional weapons cluster at 1 p.m. today — at the minute we adjourn this meeting. As such, all delegations wishing to take the floor under the conventional weapons cluster are strongly urged to inscribe their names on the list before we adjourn the meeting.

Unless I hear any objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to proceed accordingly.

It was so decided.

The Chair: We shall now proceed with the remaining speakers on the list under cluster 3, “Outer space (disarmament aspects)”.

Mr. Amano (Japan): The importance of outer space activities has never been greater than it is today. Our lives are now directly and broadly dependent upon

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many space-based technologies that provide services such as telecommunication, Earth observation and navigation services. In Japan especially, the devastating earthquake and tsunami of last year reminded us of the immense value of those technologies in the field of disaster management. Therefore, ensuring the security, safety, stability and sustainability of outer space activities is of growing concern to Japan and to the international community as a whole.

I should also like to point out that long-lived space debris is a gradually growing threat to any kind of space activity and potentially limits the possibility of using and exploring outer space. In fact, it is already causing great danger to current activities in outer space. Japan therefore calls on all countries to refrain from any action that may lead to the creation of more long-lived space debris, such as anti-satellite tests.

It is with those issues in mind that Japan, as one of the major spacefaring nations, considers the strengthening of outer space governance to be a matter of urgency. To that end we have noticed at least two positive developments since last year. The first is the start of discussions in the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities. Japan hopes that the Group will come up with forward-looking outcomes in the near future that will accommodate the interests of all responsible States Members of the United Nations.

The second positive step is the intensifying exchange on the draft code of conduct for outer space activities proposed by the European Union (EU). Given the difficulty of moving on to a legally binding instrument, Japan considers that the EU's effort is a constructive and realistic multilateral measure. As our Foreign Minister, Mr. Koichiro Gamba, expressed in January, Japan is not only actively contributing to the deliberations on the draft code of conduct, but is also promoting participation in the multilateral deliberation process by all other interested countries, especially Asian countries.

We also support in principle the idea of preventing an arms race in outer space. Japan's outer space activities have always been peaceful in nature, and that will continue. As such, my country has taken an active part in the discussions on the issue of the prevention of an arms race in outer space in the Conference on Disarmament. In that context, we consider that there are a number of issues that need to be carefully examined

in connection with the draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space, which was jointly presented by China and Russia in 2008.

Lastly, please allow me briefly to touch upon national developments. Japan recently conducted an administrative restructuring of its space policy by establishing an inter-agency body in the Cabinet Office, as well as a national committee made up of influential experts. That restructuring should allow us to enhance the formulation of our strategic space policy to a greater extent. I should like to emphasize that Japan is determined to further explore and use outer space for peaceful purposes under the relevant international laws.

Mr. Tilegen (Kazakhstan): The importance and robust expansion of the space domain as an ever-increasing resource environment compels us to view outer space from the security and disarmament perspective. The ever-increasing number of space actors and stakeholders, and their diverse ways, has made our space environment fragile and vulnerable, making space security an issue of urgent priority.

The Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China jointly drafted a proposed treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and on the threat or use of force against outer space objects, which Kazakhstan endorses fully. However, political obstacles and the impasse in the Conference on Disarmament impede our attempts to achieve a much-needed, binding international agreement.

Although there seems to be widespread agreement among delegations about the importance of space security, we see a different emphasis on non-binding transparency and confidence-building measures (TCBMs). Kazakhstan calls for a combination of both approaches: first, a strong unequivocal treaty and, secondly, TCBMs to enforce it. Kazakhstan, as a member of the Group of Governmental Experts in that area, along with other member States, is seeking more relevant and timely confidence-building strategies, including technologies that are available and specific mechanisms to be set up. My country is also a member of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and helps to develop joint programmes, continued research, information on outer space issues and the study of legal problems arising from the exploration of outer space.

The challenge before us is therefore to establish norms of responsible behaviour in space and, at the same time, to address some of the national security concerns of spacefaring nations. The crux of our effort should be to defuse the need for countries to attempt to weaponize this fragile environment.

In addition, Kazakhstan is convinced that placing weapons in outer space will result in an advantage for the few, thus building walls of distrust and suspicion, as occurred in the case of nuclear weapons. What is more dangerous is that action by some countries with advanced space warfare technology can result in proliferation by other countries that also want to acquire it.

Past experience has also proved that such a theatre of military action can be concealed and can become a major breach of international security. At present, more than 130 countries possess sophisticated space programmes or are developing them, using information from space assets for their own defence. We therefore need to ensure that such dangerous weapons systems do not undermine the existing structure of agreements on arms limitation, particularly in the nuclear missile sphere.

Kazakhstan has no intention of pursuing the development of space weapons or of deploying them in outer space, now or in the future. On the other hand, my country, which hosts on its territory the first and largest cosmodrome — the Baikonur Cosmodrome — is actively developing a national civilian space programme that includes the creation of the Baiterek Rocket Complex, infrastructure that will enable our country to become part of the world market for space services, with access to the latest technologies, in accordance with standards of international collective security.

In July 2005 our Republic acceded to the International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation and is at present working actively to join the Missile Technology Control Regime. We have strictly followed the Regime's regulations on export policy for the past several years.

Kazakhstan is committed to an international community based on the principles of fairness and equality without exception. We realize, from lessons learned, how difficult it is to abolish accumulated nuclear, chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), as well as to eliminate space weapons and space debris in future. Furthermore,

destroying WMDs diverts our limited global financial resources from achieving sustainable development, which is a key priority of ours.

In conclusion, Kazakhstan stands ready to work with other Member States to ensure that space remains a sphere of cooperation, free from weapons and at humankind's disposal to use for its peaceful development and advancement.

Mr. Shen Jian (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): Ensuring the peaceful use of outer space and preventing the weaponization of, and an arms race in, outer space serves the common interests of all countries. It is also our shared responsibility.

The General Assembly has, at consecutive sessions and by an overwhelming majority, adopted resolutions on the prevention of an arms race in outer space that call for negotiations of a legally binding international instrument. China has consistently and firmly opposed the weaponization of, and an arms race in, outer space and is dedicated to maintaining peace and security on that frontier. China has sponsored the Assembly's resolutions on the prevention of an arms race in outer space and is actively promoting their implementation in the Conference on Disarmament (CD).

In 2008, China and Russia jointly submitted to the CD a draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and on the threat or use of force against outer space objects. In 2009, taking into consideration relevant comments and proposals, China and Russia submitted to the CD a working paper to further clarify the draft treaty. We hope that the CD will commence substantive discussions on the basis of those efforts as soon as possible, so as to improve the draft treaty.

China attaches great importance to transparency and confidence-building measures (TCBMs) in outer space. Appropriate and feasible TCBMs are conducive to enhancing mutual trust, minimizing misperceptions, regulating space activities and maintaining space security. Such measures are a useful complement to a legally binding international instrument on preventing the weaponization of, and an arms race in, outer space. TCBMs and the prevention of an arms race in outer space do not conflict with each other. On the other hand, as voluntary measures in nature, TCBMs are not legally binding and cannot substitute for negotiations on a legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

China supports the central role of the Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-building Measures in Outer Space Activities. We welcome the pragmatic and constructive discussions during the Group's first session and we hope that it will continue to examine all related issues and proposals in a comprehensive and in-depth manner so as to achieve a substantive outcome.

The security of outer space has a bearing on the overall well-being of all humankind. All States should proceed from a long-term perspective and make relentless efforts to prevent the weaponization of, and an arms race in, outer space. China is ready to work with all stakeholders to contribute to maintaining lasting peace and security in outer space.

Mr. Kang Myong Chol (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): My delegation associates itself with the statement made at the Committee's 13th meeting by the representative of Indonesia on the issue of outer space on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Space exploration and development is every country's sought-after dream. It has become a recent trend, opening up promising prospects for the advancement of human welfare and civilization. The rapid development of modern science and technology, together with unlimited resources of human creativity, provide us with enough opportunities to conquer and exploit outer space.

In the past, space development was regarded as the exclusive privilege of the developed countries. Today, as soon as financial and technological resources become available, developing countries are also actively taking part in space development programmes and are launching satellites for different purposes to give a boost to economic development.

In the 1980s, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea embarked upon independent research and the development of space satellites in accordance with its National Outer Space Development Prospective Plan, and has launched a number of satellites manufactured with its own resources. As it experienced successes and lessons learned along the way, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was able to develop its space science technology to a higher level, taking big strides towards building a powerful economic nation.

The efforts of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to access and use outer space is an exercise in

sovereignty and in its legitimate right as a State party to the 1967 Outer Space Treaty and the 1975 Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space.

Some countries allege that under Security Council resolutions, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea cannot conduct any launch using ballistic missile technology, and that even a satellite launch should not be allowed. If those countries are free to launch their own space satellites while only the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is excluded, that is a double standard and an intolerable infringement upon the sovereignty of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Anyone who has a fair and objective viewpoint will see the rocket launch of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as a peaceful satellite; but those who are driven by a confrontational policy towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will see it as a long-range missile. The practice of treating with prejudice and bias everything related to countries that may have different values is still continued by some arrogant, complacent countries.

The arms race taking place in outer space raises the international community's serious concern. Outer space is not an arena in which major Powers compete for strategic dominance. It is particularly unacceptable that space science and technology, which should be applied to human welfare, is being misused for military purposes envisaging mass murder and destruction. The present realities, however, show that the weaponization and militarization of outer space is overtly under way on the pretext of so-called national defence.

A typical example is the dogged pursuit of missile defence systems by the United States and its allies, citing non-existing ballistic missile threats from someone. The development of space interceptor weapons is in full swing and surveillance satellites roam about space, busily collecting and analysing the information of target countries. Such dangerous manoeuvres can never be justified in any way.

For many years, the international community has devoted painstaking efforts to preventing an arms race in outer space. In the course of doing so, it has adopted important resolutions and established practical mechanisms to that end. However, the existing mechanisms are not enough to effectively prevent arms deployment and an arms race in outer space. In the light of recent developments, it is particularly urgent that a new, legally binding international mechanism be

established. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea believes that the Russian-Chinese draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and on the threat or use of force against outer space objects, which was submitted to the Conference on Disarmament in 2008, can make a positive contribution to space security and global peacebuilding, and would be a good platform for further negotiation.

The delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea would like to reiterate its invariable position of opposing the weaponization of outer space, and emphasizes that the missile defence system is a very dangerous attempt that would undermine geopolitical stability and accelerate the arms race. At the same time, my delegation would like to stress that the priority issue in the peaceful use of outer space is to provide universal and non-discriminatory access for all countries and to promote mutual cooperation.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to state clearly that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will continue to exercise its sovereign and legitimate right to space development by launching practical satellites that are essential for the construction of a powerful and prosperous nation, while providing transparency as to its peaceful purpose by abiding by international law and practice.

Mr. Wilson (Australia): We will make our full statement available through the Secretariat.

Australia shares with other Member States an enduring interest in a rules-based approach to the use of space that promotes peaceful, safe and responsible activities, and which protects access to space for future generations.

The development of practical and achievable international norms that protect the world's continuing ability to undertake peaceful space activities safely is not a simple matter. Australia therefore believes at this time that there is genuine merit in focusing on the development of effective transparency and confidence-building measures (TCBMs). Such focus could provide the necessary foundation for the future development of new international space norms.

Australia places great importance on the current work of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-building Measures in Outer Space Activities, which was established under resolution 65/68 and is working under the effective

leadership of Mr. Victor Vasiliev of Russia. Although not a member of the Group, Australia is contributing to its work through a substantive submission on the application of the broad range of existing international law to the space domain.

Understanding how existing international law already regulates behaviour in space will provide an important basis for future work. Greater clarity on the interpretation of international law with respect to space security issues beyond that set out in the five multilateral space treaties would, we believe, be a useful basis upon which to develop new TCBMs.

Australia accords high priority to international action to prevent the proliferation of long-lived orbital space debris. We see an urgent need to work towards the development of international norms to prevent the deliberate or accidental creation of such debris. In particular, Australia sees the development and testing of kinetic anti-satellite weapons as a pressing space security challenge, given their demonstrated and continuing capacity to cause significant and cascading growth in long-lived orbital space debris. Member States share a common practical interest in addressing those issues.

For that reason, Australia has declared its support for the concept of an international code of conduct for outer space activities, along the lines proposed by the European Union, building on existing TCBMs to address those concerns. Australia believes that the code can make an important contribution to addressing the pressing issue of space debris. We should work towards that goal with the sense of urgency that the space-debris challenge warrants. Australia recognizes that such a code will not be a silver bullet to solve all issues relating to space security, but it would be a valuable, practical and achievable step forward.

The increasing dependency of all nations upon space-enabled services, along with the rapid growth in the number of countries operating space satellites, means that the number of countries with direct interest in the security of space has expanded enormously. That is particularly true in our region. Asia-Pacific countries have an interest in participating effectively in the international discourse on space security.

For that reason, Australia, together with Viet Nam, will hold a workshop on space security under the auspices of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum to be held in Viet Nam

on 6 and 7 December. The ASEAN Regional Forum brings together 27 members that collectively represent more than 90 per cent of satellite payloads currently in space, from a region that increasingly relies on space and that uses space-enabled systems that make a strong contribution to world economic growth. We hope that the workshop will make a practical contribution to strengthening the work of the international community to meet space security challenges.

Mr. Wee Joonseok (Republic of Korea): Since the first launch of a space object, in 1957, the exploration and use of outer space has driven technological innovation in numerous fields — such as medicine, agriculture, aviation and energy — with scientific and practical applications relevant to social and economic objectives, including sustainable development. States have sought to harness the benefits of space exploration and to develop their capabilities in a manner consistent with international peace and security. It goes without saying that the peaceful use of outer space is the foundation of, and norm for, all modern-day outer space activities.

The Republic of Korea, as a State party to all major conventions on outer space, carries out all of its outer space activities in a peaceful, transparent and safe manner, in accordance with the relevant international norms. In line with its adherence to those commitments, last June the Republic of Korea assumed the 2012-2013 chairmanship of The Hague International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation, to which more than 130 countries have subscribed. As the Chair of The Hague Code of Conduct, we are working together with other countries in order to promote transparency and confidence with regard to space launches.

The Republic of Korea believes that the full implementation and universalization of the existing international regime and the strengthening of transparency and confidence-building measures is essential to further promote the peaceful use of outer space. In that regard, my delegation is confident in the role that the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has played in facilitating international cooperation for using outer space for peaceful purposes, and appreciates its invaluable contribution to our common endeavours thus far.

Furthermore, in that context, the Republic of Korea welcomes international efforts to complement the current regime on outer space. In particular, the Republic of Korea supports the efforts of the

international community to develop an international code of conduct on outer space activities. We believe that the code of conduct will be universal, pragmatic and flexible with a view to ensuring greater safety in outer space for all States through strengthening transparency and confidence-building measures (TCBMs).

Also, the Republic of Korea highly values the launch of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities, as well as its work during its first session, in July 2012. My delegation firmly believes that the Group will show tangible progress in developing space TCBMs.

My delegation would also like to emphasize the importance of close cooperation and enhanced dialogue among such forums as the Conference on Disarmament, the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the First and Fourth Committees of the United Nations and the International Telecommunication Union. Given the discussions already taking place in various international arenas, we will be able to realize maximum synergies with the relevant international forums by sharing their respective expertise and experience.

With regard to the repeated allegation by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of its right to peaceful outer space activity, my delegation would like to remind the Committee that the so-called satellite launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a clear violation of Security Council resolution 1874 (2009), which prohibits any launch using ballistic missile technology. It goes without saying that all States Members of the United Nations should abide by Security Council resolutions, which are legally binding.

Lastly, the Republic of Korea reaffirms its strong commitment to the sustainable, long-term use of space for the benefit of all humankind. We remain committed to international cooperation based on a shared appreciation of the value and promise of the peaceful uses of outer space for current and future generations.

Mr. Guerreiro (Brazil): Brazil believes that it is in the best interests of the international community to start negotiations on a legally binding instrument to prevent the placing of any kind of weapon in outer space. There is widespread recognition of the impending danger resulting from the insufficiency of legal coverage to deal with the problem of weapons in space.

The placement of weapons in outer space would have extremely serious consequences. It would deepen global insecurity and affect all countries — both those that have and those that do not have the technological capacity to launch orbital objects. The world we live in depends upon space activities. An estimated 3,000 satellites are operational, providing vital services in an intricate web of information and communication. The interruption of such satellite services as a result of weapons in space would cause a major global collapse.

More than 30 years ago the Conference on Disarmament (CD) was called upon by the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament to consider the issue of preventing an arms race in outer space. While there were concrete exchanges on that issue between 1985 and 1994, since then it has been possible to discuss the matter only informally due to the opposition raised by some Member States.

The lack of consensus to move this item on the CD's agenda forward has not precluded delegations from putting new proposals on the table. Brazil believes that the proposal of a draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and on the threat or use of force against outer space objects, presented in 2008 by Russia and China as a working document of the CD, is an excellent basis on which to start discussions on a legally binding instrument to regulate the matter. In its present wording it is still an outline, with some elements that could be useful in a treaty. We could seek to work to give further substance and a more precise language to it. The encouraging aspect of that initiative is that the document has already been the object of fruitful interaction among CD member States.

Another set of proposals relates to the issue of transparency and confidence-building measures (TCBMs). Contributions in that regard have also been introduced in the CD. Through resolution 65/68, a Group of Governmental Experts has been established and is currently carrying out its work. It is being very ably chaired by our Russian colleague, Mr. Victor Vasiliev. Brazil recognizes that TCBMs can foster mutual understanding, political dialogue and cooperation among States. Yet, TCBMs are not legally binding and do not stipulate any obligations for States, with their implementation relying basically on the political commitment and goodwill of States.

An alternative now under consideration is the negotiation of an international code of conduct on

outer space activities. Again, by not being legally binding, compliance is based solely on the goodwill of States — as long as they wish to declare their observance of it. As useful as it may be, it should be pointed out that the text deals primarily with the issue of the peaceful uses of space. In Brazil's view, it does not fully cover the complexities of space security, which requires a specific instrument. The current draft contains one element that, in Brazil's view, presents serious difficulties. The reference to self-defence could be interpreted in a way that justifies the use of force in outer space. That is a scenario we cannot afford to contemplate, even in theory.

As mentioned by the delegation of Brazil in its statement in the general debate (see A/C.1/67/PV.4), we can and must aim for a legally binding instrument. Brazil expects that the Conference on Disarmament will adopt its programme of work early next year, including a working group on the prevention of an arms race in outer space. That could be the first concrete step to bring together all perspectives and proposals with a view to the negotiation of a legally binding instrument.

Forward movement in the CD implies the political will to engage in discussions. Some Member States blame the CD and affirm that it is a dysfunctional institution because of its consensus rule, which allegedly prevents negotiations in certain areas. Surprisingly, concerning other items, such the prevention of an arms race in outer space, the use of consensus has been deemed perfectly legitimate.

In conclusion, discussions on the issue of the prevention of an arms race in outer space have shown that the use of outer space for military purposes is firmly under way. The international community must work hard and unite in order to prevent the next step — the placement of weapons. Brazil believes that few issues are as ripe and calling for immediate action as that one.

The Chair: I now give the floor to the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to make his national statement and to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.7.

Mr. Najafi (Islamic Republic of Iran): At your request, Mr. Chair, I shall read out a shortened version of my statement. The full version will be posted on QuickFirst.

The Islamic Republic of Iran fully associates itself with the statement made at the Committee's

13th meeting by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

My delegation strongly reaffirms the universally agreed principle that outer space is the common heritage and province of all humankind and must be explored and utilized exclusively for peaceful purposes and for the benefit of present and future generations of all peoples.

The Islamic Republic of Iran also underlines the full observance of the principles of non-ownership of outer space and the freedom of States and their sovereign equality in the discovery of, and research in, outer space, as well as the need to promote non-discriminatory cooperation and mutual assistance in those areas. Moreover, non-intervention in the programmes of other States to explore and utilize outer space for peaceful purposes, as well as non-interference in their activities using space-related technology, are among the principles that need to be fully observed by all States. In that regard, we would like to stress that space science and technology should be utilized in accordance with international law and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular the promotion of international peace and security.

The Islamic Republic of Iran stresses that access to outer space through space science, techniques and technologies should be available to all countries. Iran strongly opposes any measure aimed at turning space and space technology into the monopoly of a few countries, and believes that the monopolization of outer space is neither a legitimate option nor achievable.

My country, being under the most severe restrictions and deprived of any assistance in sending its own satellite into space, was forced to develop its indigenous space technology. Thanks to the dedication and perseverance of its young scientists, during recent years Iran has made remarkable advancement in space science and technology. By launching the second indigenously made satellite-launch vehicle, carrying our first ever home-made telecommunication satellite, and successfully placing it in low Earth orbit, Iran is now among those countries with the capability of launching satellites into orbit.

Our latest achievement in that regard is the domestically manufactured Navid satellite. The mission of that satellite, which was designed and manufactured jointly by the Iranian Space Agency and young

university scientists and successfully put into elliptic orbit in February, is defined as being in the fields of the atmosphere and meteorological sciences and natural disasters.

We are determined to develop and expand the application of space technologies, including by establishing a monitoring and a prediction system for rice yields using satellite imagery, continuing satellite monitoring and control of the environment and natural resources, modelling and predicting drought, a tele-medicine project based on space technology, and a remote sensing laboratory.

Iran gives high priority to international cooperation in developing its space programme, particularly within the framework of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. As one of the Committee's first members, Iran has continuously made constructive contributions to the Committee's activities.

The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly underlines the significance of preventing an arms race in outer space and is deeply concerned about the negative implications of weaponizing space and developing projects under the pretext of missile defence systems, as well as about the pursuit of advanced military technology capable of being deployed in outer space, which contributes to the further erosion of an international climate conducive to strengthening disarmament and international security.

Before concluding, on behalf of Egypt, Indonesia and my own delegation, I should like to introduce to the First Committee draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.7, entitled "Missiles".

In line with the position of the Non-Aligned Movement on addressing the important issue of missiles in all its aspects within the framework of the United Nations, Iran initiated the resolution on missiles that has regularly been adopted by the General Assembly since 1999. We will continue that initiative. We hope that this draft resolution will again be adopted by consensus this year.

Mr. Ponomarev (Belarus) (*spoke in Russian*): By launching its first satellite some months ago, Belarus became a spacefaring country. We consider the matter of preventing an arms race in outer space as one of the priorities in international security and disarmament.

The active development of space technologies and the increasing number of States with programmes for exploring space has highlighted the shortfalls of

international legal instruments. There is a need for additional guarantees aimed at preventing an arms race in space.

As a member State of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, Belarus upholds regional obligations on the non-placing of weapons in outer space. We call upon all States with the potential of launching space apparatus for the exploration of outer space to join that moratorium. Drawing up a code of conduct for outer space activities is an important contribution to strengthening confidence between States conducting space activities.

We welcome the activities of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities. That Group will make a contribution to increasing the accountability of States in their space activities.

All of those strides forward are positive; however, they are piecemeal and preliminary in nature. We would therefore support the idea of adopting a comprehensive treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and on the threat or use of force against outer space objects — an initiative that originated in the Conference on Disarmament and was put forward by the Russian Federation and China. We think that adopting that treaty would be an important step towards ensuring the peaceful uses of outer space that could draw on all the other steps forward taken here with regard to instruments concerning space. We could join such an instrument under the CD in Geneva.

The Chair: We have heard the last of the remaining speakers on the outer space cluster.

I shall now give the floor to representatives who wish to speak in exercise of the right of reply.

Mr. Kang Myong Chol (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): My delegation would like to reject the baseless allegations of the South Korean delegation with regard to the launch of our space satellite in April. It was not a test of a ballistic missile, as the South Korean representative says, but the launch of a peaceful, practical satellite.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a State party to the 1967 Outer Space Treaty and the 1975 Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, and has a legitimate right to the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea showed transparency at the time of the satellite launch by inviting the international mass media to the site and by notifying the relevant United Nations organizations, such as the World Meteorological Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization.

It is a shame for South Korea to talk about the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's launch of a space satellite when only last week South Korea begged the United States to extend its missile range to 800 kilometres, covering the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In so doing, South Korea once again pursued a path of confrontation and disclosed its treacherous nature to harm its fellow compatriots.

As for the United States, it has undermined the integrity of the Missile Technology Control Regime by instigating the worldwide proliferation of ballistic missiles.

South Korea's sponsoring of the draft resolution entitled "The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation" is sheer hypocrisy. The United States has no more qualifications to talk about the missile capability of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, let alone its launch of space satellites, because it is none other than the United States that sparked a new missile arms race in North-East Asia.

Mr. Wee Joonseok (Republic of Korea): I should like to speak briefly in response to the remarks made by the North Korean representative.

My delegation would like to stress again that Security Council resolution 1874 (2009) clearly bans North Korea from conducting any launch using ballistic-missile technology. North Korea should comply with that resolution.

Under the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant Security Council resolutions, North Korea cannot claim the right of peaceful outer space activity. Article 103 of Charter stipulates that "In the event of a conflict between the obligations of the Members of the United Nations under the present Charter and their obligations under any other international agreement, their obligations under the present Charter shall prevail."

With regard to missile guidelines, raised by the North Korean representative, the intent of the Republic of Korea's revised missile guidelines is to ensure our minimum self-defence capability against the North

Korean missile threats. My delegation would like to reaffirm that the revised guidelines will not affect in any way our strong commitment to international non-proliferation regimes such as The Hague Code of Conduct and the Missile Technology Control Regime.

Mr. Kang Myong Chol (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): I reject the words of the South Korean representative because he does not deserve any attention. South Korea is just a mouthpiece, a puppet, of the United States. It has no jurisdiction or control over its own affairs. Its military is in the hands of the United States Army deployed in South Korea. It does not exercise wartime military control, but is at the beck and call of the United States. If South Korea is truly concerned about the security situation in the Korean peninsula, it should stop following blindly in the footsteps of the United States' hostile policy towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and come out from under the United States military umbrella; then we will talk.

Mr. Wee Joonseok (Republic of Korea): I should like to remark briefly.

It is indeed regrettable that the North Korean Government pushed forward with the launch last April, disregarding the international community's unified call for a withdrawal of the launch. My delegation urges North Korea once again not to use the right of peaceful outer space activity as a disguise for the development of their ballistic missile, which poses a serious threat to the Republic of Korea and beyond.

Regrettably, North Korea is spending enormous resources on developing nuclear and missile capabilities, while urgent welfare issues such as chronic food shortages persist and continually threaten the North Korean people.

The Chair: The Committee will now take up cluster 4, "Conventional weapons". We will begin by listening to related introductions by a Vice-President of the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, His Excellency Ambassador Paul Van den IJssel of the Netherlands, and by a Vice-President of the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in 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, Her Excellency Ambassador Josephine Ojiambo of Kenya. I warmly welcome our speakers here today.

I now give the floor to Ambassador Van den IJssel.

Mr. Van den IJssel, Vice-President of the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty: After six years of preparations, the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty was held in New York from 2 to 27 July, under the presidency of Ambassador Roberto García Moritán of Argentina. As Ambassador García Moritán is not in a position to be here with us today to present this report, he asked me to do so.

The Arms Trade Treaty Conference met with the participation of nearly all States Members of the United Nations and a large number of representatives from civil society. That bore witness to its transcendent importance and the high expectations surrounding the arms trade treaty (ATT). The Conference was opened by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who, in his message to the Conference, underscored the urgent need for a legally binding instrument to regulate the international transfer of all conventional arms as a means to address the many negative consequences of the unregulated arms trade, which poses a serious threat to international peace and security. The various delegations that spoke during the high-level segment of the Conference shared those sentiments and concerns.

Thanks to the contributions from civil society, both during the preparatory stages of the Conference and at the Conference itself, the Conference benefited from a wealth of background information and activities that helped it always to keep sight of the human dimensions behind the drive towards an ATT.

In conformity with the rules of procedure, the Conference established two main committees to work on the substantive issues. Main Committee 1, focused on the treaty's preamble, principles, goals and objectives and on criteria and parameters, was chaired by Mr. Bouchaib El Oumni, Minister Plenipotentiary at the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations. Mr. El Oumni received wide acclaim for his able leadership of that challenging Committee.

I had the honour to chair Main Committee 2, which devoted its work to the issues of scope, implementation, international cooperation and final provisions. Both Chairs worked closely with the President of the Conference and reported directly to the plenary on the work of the two Committees. I do not have to remind those representatives that were at the Conference in July that the four weeks of negotiations at the Conference

were intense and delegations worked hard and, more often than not, until late into the night.

On 26 July, the President of the Conference introduced a draft treaty text (A/CONF.217/CRP.1) based on discussions in the two Main Committees, in the plenary and on his consultations with delegations. On 27 July, the Conference concluded its work without being able to reach consensus on a treaty text. I think it was disappointing to all, both Governments and civil society, that we could not agree on an ATT in July 2012.

However, I think that the Conference was not a failure. Although it ran out of time, it is my impression it did not end with anyone concluding that remaining differences of view were fundamentally irreconcilable.

Thanks to the presidency and leadership of Ambassador García Moritán, but certainly also to the constructive engagement of all Member States, we were able to cover a lot of ground. I am convinced that, as a result of the July Conference, we are today very close to consensus on the content of an ATT.

On behalf of Ambassador García Moritán, I should like to thank all delegations that participated in the Conference for their active engagement.

The Chair: I now give the floor to Ambassador Ojiambo.

Ms. Ojiambo, Vice-President, United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in 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: Ambassador Joy Ogwu of Nigeria, President of the second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in 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, could not be with us today. She is away at the funeral ceremony of her mother in Nigeria. She has asked me to report to the First Committee on the outcome of the Conference, and I am honoured to do so.

As mandated by resolution 66/47, the Review Conference was held here in New York from 27 August to 7 September. The Conference was preceded by a Preparatory Committee session from 19 to 23 March, which agreed on all procedural recommendations and decisions for the Conference. The Review Conference appointed 13 Vice-Presidents, namely, Brazil, the Czech Republic, Germany, Guyana, Hungary, Indonesia,

Japan, Kenya, Madagascar, New Zealand, Norway, Peru and Romania.

After two days of a general exchange of views, the Conference devoted the remainder of its work to negotiations on its outcome document, of which the President had circulated drafts well in advance of the Conference. On 7 September, the Conference adopted by consensus the final report (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4) containing the outcome document. The report is available in all six official United Nations languages. The substantive outcome of the Conference is contained in two annexes. Annex I contains the 2012 Declaration, an implementation plan outlining measures to strengthen implementation at the national, regional and global levels during the period 2012 to 2018 of the Programme of Action and a follow-up to the second Review Conference, which includes agreement on the schedule of meetings for the period 2012 to 2018. Annex II contains an implementation plan for the period 2012 to 2018 for the International Tracing Instrument.

Apart from strong reaffirmations of existing commitments, including on bringing export legislation up to standard, improving stockpile management and marking weapons in Government stockpiles in order to be able to trace them, several new elements found their way into the outcome documents. They include an acknowledgement that the illicit trade in small arms undermines respect for international human rights law; an acknowledgement of the close link between the illicit trade in small arms and armed violence; a recognition of the link between the full implementation of the Programme of Action and the promotion of sustainable development; a recognition of the value of measuring the effectiveness of international cooperation and assistance, and ensuring its sustainability; a further focus on regional cooperation and on connecting regional small arms control efforts with the global United Nations process; the increased role of industry to assist the United Nations process to make full use of expertise in the technological development of arms production; a commitment by States to cooperate with the relevant bodies, organs and missions of the United Nations with respect to the tracing of illicit weapons; and a commitment by States to provide additional information in their national reports on the transfer and effective utilization of technology. Furthermore, the outcome document encourages regional organizations to align the timing of their regional meetings with the

global cycle of meetings, thus strengthening synergies between regional and global efforts.

The successful outcome of this important Conference, a rare feat in the field of disarmament in recent years, may also be of benefit to other disarmament and arms-regulation processes. Our deep thanks go in particular to Ambassador Joy Ogwu, who presided in a highly effective manner over the preparations and over the Conference itself.

The Chair: I have been informed that the representative of Belarus, President of the Fifth Conference of the States Parties to Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War 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, is here in the Conference Room with us today. Unless I hear any objection, I shall take it that the Committee agrees to giving him the floor to make a short presentation.

It was so decided.

The Chair: I now give the floor to Mr. Ponomariov.

Mr. Ponomariov, President of the Fifth Conference of the States Parties to Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War 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: The Final Document of the Fifth Conference of the States Parties to Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War 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, held last year in Geneva, suggested that the presidency consider reporting to the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly on its endeavours to promote the universality of Protocol V. Furthermore, resolution 66/62 emphasizes the importance of the universalization of Protocol V.

We look forward to the successful adoption of this year's draft resolution on the Convention, which is traditionally submitted by Sweden, and we stand ready to further contribute to its implementation.

Explosive remnants of war are the explosive devices that cause the greatest number of casualties throughout the world each year. Protocol V works to both prevent and minimize the humanitarian impact of

explosive remnants of war. It establishes a clear rule that abandoned and explosive ordnance must be cleared once a conflict has ended. There are also provisions on measures for the protection of civilians, victim assistance and cooperation and assistance. Protocol V takes a comprehensive approach to prevent the humanitarian suffering caused by explosive remnants of war. It commits the high contracting parties to record the use and abandonment of explosive ordnance and to release that information, which is essential for clearance efforts, as soon as possible after the cessation of active hostilities.

Furthermore, Protocol V encourages the high contracting parties to carry out a range of technical measures on the design, production, storage, transportation and use of munitions in order to ensure their safety and prevent them from becoming unexploded ordnance. In that regard, it is worth mentioning the extensive discussion that took place in April at this year's Meeting of Experts on Protocol V, highlighting the problem of the safe storage of munitions to prevent them from accidental explosion, which might have disastrous consequences for civilians.

As part of our responsibilities as President of the Fifth Conference, we continue to work on promoting the universality of Protocol V. That has included addressing all the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States not yet parties to the Protocol to urge them to join Protocol V. We have also been working regionally in the framework of the Collective Security Treaty Organization to promote the understanding and importance of the Convention, in particular Protocol V.

This year we welcomed four new high contracting parties to Protocol V, namely, Burundi, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, South Africa and Turkmenistan. Given the extensive contamination in Laos, joining Protocol V was especially encouraging. However, much remains to be done to address the challenges posed by the clearance of explosive remnants, assisting victims and providing cooperation and assistance.

The total number of high contracting parties to Protocol V now stands at 80. We urge all States that have not yet done so to join Protocol V.

The Chair: I will now open the floor for comments on the introductions we have just heard. To that end, I shall suspend the meeting to enable us to continue in informal mode.

The meeting was suspended at 11.20 and resumed at 11.35 a.m

The Chair: I shall now give the floor to speakers who wish to make statements or to introduce draft resolutions under cluster 4, "Conventional weapons". Before proceeding, let me remind all delegations taking the floor once again kindly to limit their statements to five minutes when speaking in their national capacity, and to seven minutes when speaking on behalf of groups of States. I ask speakers to make every effort to summarize their statements and to submit their full texts in hard copy for posting on the First Committee web portal, QuickFirst.

Mr. Cassidy (Indonesia): I am honoured to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). NAM recognizes the need to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security, with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources.

The Movement recognizes the significant imbalance in the production, possession and trade in conventional weapons between industrialized and non-aligned countries. NAM calls for a significant reduction in the production, possession and trade in conventional weapons by industrialized States, with a view to enhancing international and regional peace and security.

NAM remains deeply concerned about the illicit transfer, manufacture and circulation of small arms and light weapons and about their excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread in many regions of the world. In that context, NAM is cognizant of the fact that the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects poses a threat to the security and the socioeconomic development of many countries. NAM calls upon all States, in particular major producing States, to ensure that the supply of small arms and light weapons is limited only to Governments, or to entities duly authorized by Governments, and to apply legal restrictions and prohibitions preventing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. In addition, the Movement recognizes the need to establish and maintain controls over private ownership of small arms.

NAM welcomes the successful conclusion of the Second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in 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. While taking note of the outcome document of the Conference (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4), NAM emphasizes the importance of the balanced, full and effective implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons. In that regard, NAM stresses that international cooperation and assistance are essential in the full implementation of the Programme of Action.

The Movement takes note of the proposal to continue negotiations on an arms trade treaty. In that context, NAM stresses the need for open, transparent, non-discriminatory and inclusive negotiations in order to adopt, by consensus, the text of a treaty that fully takes into account the security rights and interests of States. In that regard, NAM reaffirms the sovereign right of States to acquire, manufacture, export, import and retain conventional arms and their parts and components for their self-defence and security needs. The Movement expresses its concern about unilateral coercive measures, and emphasizes that no undue restriction should be placed on the transfer of such arms.

In addition, in that context, NAM expresses its concern about the significant imbalance in the production, possession and trade in conventional weapons between industrialized and non-aligned countries, and calls for a significant reduction in the production, possession and trade of conventional weapons by industrialized States, with a view to enhancing international and regional peace and security.

NAM reaffirms respect for, and commitment to, international law and the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including the sovereign equality of States, territorial integrity, the peaceful resolution of international disputes, and non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

Furthermore, NAM emphasizes respect for the right of self-determination of all peoples, taking into account the particular situation of peoples under colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation, and recognizing the right of peoples to take legitimate action in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations to realize their inalienable right of self-determination. That shall not be construed as authorizing or encouraging any action that would dismember or impair, totally or in part, the territorial

integrity or political unity of sovereign and independent States conducting themselves in compliance with the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples.

NAM continues to deplore the use, in contravention of international humanitarian law, of anti-personnel mines in conflicts aimed at maiming, killing and terrorizing innocent civilians. NAM calls upon all States in a position to do so to provide the necessary financial, technical and humanitarian assistance to landmine clearance operations and the social and economic rehabilitation of victims, as well as to ensure full access for affected countries to material, equipment, technology and financial resources for mine clearance.

NAM expresses concern about the explosive remnants of the Second World War, particularly in the form of landmines, which continue to cause human and material damage and obstruct development plans in some non-aligned countries. The Movement calls on the States primarily responsible for laying those mines and for leaving explosives outside their territories during the Second World War to cooperate with, and provide mine action support to, the affected countries, including information exchange, maps indicating the locations of mines and explosives, technical assistance for mine clearance, defraying the costs of clearance and providing compensation for any losses caused by the mines laid.

NAM recognizes the adverse humanitarian impact caused by the use of cluster munitions and expresses sympathy with countries affected by cluster munitions. NAM notes the entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, on 1 August 2010.

Mr. Abdelkhalek (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): The delegation of Egypt delivers this statement on behalf of the Arab Group, which aligns itself with the statement just delivered by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The Arab Group welcomes the success of the Second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in 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 and would like to express its sincere appreciation to Ambassador Joy Ogwu, Permanent Representative of Nigeria and President of the Conference, for her efforts and the efforts exerted by the four facilitators, one of whom was

from an Arab country, namely, Egypt, to adopt the final document of the Conference (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4).

The Arab Group participated actively in the Conference, with the goal of achieving a successful outcome. It reiterates its continued adherence to the commitments contained in the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, and that any additional issues and concepts are just proposals subject to further consensus.

The Arab Group appreciates the tireless efforts exerted by all participating States at the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty. The Arab Group also welcomed the adoption of the rules of procedure, which stated that all substantive decisions of the Conference had to be reached by consensus. The Group was keen on participating actively in the work of the Conference and contributing to the creation of all the conditions needed for its success, including through Morocco's participation as Chair of Main Committee 1. We reiterate that the success of the negotiations on the treaty depends on reaching a balanced treaty reflecting the interests of all the States participating in the negotiations, including the State of Palestine.

The Arab Group is of the view that an acceptable outcome on all elements of the treaty can be reached only through the multilateral framework of the United Nations, and that the draft treaty has to be consistent with the content and principles of the Charter, especially the legitimate right of States to self-defence and to preserve territorial integrity, the right to self-determination, the inadmissibility of foreign occupation, and the right to produce, export, import and transfer conventional weapons.

The draft treaty must also take into account the balance of responsibilities between arms-exporting and arms-importing States. Any criteria developed by the treaty to regulate arms exports must also be based on clear legal instruments, including the relevant instruments of international humanitarian law and the decisions of the relevant United Nations organs.

The treaty should provide for recourse to arbitration in cases of unjustified refusal to export on a subjective basis, or in case a State exploits the treaty for political purposes. Similarly, the issue of international cooperation and international assistance has to be given the necessary attention. There should be no doubt that the assistance topic should be dealt with under the compulsory part of the treaty. The Arab

Group also emphasizes the need for the entry into force of the treaty to be associated with the ratification of a sufficient number of countries, taking into account the quantitative and qualitative indicators of the States Members of the United Nations.

In that context, the Arab Group affirms the sovereign right of States to acquire, manufacture, export, import and retain conventional arms and their parts and components for their self-defence and security needs. The Arab Group calls for dealing with the significant imbalance in the production, possession and trade in conventional weapons between industrialized and the developing countries, including Arab countries.

The Arab Group engaged positively with the call for the continuation of negotiations on the treaty in the framework of the Conference that will be held in March 2013. The Group suggested, in that context, some constructive amendments to the draft resolution presented in that regard in order to bring more balance to its elements, including with regard to the participation of the State of Palestine.

The Arab Group expresses its concern about explosive remnants, including remnants from the Second World War, in particular in the form of landmines, which continue to cause human and material damage and to obstruct development plans in some countries. The Group calls on the States primarily responsible for laying those mines and leaving explosives outside their territories during the Second World War to cooperate with the affected countries, *inter alia*, through information exchange, maps indicating the locations of mines and explosives, technical assistance for mine clearance, defraying the costs of clearance and providing compensation for any losses caused by mines laid.

The Chair: I now give the floor to the representative of Mali to make a statement in his national capacity and to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.21)

Mr. Traoré (Mali) (*spoke in French*): As this is the first time that the delegation of Mali takes the floor since the Committee began its work, I should like to warmly congratulate you, Sir, and the other members of the Bureau on your elections and to assure you of our full support for the success of our work.

My delegation did not take the floor during the general debate on our agenda on disarmament and international security. We would therefore like to recall

that we fully align ourselves with the statements made on these matters at the Committee's 2nd meeting by the representative of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, on behalf of the African Group, and by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. I should like to make several general observations in my national capacity.

First, everyone in this room agrees that international peace and security face multiple challenges and threats. We all agree that the continuing stalemate in the Conference on Disarmament, established in 1978 by the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, is a source of true concern.

Our second observation is on the missed opportunity that occurred on 27 June at the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty. In spite of the praiseworthy work and optimism of the President of the Conference, Mr. Roberto García Moritán, we were unable to adopt a treaty to regulate the arms trade. Nevertheless, my delegation feels that outstanding work was conducted in June. We hope that, by March 2013 at the latest, Member States will come together and find that the differences have been overcome and that, on the basis of the text presented by the President, we will adopt a treaty on the arms trade.

Thirdly, to conclude my general observations on a positive note, my delegation is pleased with the success of the Second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in 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. While we regretted that there was no reference to munitions controls in the outcome document (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4, we do feel that welcome progress was made. In that connection, I would like to commend the wise leadership of Ambassador Joy Ogwu of Nigeria, who led us to those results.

Those are the preliminary observations that my delegation wanted to express here.

As you have mentioned, Mr. Chair, I am taking the floor on behalf of the 15 member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) — Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and my country, Mali, in order to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.21, the annual draft resolution entitled "Assistance to States for curbing the illicit

traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them”.

The trade and the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons continue to fuel conflicts, exacerbate violence, lead to the displacement of civilians and violate the principles and rules of international law and humanitarian law, as well as fuel terrorism and organized crime.

That is the daily reality of people living in the north of Mali, which has been occupied for seven months now by criminal groups of all kinds that deal in drugs, weapons and human lives. Combating the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and eradicating their illicit trade can be effective only if it is conducted in synergy with cooperation. On behalf of the member States of ECOWAS, Mali once again this year introduces the draft resolution entitled “Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them”.

In addition to necessary technical updates, the draft resolution takes up the same language as draft resolution 66/34, which was adopted by consensus last year. The draft resolution is closely linked with 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 we reviewed during the second Review Conference.

As to its content, the draft resolution calls upon the international community to provide technical and financial support to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations to take action to help to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. It also calls upon the international community to support the implementation of the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, which entered into force on 29 September 2009. In that connection, I should like to commend the significant support of the European Union to ECOWAS in combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

Beyond the West African subregion, we believe that this draft resolution expresses the will of many African countries and countries throughout the world to find a solution to the trade in small arms and light weapons. We thank the States that each year join the member States of ECOWAS in becoming sponsors of the draft resolution, and we recall that the list is still open for the accession of States wishing to join us.

The Chair: I now give the floor to the representative of Costa Rica to make a statement in his national capacity and to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.11.

Mr. Ulibarri (Costa Rica) (*spoke in Spanish*): It is an honour for Costa Rica to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.11, entitled “The arms trade treaty”, on behalf of its sponsors, namely, Argentina, Australia, Finland, Japan, Kenya, the United Kingdom and my own country.

As its objective, the draft resolution seeks to convene a final conference that will enable us to conclude the work that we could not finalize in July. The inability to achieve consensus in the first Diplomatic Conference left us disappointed, but not discouraged.

We are convinced that, under the same rules of procedure, this time we will be able to achieve our shared goal of concluding a strong and effective arms trade treaty. Humankind needs it and demands it. We cannot wait any longer. The draft treaty presented by the President of the Conference on 26 July reflects important advances towards that goal. We believe that that document should be the basis upon which we proceed. With the utmost respect, we ask all delegations to support this draft resolution. We trust that we will be able to adopt it by consensus.

Allow me, in my national capacity, to reiterate Costa Rica’s commitment to the disarmament machinery of the United Nations and, in particular, to the regulation of conventional arms. My delegation recognizes the serious threat that conventional arms, especially small arms and light weapons, pose to international peace and security. We do not speak of an abstract problem, but rather a searing reality, especially for developing countries.

Costa Rica reaffirms its commitment to combat the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons, as well as our support for the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. We welcome the adoption, on 7 September, of the final document (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4) of the Second Review Conference. Although the document did not include everything we had hoped for, it constitutes important progress in that it reaffirms the commitment of States to combat this scourge.

The Programme of Action continues to be the only global framework of practical measures to combat

the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and their humanitarian consequences. We must pay special attention to its implementation over the course of the next six-year cycle through the exchange of best practices and lessons learned as well as through robust international cooperation and assistance.

Costa Rica also reaffirms its strong support for working towards a robust, universal and legally binding arms trade treaty that not only regulates the legal trade in conventional weapons, but also contributes to the prevention of the illicit trade, which feeds human suffering and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

In spite of the inability to achieve consensus last July, it was a true achievement that the majority of States gathered here recognized that certain transfers should never be authorized; that the arms trade should be consistent with human rights and international humanitarian law; and that States must honour the value of transparency by reporting their transactions and taking responsibility for them. The President's paper of 26 July reflects this recognition. We applaud the inclusion of small arms and light weapons in the scope of the document, as well as the seven categories of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms. We support the establishment of robust and legally binding criteria to prohibit States parties from authorizing the transfer of arms that could in some way facilitate serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights.

However, the document should also be strengthened by the inclusion of ammunition, parts and components within the scope of regulated items. Moreover, greater clarity is needed in defining the obligations of States parties with respect to national risk assessment, so that those criteria may be legally binding.

Finally, we call for the application of the treaty's terms to contracts under the defence cooperation agreements. My delegation expresses its commitment to productive negotiation and cooperation.

Yet, it is not enough to adopt an arms trade treaty. We must also cultivate the environment necessary for its successful implementation, on the basis of the rule of law, in keeping with the declaration adopted on 24 September by the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels.

In his address before the Diplomatic Conference, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stated with eloquence that "The world is over-armed and peace is under-funded." We have an opportunity to transform that stark and depressing reality. The moment has arrived to marshal the political will that is necessary to adopt the arms trade treaty without further delay.

Mr. Román-Morey (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the member States of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR). In keeping with your request, Mr. Chair, to make our statements brief, I shall read out a summarized version of my statement, whose full version will be distributed in the room.

The member States of UNASUR recognize the contribution and qualitative difference made by the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects in providing a comprehensive and multidimensional response to the problems arising from those illicit activities. Nevertheless, we remain concerned about the effects of the illicit production, transfer and circulation of firearms and ammunition, and their proliferation in the hands of civilians, which, in many regions, have various consequences and pose a challenge to the sustainable development of our societies. We also reiterate our concern at the close link that exists between the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and organized crime.

We consider it important to continue promoting the consolidation of international cooperation and assistance and national capacity-building, as their cross-cutting and multidimensional nature make them essential tools for the effective implementation of the measures that are recommended in the Programme of Action.

While we recognize the contribution made by the Programme of Action, UNASUR States wish to reiterate the position stated on previous occasions regarding the Programme of Action, namely, that by referring to the issue of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, it must necessarily include ammunition and explosives. We have also reiterated that the non-legally binding nature of the Programme of Action is an obstacle to its effective implementation.

UNASUR welcomes the positive outcome achieved during the Second Review Conference to examine

the Programme of Action and the adoption of a final document (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4) with the support of all delegations, in which Member States reaffirm their commitment to the implementation of the Programme of Action. In addition, we wish to highlight the importance of gender mainstreaming and age perspectives in the implementation of the Programme of Action, addressing the most vulnerable sectors of society.

Mr. Aquino (Peru), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

Taking into account the primary responsibility of States to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects across borders, in the framework of the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR), a working group on firearms and ammunition that includes associated States was established in 2001 with the aim of sharing national experiences, working towards the harmonization of national legislation to control firearms and ammunition, as well as to coordinate policies in the field. That forum for exchange has become a useful tool for the coordination of the positions of UNASUR members and associated States. With regard to this agenda item, member States of UNASUR express their support to Colombia, South Africa and Japan for their annual initiative to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.48, entitled “The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects”.

We would also like to highlight the work conducted within the framework of the United Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, which was held in New York in accordance with resolution 64/48 over the period of 2 to 27 July. Although the Conference was not able to adopt the treaty, the member States of UNASUR look forward to finalizing the elaboration of a strong, effective, balanced and legally binding instrument that is negotiated in a non-discriminatory, transparent and multilateral manner, agreed on the basis of consensus, and which establishes international common norms for the trade in conventional arms, with the highest possible standards.

In addition, we reaffirm that this regulation should not affect the right to self-defence recognized in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, or the right of all States to manufacture, import, export, transfer and possess conventional weapons for their legitimate self-defence and security needs.

The member States of UNASUR reiterate their support for the efforts of the international community to regulate cluster munitions, with the purpose of significantly reducing the humanitarian, social and economic consequences of the use of those weapons on civilians, in accordance with international humanitarian law. In that regard, Peru deposited its instrument of ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions last September.

Likewise, UNASUR member States reaffirm the need to eliminate anti-personnel mines. In that regard, we highlight the efforts and the results achieved in the field of demining and victim assistance in our region, which has been made possible because of the cooperation that exists among our countries, as is the case with the joint demining carried out by Peru and Ecuador and by Peru and Chile. We also highlight the international assistance extended by countries of our region for demining, such as the assistance provided by Brazil in South and Central America.

The member States of UNASUR consider that confidence-building measures are an important tool for the consolidation of peace and security. The South American region has been a pioneer in the implementation of confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms. Many years ago, States of the region started committing to strengthening existing consultative and cooperative mechanisms regarding security and defence issues and promoting their progressive articulation, as well as improving cooperation in the sphere of security and confidence-building measures and their implementation.

The member States of UNASUR reiterate the importance of continuing to promote an enabling environment for arms control and the limitation of conventional weapons, which allows each member State to devote more resources to their socioeconomic development, taking into consideration compliance with international commitments and their legitimate defence and security needs.

At the special meeting of Heads of State and Government of UNASUR held in Bariloche, Argentina, on 28 August 2008, the Heads of State and Government decided to strengthen South America as a zone of peace and committed to the establishment of a mechanism for mutual confidence in the field of security and defence. They also upheld their decision to refrain from the

threat or the use of force against the territorial integrity of another State of UNASUR.

As follow-up to that decision, the South American Defence Council decided to establish a mechanism to implement confidence- and security-building measures, including the development and improvement of national systems for marking and tracing of weapons as well as active cooperation among member States of UNASUR in resolving cases of diversion, smuggling and illegal uses of weapons under their custody or coming from their territory.

Likewise, with the purpose of promoting transparency on military expenditures, last May, UNASUR launched the South American Register on Defence Expenditures. For the first time, the Register will compile official information submitted by the 12 UNASUR member States, based on a common agreed methodology developed for that effect.

Since the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly, UNASUR States have supported the biennial draft resolution introduced by Argentina entitled "Information on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms", whereby an electronic database was established to facilitate the assessment of the progress achieved in the elaboration and implementation of such measures at a global level, based on information voluntarily provided by Member States.

Mr. Charles (Trinidad and Tobago): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the 14 member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on the agenda sub-item entitled "Towards an arms trade treaty: establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms".

The conclusion of a robust and legally binding arms trade treaty (ATT) is an important foreign policy objective for the member States of CARICOM. CARICOM remains firmly convinced that the adoption of a treaty establishing commonly agreed international standards to regulate the trade in conventional weapons, including small arms and light weapons and their ammunition, would prevent their diversion to the illicit market and assist in addressing the myriad problems associated with that trade. As CARICOM has said throughout the history of the ATT process, the illegal arms trade is linked to other transboundary crimes, such as the illegal narcotics trade and organized crime.

Even before the adoption of resolution 61/89, in 2006, CARICOM maintained that the lack of common standards to regulate the global arms trade was having adverse effects on the social and economic well-being of the countries of our region. The situation today is no different. In fact, it has worsened. Our adherence to very useful initiatives such as the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects has not alleviated the negative effects of the illegal trade in small arms and light weapons, due to the non-binding character of those instruments, which are limited in scope and which are not implemented universally or effectively by all States.

CARICOM, as part of a group of like-minded States, lamented the failure of the Diplomatic Conference held last July to agree on the text of an ATT. CARICOM was eager to support the text of a binding instrument that would provide transparency, comparability and accountability in the international arms trade. While the disappointment is still fresh in our minds, the United Nations must seize the opportunity to put the necessary measures in place to reconvene the Conference on the ATT before the end of the first quarter of 2013.

However, CARICOM submits that next year's Conference must be a continuation of the process and must not be the commencement of new negotiations. We must build on the text annexed to the report of Ambassador Roberto García Moritán's paper contained in document A/CONF.217/CRP.1. While CARICOM acknowledges that there are many good elements in the text, it is not without its imperfections. Nevertheless, the President's draft treaty provides at least a platform upon which we can make further progress in our quest to conclude an ATT before the end of the first quarter of next year.

In 2013 we, as a global community, must aim to adopt an instrument that would require States parties to conduct a risk assessment of the international transfer of weapons and prevent a transfer if it would exacerbate conflict or be used to commit grave violations of international humanitarian law or human rights law. In that regard, the treaty must clearly define what constitutes a transfer.

CARICOM would also expect a reconvened Conference to amend the draft instrument to include ammunition in its scope, and not have it listed as

part of the regime governing exports under article 6. Ammunition must also be subject to a comprehensive risk assessment, as well as record-keeping and reporting requirements, as is the case with the other items currently under the scope of the draft treaty.

CARICOM also reiterates its call for the ATT to provide for a smaller number of States parties indicating their consent to be bound by the treaty in order for it to enter into force. We are not satisfied with what is included in the draft text.

Furthermore, CARICOM submits that the rules of procedure of the Conference concerning decision-making must not be used by any State or group of States as a veto, which would have the effect of preventing agreement by consensus of a treaty text that has the support of the overwhelming majority of States. In other words, we must seek to prevent a repetition of what occurred last July.

It is CARICOM's expectation as well that negotiators at the reconvened Conference would ensure that the ATT would not only establish an implementation support unit but would establish one that is truly independent and tasked with the responsibility to assist States in verifying compliance with the instrument, as well as assisting with its overall implementation.

CARICOM is also of the view that the future ATT would be the primary instrument regulating the trade in conventional weapons and, as such, should not be subject to other prevailing agreements. A provision safeguarding the primacy of the ATT in relation to other instruments should be expressly provided for in the treaty.

For CARICOM, the issue of international cooperation and assistance is another vital area for the full and effective implementation of the treaty. The treaty should therefore have very strong provisions in that area.

We, the States Members of the United Nations, must represent the desire of millions of people who wish to live in societies free from the scourge of armed violence and armed conflict. The losses due to ills perpetrated by those who use illegal weapons are not only social and economic in nature, but also humanitarian and psychological. The ATT should require States parties to enact and to enforce effective laws and regulations to control the flow of arms into, out of and through their respective territories. CARICOM believes that

the effective implementation of an ATT would help to eradicate the illegal trade in conventional weapons and reduce the incidence of transboundary crimes associated with that nefarious activity.

The member States of CARICOM held a "torch for life" at the July Conference. We will continue to carry this forward to the proposed 2013 Conference, with a renewed sense of cooperation and a spirit of compromise as we seek to prevent arms transfers that contribute to human suffering.

The Acting Chair (*spoke in Spanish*): Before I give the floor to the next speaker, I should like to remind members that the time allotted when speaking for regional groups is seven minutes, and five minutes when speaking in a national capacity. Given that we are already lagging behind with regard to the speakers' list, I would urge speakers to try to abide by the allotted time.

Mr. Bamba (Côte d'Ivoire) (*spoke in French*): First, I should like to congratulate Mr. Percaya on his election as Chair, as well as the other members of the Bureau on their elections.

I am honoured to take the floor on behalf of the 15 member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), namely, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements made at the preliminary stage of our work during the Committee's 2nd meeting by the representative of Nigeria, on behalf of the African Group, and by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The member States of ECOWAS participated actively in the 2012 United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, as well as in the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in 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.

In spite of the optimism that inspired us at the beginning of our work on the arms trade treaty, that optimism gave way instead to a feeling of deep disappointment as a result of the resounding failure. However, we cannot afford to sit back with our arms folded. The member States of ECOWAS truly wish to

see a rapid resumption of negotiations that will make it possible in the near future to conclude work on the implementation of an arms trade treaty. We believe that the recent gains should form the basis for that work, in particular the draft treaty proposed by the President of the Conference on 26 July. In that context, I should like to say that the member States of ECOWAS will support the draft resolution that has been introduced on this matter (draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.11).

The member States of ECOWAS are also of the view that the future arms trade treaty should cover all types of transfers and all types of conventional weapons, including small arms and light weapons, ammunition and parts and components. The future treaty should prohibit all arms transfers to non-State actors and, above all, should reject any arms transfer if there is a substantial risk that those arms may be used to perpetrate or facilitate the commission of acts of violence, of violations of international humanitarian law and human rights or to impede socioeconomic development in States.

It is urgent that we effectively combat destabilizing transfers that are particularly deadly involving the use of conventional weapons. From that angle, the Second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in 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, held from 27 August to 7 September, which resulted in the adoption of a consensus document (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4), we believe provides us with grounds for satisfaction. We wish to reaffirm our commitment to strengthening the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

The challenge we face is how to come up with ways and means to improve the implementation of the Instrument at the national, regional and international levels during the upcoming six-year cycle, that is, until 2018, while emphasizing the importance of the aspect of international cooperation and assistance. In that regard, we commend the role played by the support system for the implementation of the Programme of Action in terms of strengthening capacity-building, the input of national committees established to combat the proliferation of arms and the input of civil society.

The unacceptable tragic events caused by conventional weapons in West Africa have led the member States of ECOWAS to equip themselves with

a legal instrument as of 2006 in order to regulate the transfer and manufacture of conventional weapons in order thereby to effectively meet the challenge posed by ensuring controls of conventional weapons through regional cooperation and international coordination. I speak, of course, of the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials. The member States of ECOWAS call on the international community to engage in robust international action to combat the illicit trafficking in small arms and their ammunition, which have become true weapons of mass destruction.

Current events in our region, as members know, are dominated by the resurgence of the crisis in Mali, which was triggered by the massive influx of conventional weapons into the Sahel region. During the high-level meeting on the Sahel held here in New York on the margins of the General Assembly, the international community showed its strong resolve to ensure the restoration of Mali's territorial integrity and to help the country and the region free themselves from the terrorist groups involved in illicit activity and trafficking and which perpetrate serious human rights violations.

The support and follow-up group on the situation in Mali, which met in Bamako on 19 October and brought together the African Union, ECOWAS, the United Nations, the European Union and a number of other multilateral and bilateral partners, has further strengthened that resolve. While we welcome the significant support that has been provided by the international community in order to tackle the crisis in Mali, we remain convinced that the regional aspect to the crisis posed by the circulation of conventional weapons in our region presents one of the greatest challenges that must be duly accounted for in any lasting solution.

In conclusion, ECOWAS reiterates its support for draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.21, introduced by the representative of Mali and entitled "Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them".

The Acting Chair (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the observer of the European Union.

Mr. Kos (European Union): Bearing in mind the time limit that you, Sir, have just indicated, I will read out a short version of our statement. The full text will

be circulated in the room and posted on the European Union website.

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU). Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Iceland, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Liechtenstein, the Republic of Moldova and Armenia align themselves with this statement.

The last few months have been marked by important events in the field of conventional weapons, namely, the Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty and the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in 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 United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty did not manage to reach agreement on a final text of the treaty. That is regrettable, as we sought to conclude a strong, robust and effective arms trade treaty (ATT). At the same time, tremendous progress was achieved. In our view, the ATT should be a meaningful, effective and legally binding instrument aimed at regulating the international legal trade in conventional arms while combating illicit trafficking.

We continue to stress the importance of including strong transfer criteria in the treaty that would ensure that arms are not transferred if there is a clear risk that they could be used in serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights.

The ATT should cover all types of conventional arms and should include a credible, obligatory and public reporting mechanism. It should also be open to regional integration organizations in order fully to recognize their role in regulating international transfers of conventional weapons.

The EU fully appreciates the importance of the widest participation in the ATT negotiating process in order to ensure the universality of the treaty.

The EU strongly shares the view that the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons constitutes a huge impediment for peace and security. We have not yet achieved the common goals that we set ourselves in 2001 to reduce the death and suffering caused by the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

We are pleased that the Review Conference agreed on a renewed commitment to the implementation of

the Programme of Action, that it adopted a significant outcome document (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4) by consensus and that it took important decisions. At the same time, there are still important improvements to the Programme of Action that could not be made this time. Technological progress and political developments of the past decade and the evolution of the Programme of Action in view of future challenges, as well as the integration of ammunition and the gender perspective, remain important tasks to be tackled.

We believe that real progress has been made with regard to the effective implementation of the International Tracing Instrument, inter alia, by the increased exchange of tracing results. Consensus was achieved on a schedule of meetings that will further enhance the coherence, effectiveness and continuity of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument process. The European Union looks forward to the initial report by the Secretary-General on recent technical developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design for effective marking, record-keeping and tracing.

The EU continues to support third States and regional organizations in their implementation of the Programme of Action, as well as other instruments. We reiterate our strong support for the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and believe that small arms and light weapons should constitute a mandatory category in the Register.

We welcome the significant progress made in the universalization and implementation of the Ottawa Convention. The latest Review Conference and the Cartagena Action Plan gave renewed impetus to our common efforts to reach all the objectives of the Convention. The European Union will continue to work in close cooperation with the countries concerned and provide, where possible, assistance to address the significant remaining challenges.

The European Union supports the humanitarian goal of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Significant progress has been made in that area. Nonetheless, much remains to be done, such as including the world's largest possessors and manufacturers in the ongoing efforts. We take note of the Oslo progress report, adopted at the annual meeting of States parties. The European Union, like many donors, does not differentiate among types of explosive remnants in providing assistance.

The European Union welcomes the discussion held in April on the implementation of international humanitarian law with regard to mines other than anti-personnel mines, as decided by the Fourth Review Conference of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW). The humanitarian, developmental and economic concerns posed by the irresponsible use of such weapons remain important issues.

The EU supports the development of synergies in the implementation of international humanitarian disarmament instruments, as applicable. We also believe that the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities provides a framework to address the needs of survivors and the realization of their human rights, as well as to ensure respect for their dignity.

The exchange of information on national legislation on the transfer of arms, military equipment, dual-use goods and technology contributes to mutual understanding and confidence among States. The EU reiterates its strong support for the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and the United Nations Report on Military Expenditures.

Let me conclude by stressing once again the importance of continuing to contribute to the development of a credible, effective and meaningful international treaty system in the field of conventional weapons.

Mr. Hoffmann (Germany): I speak on behalf of France, Italy, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and my own country, Germany. We associate ourselves with the statement just made on behalf of the European Union.

We would like to thank Ambassador Van den IJssel for the report on the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty he delivered this morning. We would also like to thank, in absentia, Ambassador García Moritán, first and foremost for his leadership and for his tireless efforts during the entire arms trade treaty (ATT) process, from its outset up until leading the Diplomatic Conference on the ATT in July. During the four weeks of the Conference he again demonstrated his outstanding diplomatic skills, originality, determination and good humour. Without him we would not have come as far as we did during the Conference. We would be happy to see him continue his

engagement in the process to bring about the treaty. Let me also express our gratitude to the Chairs of the Main Committees, Mr. Bouchaib El Oummi and Ambassador Paul Van den IJssel, for their remarkable contributions to the process.

At the end of the July Conference, together with a total of more than 90 countries, our delegations stated:

“We are disappointed this process has not come to a successful conclusion today. We are disappointed, but we are not discouraged. We are determined to secure an Arms Trade Treaty as soon as possible. One that would bring about a safer world for the sake of all humanity”.

We owe it to ourselves and to the global community to continue our quest for a strong and robust arms trade treaty, and we are determined to bring that process to a successful outcome.

The Foreign Ministers of France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom and the Minister for Trade of Sweden issued a joint communiqué concerning the continuation and finalization of the ATT process on the occasion of the opening week of this session of the General Assembly. Delegations will find the text of the communiqué attached to the distributed version of our statement.

In the communiqué our Ministers maintain that

“The world still needs an arms trade treaty — one that has the strength and breadth to make a real impact on the problems caused by the poorly regulated trade in conventional arms. Millions of people around the world suffer the consequences of uncontrolled proliferation and illicit trafficking. Not only are hundreds of thousands of people killed or injured every year but the economic and social prospects of future generations are also undermined. There is a clear case for Governments to act and finish the job started six years ago;

”Our objectives have not changed. We believe that States have a responsibility to ensure that arms are not transferred if there is a clear risk that they could be used in serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights. The arms trade treaty should be legally binding, but nationally enforced. It should cover all types of conventional weapons, including small arms and light weapons, and all types of munitions. We also want to see

a treaty that seeks to increase transparency and prevent the diversion of arms from the legal market to illicit trafficking networks;

“We believe the best way to achieve our objectives is for the negotiation process to continue in the framework of the United Nations, and include all relevant stakeholders. It must build on the progress already achieved in July, taking the latest draft treaty text as the basis for any future discussions. We would like to see a new mandate from the General Assembly of the United Nations to hold a second conference as early as possible in 2013”.

Our delegations believe that draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.11, entitled “The arms trade treaty”, sets out a way forward that matches that vision. We therefore fully support the draft resolution.

At the end of their communiqué, our ministers called upon Governments, civil society, the defence industry and individual citizens to lend us their support for continuing negotiations and agreement on an ATT within the framework of the United Nations.

“We want a new round of negotiations as soon as possible. An ATT is overdue and we stand ready to complete our work and bring this process to a successful conclusion”.

Our delegations today call upon all other delegations to also support the draft resolution, thereby enabling the United Nations to successfully conclude the ATT process.

The Acting Chair (*spoke in Spanish*): Before continuing with the list of speakers, I wish to say that we are now starting the list of speakers who are to speak in their national capacity. I wish to remind delegations that the speaking time for those speaking in a national capacity is five minutes per statement.

Mr. Hauge (Norway): The Norwegian Government is strongly committed to humanitarian disarmament, as well as to developing strict measures to curb the irresponsible and illicit arms trade. Strengthened efforts in those areas will contribute to the reduction and prevention of armed violence, and thereby human suffering. In addition, we believe that humanitarian disarmament and the prevention of armed violence are vital to improving the national and global security environment and development. We cannot allow these important issues to continue to be deferred by deadlocks and procedural snags.

The Mine-Ban Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions demonstrate that it is possible to negotiate multilateral instruments within the field of disarmament that have an immediate humanitarian effect on the ground and that strengthen the protection of civilians. That is possible when there is a common sense of purpose across traditional groupings, when our work builds on the facts and realities on the ground and when the representatives of States recognize, acknowledge and make use of the undisputed expertise and competence of humanitarian organizations.

Norway gives high priority to the implementation of the Mine Ban Convention to ensure that mined areas are cleared and victims' rights are improved. The Convention has been a success. Vast areas of land has been cleared, there are fewer victims every year and millions of stockpiled mines have been destroyed. But the job is still not finished.

The Convention on Cluster Munitions has also generated similar results. Millions of deadly sub-munitions have been destroyed since the Convention entered into force. During Norway's presidency of the Convention on Cluster Munitions we will continue to focus on the effective implementation of the Convention's obligations on the ground, as well as on the universalization of the Convention and its norms.

In that regard, let me underline that the States parties have made a joint commitment to condemn all use of cluster munitions. The Norwegian Minister for Foreign Affairs condemned the recent use of cluster munitions by Syrian armed forces and urged Syrian authorities immediately to stop the use of those indiscriminate weapons and conduct emergency clearance to protect the civilian population.

Let me briefly touch upon the question of the use of depleted uranium in ammunition and armour. We know that there are concerns caused by worrying signs of health and environmental implications in areas where depleted-uranium ammunition and armour have been employed. While no clear conclusions can be drawn and further research is needed, we feel that those concerns warrant our serious attention. To be on the safe side, restraint should be exercised concerning the use of depleted uranium in ammunition and armour. Norway supports research to bring more knowledge to this field.

In September, the Second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in 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 succeeded in adopting a set of documents that will guide our work in that area in the coming years. Norway welcomes that but, at the same time, we would like to point out that we argued for a stronger outcome. Many label small arms and light weapons and their ammunition as the weapons of mass destruction of our time. It is therefore urgent that the Programme of Action be implemented fully and ambitiously by all States in order to make the Programme of Action the efficient instrument against armed violence and human suffering it was meant to be.

Norway has long argued that the Programme of Action should be converted into a legal instrument. That is still our view. Norway looks forward to participating in the implementation of the Programme of Action and the outcome documents from this year's Review Conference.

Last July, we were unable to conclude and adopt an arms trade treaty (ATT). That was disappointing. The world urgently needs a set of internationally legally binding rules that prevent the irresponsible and illicit arms trade from causing human suffering and armed violence, including violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law. Progress was made during the ATT Conference in July. We have the President's draft treaty text of 26 July, which should be the basis for our work next year. However, my delegation stresses that the draft was a result of difficult compromises, which some countries could not accept at the end. The draft represents a base that requires improvements of both a substantive and technical nature. In other words, our work next year can only proceed in one direction from this point of departure — towards a stronger and more robust treaty based on humanitarian values and with a comprehensive scope and strong and binding criteria.

Draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.11, which has now been introduced, proposes a two-week Conference in March 2013. Norway supports that. Concerning the rules of procedure and the consensus principle, our scepticism should be well known. Norway attaches great importance to the adoption of an arms trade treaty, and we want it to be as universal as possible. We are willing to accept the same rules of procedure for the Conference next year as a last attempt. But to get

a strong and robust arms trade treaty, more flexibility will be required from some States. Norway intends to contribute constructively in the process towards finalizing a strong and robust ATT in 2013.

Mr. Simon-Michel (France) (*spoke in French*): France associates itself with the European Union's statement, as well as with the statement made earlier by the representative of Germany on behalf of the six major European weapons-exporting States.

Following your counsel, Sir, I will deliver just a portion of my statement. The full text can be found on the Internet, in particular on the website of France's Permanent Mission to the Conference on Disarmament. The parts I shall pass over pertain to France's positions, which everyone is familiar with and which I already set out in the general debate. They have to do with the main relevant treaties concerning humanitarian aspects of disarmament, that is, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its five Protocols and the Oslo and Ottawa Conventions. They also relate to the success of the Review Conference on the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. In our view, the latter was a step forward because the Conference ended in consensus and was able to go further to address such issues as the fight to prevent the proliferation of man-portable air-defence systems, as well as the inclusion of a gender perspective.

I have a fundamental message to convey that concerns a matter that is perhaps the primary challenge for the months to come, one that will make a major contribution to strengthening international security, reducing armed violence and upholding human rights and international humanitarian law. I am, of course, referring to the arms trade treaty.

Our objective is to adopt the first legally binding treaty on the arms trade, which is the only area that globalization has not yet touched. This is a matter of States together regulating the legitimate trade while preventing the illicit trafficking of such weapons. I would like to highlight some aspects that from the very beginning of the process have become the focal point for my country.

The scope covered by the treaty should be as broad as possible. It should take into account all the categories in the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and include small arms and light weapons along with

their munitions. Without that, the treaty would not be meaningful.

The treaty must impose controls on all activities of the arms trade, such as exports, imports, transit, trans-shipment, tracing and brokering. It must take into account the international obligations of States, maintaining international peace and security, the possibility of diversion, and upholding international humanitarian law and international law, including gender issues. We attach the greatest importance to those criteria. The impact on the economic and social development of recipient States should also be assessed, along with the risk of corruption.

Last July, we were very close to agreement on the latest text presented by the President of the Conference, Roberto García Moritán. I would like once again to commend his great talent as a diplomat, his transparent working methods and his attention to the concerns of all delegations. We made clear progress during the Conference. Although we were disappointed that we were unable to wrap up the negotiations, we are not in the least discouraged. We will continue our determined efforts with our partners to come up with an ambitious treaty. For the sake of the continuity and effectiveness of our endeavours, we believe that it would be logical and appropriate to continue our work with the same President.

Draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.11, which was introduced today here at the First Committee, has our full support. We think that the best way to achieve our objectives is to continue the negotiating process within the framework of the United Nations, with the involvement of all the

relevant stakeholders and based on consensus and using the same rules of procedure as in July.

This is a regulations treaty, not a prohibition treaty. Even more so than in the case of so-called humanitarian disarmament treaties, unity among stakeholders in this connection is all the more indispensable. We must draw upon the progress made at the Conference in July by using the latest draft of the treaty, circulated on 26 July, as the basis for our future work. Lastly, we think that we need to hold the second Conference on the arms trade treaty as early as possible in 2013, so as to maintain the positive dynamic already at work.

This is a major challenge. The world needs an arms trade treaty that is ambitious enough to have a real impact on the harm caused by inadequate regulation of the conventional arms trade. It would also be the first arms control treaty adopted by the United Nations in more than 15 years. That would prove that the United Nations can successfully carry out this type of negotiation on the basis of consensus. Together we can achieve a great victory for the multilateral system as a whole.

The Acting Chair (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. Cherniavsky (Secretary of the Committee): I would like to inform delegations that whatever drafts are issued and available are placed on the QuickFirst website in English only. All other languages can be obtained from the ODS website. The list of sponsors is open except for draft resolutions that are closed to other sponsors.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.