



# General Assembly

Sixty-seventh session

## First Committee

**15**<sup>th</sup> meeting

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Official Records

*Chair:* Mr. Percaya ..... (Indonesia)

*The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.*

### Statement by the Chair

**The Chair:** We are very honoured and privileged to have with us this morning His Excellency Mr. Vuk Jeremić, President of the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session. On behalf of the delegations of the First Committee, I have the pleasure to warmly welcome President Jeremić. I know that I speak for all members in acknowledging that his presence among us today will further energize and inspire us as we continue our deliberations at this session.

As members know, the President of the General Assembly is an accomplished diplomat of his country who is deeply passionate about the critical disarmament and international security issues before the First Committee. Indeed, the President of the General Assembly has made notable contributions to ongoing international efforts to address those issues, including during the 2011 high-level meeting on nuclear safety and security and at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, where he represented his country as Foreign Minister. At the regional level, he has played an active role in the deliberations of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

It was not surprising, therefore, that in his acceptance speech following his election as President of the General Assembly he chose the theme “Bringing about adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations by peaceful means” as the overarching framework for the work of the Organization during the

next 12 months. In that regard, disarmament emerges among the key issues for the utmost attention.

Without further ado, I am delighted to invite the President to address the First Committee.

**Mr. Jeremić** (President of the General Assembly): I thank you, Mr. Chair, for your very kind introduction. I appreciate the opportunity to address the First Committee. At the outset, allow me to wholeheartedly congratulate my good and special friend the Ambassador of Indonesia for his commitment and the exceptional manner in which he is conducting and leading the First Committee and its crucial work. I also take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the Bureau of the Committee and the Secretariat for their tireless efforts. Let me thank all the members of the Committee for contributing to progress in the fields of arms control and disarmament. The work of the Committee helps considerably to advance the agenda of the General Assembly. I speak to the Committee today to underline and renew my full support for its deliberations, as well as to underscore the importance of making further progress in the many areas of the Committee’s work.

In my opening statement in the general debate of the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session of (see A/67/PV.6), I said that those who drafted the Charter of the United Nations understood that when nations felt secure, they are much more likely to unclench their fists and give the process of peacefully settling disputes a genuine chance to succeed.

In my opinion, advancing the disarmament and arms control agenda is at the very heart of the

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Organization's founding vision: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to peace in conformity with the principles of justice and international law.

We have had a very busy disarmament and arms control year behind us. There were some important successes, such as the positive outcome of the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, or the successful outcome of the second Review Conference of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. I also welcome the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty by Indonesia, an annex 2 State, as well as by Guinea, Ghana and Guatemala. I respectfully urge countries that have not done so to ratify the Treaty as soon as possible. That would bring us closer to the goal of ending nuclear testing for all time.

Those are important achievements, of course, but, regrettably, on other issues there has not been sufficient progress. I refer in particular to the efforts made during the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty and the ongoing disputes on nuclear programmes. Another key area in which we did not make enough progress was the revitalization of the disarmament machinery, including the Conference on Disarmament (CD). I believe that we have to redouble our efforts and make sure that our work moves forward.

Despite the continuing impasse at the CD, I understand that important talks took place in Geneva throughout the year to further work on substantive issues. I hope that those discussions, together with those taking place here in New York, will help to bring opposing viewpoints closer to each other and so advance efforts to bring the CD back on track. I also understand that many members of the Committee come from Geneva and participate in the work here at Headquarters not only during the Committee's work but throughout the year. I hope members' exchanges will contribute to the promotion of an overall increased functioning of the international disarmament machinery.

We also must continue our efforts to find a more efficient way to draw upon the tremendous capacity of civil society organizations and the world's public policy institutes and think tanks on these issues. We have not so far made enough effort to draw upon the tremendous knowledge and experience of those organizations.

I think that they can actually help us in furthering progress and in our work.

I believe that we will all have to strengthen our efforts in the coming weeks and months, as well as to show increased flexibility to better cooperate on crucial issues and to advance our agenda on disarmament and arms control. The following issues have been on the agenda of the General Assembly for a number of years: nuclear disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms; transparency in armaments and compliance with non-proliferation; and arms limitation and disarmament agreements and commitments. Some issues have been agreed, but implementation has not been speedy. Others are still being negotiated. I call on interested parties to attach heightened priority to those matters so that further sustainable progress can be made.

In conclusion, allow me to thank you, Sir, and all the delegations for your cooperative spirit and involvement in the overall success of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly. Let me underline that, along with my entire team, I remain strongly committed to the work of the First Committee. The Chair said that I am passionate about this issue, and indeed I am. I and my team will be available to help in any possible way to make progress in the Committee's important field of work in resolving international problems and situations through peaceful means. In a way, that is very intimately related in a strategic sense to the future progress that I am sure is going to come through the work of the Committee at the sixty-seventh session under the able leadership of the Chair.

**The Chair:** On behalf of the Committee, I thank the President of the General Assembly for his insightful and motivating statement. We are very grateful that, in spite of his busy schedule, he has made the time to come and share with us some thoughts on our work.

#### **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:** Before once again taking up our thematic discussion under cluster 4, "Conventional weapons" — and we have a long list of speakers, which

now stands at 72 — we shall first hear a panel on cluster 6, “Regional disarmament and security”. As members are well aware, the panel was scheduled to take place today on the indicative timetable contained in document A/C.1/67/CRP.2/Rev.1. As the panellists have all planned their trips and made their travel arrangements based on that schedule, it would be expeditious for the Committee to hear from the panel as scheduled and then return to the remaining list of speakers on conventional weapons. I beg members’ indulgence and understanding on this matter.

Accordingly, it is my pleasure to welcome our panellists here today: Mr. Thomas Markram, Chief of the Regional Disarmament Branch, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs; Ms. Carolyne Mélanie Régimbal, Director of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean; Ms. Sharon Riggle, Director of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific; and Mr. Nicolas Gérard, who will represent the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa.

I shall first give our panellists the floor and urge them kindly to limit their statements to a maximum of seven minutes. Thereafter we will switch to informal mode to afford delegations the opportunity for questions and answers.

I now give the floor to Mr. Markram.

**Mr. Markram** (United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs): As a member of the Secretariat, there are few opportunities to take the floor. I should like to join all those that have extended their congratulations and best wishes to you, Sir, as Chair in steering the First Committee through this session of the General Assembly.

The purpose of this panel is to brief the First Committee on the regional disarmament activities of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) over the past year, in particular those of the three regional centres. Half of those activities were undertaken under my predecessor, Agnès Marcaillou, and I should like to pay tribute to her for the many years in which she led the work of the Regional Branch. In June, I moved from the Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch to the Regional Branch, which also accrued a number of additional responsibilities at the same time.

Those responsibilities include the Disarmament Fellowship Programme, which is ably coordinated by my colleague Xiaoyu Wang. I was pleased to see this year’s 25 Fellows join the ranks of the 858 previous graduates of this successful Programme when they received their certificates here in the First Committee on 22 October. Oversight of UNODA’s Vienna Office was also added to the management support function already provided to the other three Regional Centres. Lastly, nuclear-weapon-free zones were also added to the Regional Disarmament Branch’s responsibilities. I am grateful to continue following developments and supporting the implementation efforts of parties to the various existing zones. That responsibility also extends to providing support to the Secretary-General in fulfilling his mandate in terms of the agreement reached at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East.

Before I turn to the Directors to address the Committee, I should like to underline the following: the work undertaken by the Regional Centres is demand-driven, and all activities are undertaken at the request of Member States; all programme activities by the Centres are funded by the extrabudgetary voluntary contributions of donors, and I should like to express my deep appreciation to the many donors for their generosity and their continued support; and the Centres exist to serve the Member States of the region concerned, so I ask that States please use them. They will find a welcome open door, and we will do our utmost to support national, subregional and regional efforts to advance disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

I should now like to cede the floor to Nicolas Gérard to continue with the presentation. Nicolas will be representing the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa. He has just returned from a two-month posting in Lomé, where he acted as Officer-in-Charge and held the fort as we complete the recruitment process for the vacant Director’s post. That process is under way at the moment, and I hope that we will be able to complete it very soon.

**The Chair:** I now give the floor to Mr. Gérard.

**Mr. Gérard** (United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa) (*spoke in French*): The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC), which is part of

the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, provides, at the request of African Member States, support for their initiatives and efforts in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, as well as on questions of peace and security. UNREC carries out its activities in Africa covering all types of weapons, small arms, light weapons and weapons of mass destruction, in addition to being involved in security-sector reform. UNREC implements a programme of activities by providing States that request it advice and technical assistance by publishing studies and reports, hosting capacity-building seminars and in promoting peace, arms control and disarmament through international and regional instruments.

UNREC's activities last year allowed us to help African States in drawing up and implementing regional standards and small-arms-control measures, and also helped to promote discussions and a better understanding of the arms trade treaty and the negotiations around it. They also helped with security-sector reform during times of elections when requests were received from African Member States.

In response to requests from Member States and from African subregional organizations, UNREC conducts or plans activities in Benin, the Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Sudan and Togo. The list is non-exhaustive, but it reflects the extent of the Centre's activities. We want to thank all donors and African Member States for their continued support for UNREC and its activities. In particular, UNREC is pleased that certain new donors have joined the Centre, including last year Australia, which decided to fund the Centre for the first time.

*(spoke in English)*

The Committee has on the screen the list of projects that UNREC has undertaken since it last reported to the Committee. I should therefore simply like to highlight and expand upon a few examples of such projects.

The National Commission of Small Arms and Light Weapons of Côte d'Ivoire requested UNREC's assistance to provide capacity-building and training to its defence and security forces operating on the border to fight the illicit trafficking in small arms. With the support of the Government of Australia, UNREC developed training modules tailored to Côte d'Ivoire's needs with regard to the identification of small arms, related ammunition and explosives; normative controls

on small arms, with a focus on the implementation of the Economic Community of West African States' Convention; and border controls. From 10 to 12 October, UNREC and the National Commission held training in Yamoussoukro, at which 24 senior Ivorian officials from police, customs and the military were trained. After the training, the overwhelming majority of the participants indicated that the training was critical in their work and asked UNREC to work on additional training, as well as to integrate the training into a sustainable national curriculum.

That training, as well as similar training developed for Mozambique earlier last year, and currently projected for East Africa, Malawi and the Sudan, is part of a strategic plan to bring to Africa the award-winning training carried out by our sister Centre, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. UNREC is developing a series of specific modules for Africa and the training of African forces, and incrementally creating a comprehensive training package to respond to requests from African Member States on fighting illicit small arms proliferation, reviewing national legislations on small arms and creating national commissions and national action plans on small arms, border controls, stockpile management, et cetera. Those training programmes also represent a practical and operational side of the development at the global level of norms and policies such as the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines and the International Small Arms Control Standards.

*(spoke in French)*

In cooperation with the International Action Network on Small Arms, which is a coalition of international non-governmental organizations on light weapons, UNREC is implementing a project at the request of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to carry out a joint appraisal of the principal spheres of arms control at the national level. The goal is to identify strategies and provisions to establish in order to implement the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, as well as the Kinshasa Convention, which is a subregional convention on light weapons. The study will focus on three main areas: stockpile management; laws, rules and administrative procedures on the control and transfer of small arms and light weapons; and the institutional set-up of the country.

We have also provided assistance at the request of African States and the African Union in preparation for negotiations on an arms trade treaty. In partnership with the African Union and the International Action Network, UNREC co-organized regional consultations to that effect in Addis Ababa in May. The goal is to enable better participation and better knowledge among African States of the arms trade treaty negotiating process within the United Nations.

*(spoke in English)*

Recognizing the need to support security-sector reform in Africa and, building on the efforts of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Security Sector Reform, of which the Office for Disarmament Affairs is a member, UNREC has been actively engaged in building the capacity of security forces in maintaining law and order during elections, at the request of Member States, and in assisting States in developing strategic plans and codes of conduct for defence and security forces that incorporate good governance, human rights, gender and other security-sector reform-related issues.

In connection with European Union funding related to elections in Togo, our host country, UNREC, in partnership with other United Nations agencies, held a training session on maintaining law and order for 50 Togolese police and gendarmerie members. A further eight training sessions, with about the same number of trainees, are planned in the next months.

Late last year, the Government of the Comoros requested through the United Nations Development Programme that UNREC assist in the elaboration of guidelines for the development of a strategic plan for the national police and for the elaboration of guidelines for the development of a code of conduct for defence and security forces.

UNREC continues to support the African Union through the United Nations-African Union 10-year capacity-building plan and the twentieth communiqué of the African Union Commission, which set the partnership of UNREC with the African Union on small arms and the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty of Pelindaba as its strategic objectives. UNREC represents the United Nations on the Steering Committee of the African Union and Regional Bodies on small arms and light weapons and contributes substantively to the workings of that steering committee.

The Centre further lends the African Union policy advice and technical assistance on the process towards the implementation of the Treaty of Pelindaba creating an African nuclear-weapon-free zone. The Centre also assists in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on the continent. UNREC has further developed close cooperation with the International Action Network on Small Arms, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the African Union, the Institute for Security Studies of South Africa, the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Office for West Africa and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

In conclusion, looking to the future, in the next few months and beyond UNREC will continue to engage African Member States to respond to their requests for assistance and enter into dialogue with them and partners to identify projects, donors and activities in support of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control efforts on the continent. For example, UNREC is in dialogue with Malawi, East African States, the Sudan, INTERPOL and many others. The Centre looks forward to exploring those projects with Member States and dialoguing here with the Committee to enter into these new activities.

**The Chair:** I now give the floor to Ms. Régimbal.

**Ms. Régimbal** (United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean): Since we last met in October 2011, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-LiREC) has carried out 86 activities in 24 different States covering the entire gamut of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. For the purposes of today's presentation, I will limit my comments principally to the small arms and light weapons assistance provided to States in keeping with their requests.

Optimizing stockpile management and weapons destruction was the main area of focus of UN-LiREC technical assistance and activities this year. Adequate stockpile management, which includes record-keeping, marking and tracing, and the enforcement of safety and security measures, are key to preventing the diversion of weapons into the illicit market. When combined with the destruction of surplus, obsolete and confiscated weapons and ammunition, States are better positioned to prevent and reduce armed violence.

This year alone, 130 officers were trained on all of those measures, using UN-LiREC's in-house standard operating procedures, which draw from the International Small Arms Control Standards and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines. Each training course and technical assistance is tailor-made to the needs of individual States. Close to 100 stockpile facilities have been secured in nine States in the Caribbean and southern cone region of Latin America. During this reporting period 7,000 small arms and nine tons of small arms and light weapons ammunition were destroyed throughout the Caribbean and Andean regions. This year UN-LiREC also recently initiated work with the Andean region on the establishment of regional marking protocols.

For the period 2013-2014, UN-LiREC will continue to focus its assistance on stockpile management and weapons destruction, principally in the Caribbean region, where it will introduce a new stockpile management tool through the development of an armoury management course and will continue also its unique collaboration with Argentina in the assessment and securing of its stockpile facilities. Central American States have also requested robust stockpile management and weapons destruction programme from UN-LiREC. We are currently seeking funds for that endeavour.

In order to address the scourge of illicit small arms trafficking, States need adequate legal frameworks and the capacity to enforce them, as well as integral policies and plans. This year UN-LiREC launched its specialized training course for judicial officers on combating impunity in small arms-related. That resulted in the training of 90 officers in three Central American and Andean States. As well, UN-LiREC supported 12 States throughout the region in revising and updating their national small arms legislation, in keeping with international instruments.

During this period, in the area of small arms policy support, UN-LiREC stimulated constructive dialogue and forged channels for national and regional information exchange, resulting in the advancement and strengthening of national action plans in more than a dozen States. That assistance allowed States to align their national priorities and activities with regional security agendas. In addition to the small arms assistance delivered this year, and at the request of States, UN-LiREC also collaborated with the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre and provided legal assistance to States for the

implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention and Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

In the next few months, UN-LiREC will continue to centralize its efforts on the adaptation of its judicial training course to the Caribbean context, while supporting States in planning and carrying out national disarmament campaigns, primarily in Central America, and providing specialized assistance for the incorporation of marking and tracing practices into national policies and legislation. Funding permitting, UN-LiREC will also bolster its assistance pertaining to matters of weapons of mass destruction.

Standardized training for security-sector personnel directly contributes to the capacity of States to seize and intercept illegal weapons. UN-LiREC therefore sustained its implementation of its flagship inter-institutional training course on combating illicit trafficking in firearms, ammunition and explosives (IITC). That resulted in the training of 325 officers from 18 States, bringing the total number of trained officials to 3,425 officers, of which 460 were women officers.

Of note was UN-LiREC's bi-national course along the Ecuador-Colombia border, which was an opportunity to promote cross-border information exchanges and introduce new practical course exercises. In addition to the numerous national courses carried out this year, UN-LiREC undertook a subregional course for 13 Caribbean States, during which new material on maritime security was piloted. That material drew from the numerous UN-LiREC-led regional discussions on the matter.

Based on a recent evaluation of the impact of its IITC courses in the past three years, I am pleased to report that three States have incorporated the IITC curriculums into the training syllabuses of their national police academies, thereby sustaining the standardized knowledge and practices on the subject. I am also pleased to inform the Committee that the evaluation highlighted an increase in reported seizures by those countries having received UN-LiREC training.

For the period 2013-2014 UN-LiREC will spearhead the development of a ballistic- and evidence-management module aimed at enhancing the existing IITC and boosting subregional efforts on ballistic information-sharing. In keeping with State requests, UN-LiREC hopes to secure funding to undertake both border control and maritime security

courses. Also in keeping with State requests, the provision of women-only training is another priority for which the Centre is trying to secure funds.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate UN-LiREC's commitment to continue developing and implementing innovative tools to counter illicit arms proliferation and bolster citizen security in the region. I look forward to receiving members' feedback on the Centre's impact in the field and on how we can better focus our efforts to meet their disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control needs.

Finally, I wish to thank our donors — Argentina, Australia, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Finland, Germany, Guyana, Mexico, New Zealand, Panama, Peru, Spain, Sweden, the United States of America and the Organization of American States — for their generous support, without which none of the activities I have mentioned would have been possible. I also appeal to States, in particular those of the Latin American and Caribbean region, to continue supporting the Centre.

**The Chair:** I now give the floor to Ms. Riggle.

**Ms. Riggle** (United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific): It is a pleasure to address the Committee for the first time. As members may know, I am the new Director of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, which is based in Kathmandu. I thank the Committee and the Chair for the opportunity to speak today.

The Regional Centre in Asia is beginning to expand its activities, and I am glad to be able to share some of that information with the Committee today. Last year was one of a mix of institutional change and of projects. I will therefore spend a little time talking about both those things, as both contribute to broader and sounder programming for our institution.

Our biggest change, of course, has been the appointment of the new Director — myself — who started just eight months ago, in February, just three months after the arrival of our first General Assembly-funded P-3 Deputy post. We have also just had the arrival of a new United Nations Volunteer, funded by the Government of Finland, and will soon welcome a Junior Professional Officer funded by the Government of Japan. Two of our national staff members continue to be funded through the generous contribution and support of the Government of Nepal, our host country.

Not only does it mean with that new capacity that we have a higher level of professional capacity to bring to the projects and programmes, it also means that quite a bit of 2012 has been spent on our transition, which is not reflected on the slides in front of members. I just want briefly to mention that, as part of our transition, we undertook a strategic planning exercise earlier this year to lend some guidance and some vision to our activities. That really helped us to identify useful activities and projects to focus, on or work towards, as we attempt to expand the work of the Centre and to better serve the countries in the region.

Our aim is, as ever, to become a key partner for States in our region in a system to meet their peace, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms-control goals. I will now move on to the slides.

Members who were here last year will know that every year we partner with the Government of the Republic of Korea to host and co-sponsor a high-level conference on disarmament and non-proliferation issues. Last year's conference, again held in Jeju, Republic of Korea, was on the theme "The past and future of disarmament and non-proliferation". Experts from throughout the world discussed issues such as weapons of mass destruction, non-proliferation, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the fissile material cut-off treaty, North Korean nuclear issues and conventional arms control.

Also in the past year, my staff and I were asked to make presentations at various regional conferences, including one with Pacific countries on the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and on the arms trade treaty; one with Asian countries on the Programme of Action Review Conference; and one with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on illicit small arms and light weapons and unexploded ordnances control. Those types of presentations are the types of contributions that we hope to continue to make in the region.

We undertook a smaller, but not insignificant, project in our host country that included a children's art contest on the theme "Children in peace", which was tied to a pilot disarmament education initiative. I will mention that in connection with the next slide.

After discussing with countries in the region and reaching out and engaging, which is what we are doing more and more, we realized that a useful service we

could provide was to disseminate information on current United Nations disarmament non-proliferation and arms control activities. This year, for example, we sent weekly updates on the arms trade treaty during the negotiations. That went to a mailing list made up largely of Government representatives of our approximately 43 countries. We also sent information out in preparation for the Programme of Action Review Conference, and shared background material on the International Atomic Energy Agency General Conference and other such activities. That was open-source information that was collected and collated by the staff and centralized in one email. The feedback we received after each compilation was fantastic. This is something that we will continue to do.

The next slide is intended to share some of the great pictures that we had, rather than to report on a major project. This summer we went into a number of Kathmandu Valley schools to ask children what peace meant to them, their schools and their families. We shared information on peace and disarmament — the winning picture, in the corner of the slide, has an image of guns and a line through it — and asked children them to portray their thoughts on paper. The results were really inspiring, as children often are. Next year we hope to expand the teaching further and to embed it in a part of the curriculum. That is a project that, once piloted successfully, we would like eventually to see in other countries around the region.

The next slide is about looking to the future, which is something that we spent quite a lot of 2012 doing. This is one of my favourite parts to talk about. We have received so much support from countries in the region already in the first eight months that I have been there that we are looking forward to many new partnerships in the coming months and years. We are pleased to say, if we are looking to the specifics on the list here, we have a large conference coming up — and I am pleased to say it is now in its twenty-fourth year — with the Government of Japan, which continues to be a strong supporter of the Centre. The City of Shizuoka, famed for its view of Mount Fuji, will host this year's conference from 30 January to 2 February 2013. In January we will organize a workshop, as will as the eleventh annual Republic of Korea-United Nations Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Issues, also in Jeju. In December this year we will organize a workshop in Bangkok and one other Asian country to discuss the implementation of the Programme of Action. That is a new endeavour for us, and the first in a series that

we hope will both assist the country directly on the subject of implementation, which we all know can be quite technical, as well as to overcome some language barriers and help countries fully participate in these important international instruments.

A milestone for us, as my colleague from the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa also mentioned, is the very successful programme on illicit trafficking in firearms, ammunition and explosives of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which Miss Régimbal just mentioned. We will also bring that programme into the Asia-Pacific context. That will be a milestone activity for us and it is hoped that, over the next coming years, it will be a very big project. We are very lucky to have available a tried and tested programme like that on the control of small arms and light weapons control. We intend to make the most of it. Our plans are to focus initially on the South-East Asian and South Asian context and to pilot the training course in one country in each subregion, as well as hold scoping seminars with senior officials from those subregions to better understand the nature specifically in those subregions of small arms and light weapons control at the national level. Once we have secured the funding, adapted the training manuals successfully and piloted the course, our plan is to offer the programme to any country in the subregion that would like it, and eventually throughout our Asia-Pacific region.

We also plan to continue with our series of workshops for journalists and editors around the Asia-Pacific region to better educate them on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms-control issues, which, again, can be quite confusing and fast-paced, especially as the issues relate to the that region. With a better-educated media, we feel that the issues will receive better and more accurate attention, and also engage the citizenry of the countries more effectively.

Lastly, we would like to be in a position to respond to requests with regard too the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and to further promote that important resolution in our region.

I will finish with a note of thanks to the General Assembly for its continued support of the Centre. The core funding that it provides is a springboard for a wide range of important disarmament, non-proliferation and arms-control activities, and we will use it well. To the 43 countries of my region, I add that our bottom line is

to serve them as well as we can. We would like to add value to their peace and disarmament work and goals and activities. We would like them to think of us when they have questions on the range of the issues that I have discussed today, and see us as a strategic partner. We urge them to contact us with their ideas and needs and to allow us to employ our toolbox of assistance so that we can partner with them and together create a safer Asia-Pacific region.

**The Chair:** In order to give us an opportunity to have an interactive discussion with our panellists, I shall now suspend the meeting to enable us to continue in an informal mode.

*The meeting was suspended at 11.05 a.m. and resumed at 11.30 a.m.*

**The Chair:** We will now continue with the remaining list of speakers under cluster 4, “Conventional weapons”. As I said earlier, 72 speakers remain on the list for this cluster. Before we proceed, I should like to stress that we are running three days behind schedule. Unless delegations strictly adhere to the agreed speaking limits of five minutes when speaking in a national capacity and seven minutes when speaking on behalf of groups of States, we will not be able to complete our work by the 7 November deadline stipulated by the General Committee. It is really imperative, therefore, that we work together to regain lost ground. As I noted previously, delegations are strongly advised to deliver short and concise statements and to submit their full texts for posting on the First Committee’s web portal, QuickFirst.

**Mr. Reid** (United States): In the interests of time, and bearing in mind your comments, Mr. Chair, we have cut down our statement. But there will be another statement that will appear on the United States-United Nations website in due order soon so that colleagues can see a more in-depth treatment of some of the issues.

I will address several separate issues in this statement relating to the arms trade treaty (ATT), conventional weapons destruction, small arms and light weapons, man-portable air-defence systems (MANPADS) and 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).

Turning to the arms trade treaty, the United States is steadfast in its commitment to achieve a strong ATT that will respond to the adverse impacts of the illicit

international arms trade on global peace and stability. An effective treaty — one that recognizes that each nation must tailor and enforce its national export control mechanisms — can help ensure that conventional arms crossing international borders will be used for legitimate purposes and not strengthen the hand of those who would use them to violate international law.

We said at the end of the July Conference that the topic required additional time to improve the outcome. A workable and implementable ATT is within our reach. What we want — in fact, what we need — is to get it right. We will continue to work hard towards an ATT that will contribute to international security, protect the sovereign rights of States to conduct a legitimate arms trade and meet the objectives and concerns that we have been articulating throughout the negotiations, including not infringing on the constitutional right of our citizens to bear arms.

The United States strongly supports convening a short United Nations conference next Spring, to continue our efforts to negotiate an effective ATT that will address the issues of the international arms trade and its regulation by establishing high standards that can be implemented on a national basis and that the overwhelming majority of other States can embrace and take forward effectively.

The United States supports the ATT co-authors’ draft resolution (A/C.1/67/L.11) because it appropriately recognizes both where we are in the process of developing an effective treaty and how we should capitalize on our efforts in July to bring the negotiations to a successful conclusion. We should use the time between now and the Spring to reflect on the text that the President of the Conference in July, Mr. Roberto García Moritán, put together as a result of his extensive consultations, and to determine what additional changes are required to make that text an acceptable and effective treaty. It is unfortunate that the Conference President was prevented from delivering that report in person.

I move now to conventional-weapons destruction issues. The United States continues its strong support for eliminating aging, surplus, loosely secured or otherwise at-risk conventional weapons and munitions, as well as explosive remnants of war. Since 1993, we have provided more than \$2 billion in aid to more than 90 countries for conventional-weapons destruction programmes, including the clearance of landmines and unexploded munitions and the destruction of excess small arms and light weapons and munitions.

Turning to small arms and light weapons themselves, the United States is dedicated to the full implementation of the 2001 United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. The United States supports the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument, as well as the recommendations of the Group of Governmental Experts on small arms and light weapons brokering.

The United States welcomes the adoption by consensus of the outcome document (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4, annexes I and II) by States participating in the second Review Conference on the Programme of Action, and applauds the inclusion of language on the role of women and regional organizations in implementing the Programme of Action, as well as the establishment of a schedule of meetings from 2012 to 2018. We also welcome the inclusion of a call for States to identify their point of contact for the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument by the Review Conference to be held in 2018.

The United States provides a wide variety of assistance to combat the illicit trafficking of conventional weapons, helping States improve their export control practices and providing technical assistance for physical security and stockpile management for at-risk arms and munitions. Since 2001 the United States Department of State has supported programmes that have destroyed approximately 1.6 million excess or poorly secured weapons and more than 90,000 tons of munitions throughout the world.

The United States also strongly supports the inclusion of small arms and light weapons in the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms. That subject has been discussed since 2000, and it is high time that the Register be expanded to address the conventional weapons security concerns of most of the world.

On MANPADS, in the hands of terrorists, insurgents or criminals, shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles pose a serious threat to global passenger air travel, the commercial aviation industry and military aircraft throughout the world. In recognition of the risk of diversion and potential use by those groups, the United States has established strict export controls over the transfer of all MANPADS. The United States Government transfers only on a Government-to-Government basis through the Foreign Military Sales system. Since 2003, the United States has cooperated

with countries around the globe to destroy nearly 33,000 excess, loosely secured, illicitly held or otherwise at-risk MANPADS in 37 countries.

As for the CCW, the United States is a high contracting party to the Convention and all of its five Protocols. The United States attaches importance to the CCW as an instrument that has been able to bring together States with diverse national security concerns. The United States was deeply disappointed by the failure of the fourth Review Conference to conclude a protocol on cluster munitions. The protocol would have led to the immediate prohibition of many millions of cluster munitions; placed the remaining cluster munitions under a detailed set of restrictions and regulations; and subjected Member States to a detailed list of additional obligations on issues such as clearance, transparency and destruction, all of which would have led to a substantial humanitarian impact throughout the world.

The United States will continue to minimize potential risks to civilians and civilian infrastructure through the implementation of the United States Department of Defense Policy on Cluster Munitions and Unintended Harm to Civilians, signed by Secretary Gates in June 2008. It states that after 2018 the United States military departments and combatant commands will employ only cluster munitions containing submunitions that, after arming, do not result in more than 1 per cent unexploded ordnance across the range of intended operational environments. We encourage other countries to take similar steps.

We look forward to the annual meeting of the high contracting parties to be held in November and to establishing a programme of work for 2013 that will allow CCW States to continue supporting the universalization of the CCW and the implementation of all its Protocols.

**Mr. Dondisch** (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): The irresponsible sale of conventional weapons and the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons continue to take an alarming number of lives worldwide. They fuel the bloodiest conflicts and, most especially, they fuel transnational organized crime. The easy access to arms, the civilian possession of weapons without limits or effective control and a lack of adequate regulation of munitions all have devastating consequences throughout the world, not just in humanitarian terms but also economically, politically and socially. Those

are phenomena that unite us in terms of shared responsibility, and they require shared action.

For all those reasons, we regret the fact that July's Diplomatic Conference to negotiate an arms trade treaty (ATT) concluded without an agreement. Ninety delegations expressed that disappointment clearly and resoundingly on the final day of the Conference. However, we also expressed our determination to continue forward and to continue working so that the treaty will become a reality in the near future.

For Mexico, adopting a treaty that would ban the transfer of conventional weapons, including small arms and light weapons and their munitions, as well as other kinds of explosives, when there is a risk incurred that they might be used in order to commit violations of human rights and international law, is something that we cannot put off. We urgently need a treaty that establishes clear, serious and effective mechanisms to prevent such weapons and munitions from being diverted to the illicit market or to international organized crime, with the humanitarian impact with which we are all familiar.

Mexico will spare no effort in order to achieve a robust and effective ATT. To that end, we welcome the draft resolution introduced by Costa Rica (A/C.1/67/L.11), which, while it maintains significant limits that might prevent the will of the great majority of States from being reflected in the treaty, it does, however, provide a clear path to continue and conclude the negotiations that were interrupted in July and finalize the work that was entrusted to us by the General Assembly.

We have much work ahead, and there are still many pending issues that need to be resolved in order to conclude the robust treaty to which we aspire. That includes establishing transparent mechanisms for a legal review of the treaty. However, due to the progress made in July and the generalized will to reach an agreement, we can achieve that goal. We must not lose sight of the fact that the lives of thousands of people depend upon it, as does the development of our countries. Time is pressing and the need for action grows.

We can highlight one positive advance in the area of conventional weapons with 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. Despite that achievement, however,

the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons continues to have a negative impact on our societies, especially our region and my country.

We must take measures urgently in order to effectively implement the provisions of the Programme of Action and its follow-up meetings. The biennial meetings of States and the meetings of governmental experts have demonstrated their usefulness. We should continue to strengthen those mechanisms so that they can produce recommendations that are specific and applicable. We must not lose the ground that took so long to gain. The universal call for the implementation of the agreements reached at the meetings on the Programme of Action should be maintained.

Mexico reiterates its commitment with regard to humanitarian international law as the foundation for principles and norms for parties in conflict. We join in the call to prevent and eliminate the use of high-powered weapons in an indiscriminate manner in densely populated areas. That is clearly contrary to applicable international law. In that regard, we welcome the fourth Review Conference on 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 in November 2011. We also welcome the third meeting of the parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Mexico condemns all use of cluster munitions by any actor and under any circumstances. We affirm that their use is a violation of the principles enshrined in international humanitarian law.

Mexico reaffirms its commitment to contribute to the effective implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and would like to promote cooperation and assistance in areas related to that instrument during its term as the coordinator for cooperation and assistance for the Convention for 2012 to 2013.

Likewise, Mexico renews its commitment with the humanitarian objective set forth in the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. We must continue to make progress towards the total elimination of anti-personnel landmines and give attention to the serious humanitarian consequences of their use against civilians. We call on States parties to promote the application of the Cartagena Action Plan of 2010 to 2014 for the full and effective implementation of the Ottawa Convention.

Finally, I should like to conclude my remarks with a special recognition for the role played by civil society, and most especially by non-governmental organizations that specialize in disarmament and arms control, in the follow-up of multilateral instruments in the area of conventional weapons. The support provided by those organizations to States is fundamental for the implementation of the relevant instruments. It is also important to continue alerting the international community to the humanitarian impact of such weapons.

**Mr. Vasiliev** (Russian Federation): Like my colleagues, my delegation has a lot to say on the issue of conventional armaments, for obvious reasons. At the same time, taking note of your request, Mr. Chair, as well the fact that my delegation is not introducing any draft resolutions under this cluster, I shall refrain from delivering a statement at this stage. At the same time, we reserve our right to make explanatory statements when taking action on specific draft resolutions under this cluster.

**The Chair:** The Russian Federation has set a good example. There are two ways for us to speed up our work. One is by undertaking a step similar to that taken by Russia. I hope that will be replicated by the other four permanent members of the Security Council, as well as by non-nuclear-weapon States.

Before giving the floor to the next speaker on my list, Ambassador Raimonda Murmokaitė of Lithuania, I should like to warmly welcome her to New York and congratulate her on her appointment as the new Permanent Representative of Lithuania.

**Ms. Murmokaitė** (Lithuania): Thank you, Mr. Chair, for your very kind words.

Lithuania aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union (see A/C.1/67/PV.14). In addition, let me address some points of particular importance to Lithuania.

With regard to the arms trade treaty (ATT), we are convinced that only a legally binding instrument that sets the highest international standards for the transfer of conventional weapons can prevent them from being used in breach of international humanitarian law and human rights or to threaten international, regional and national security.

While Lithuania welcomes the progress made at the ATT Conference in July, we are disappointed that no

agreement was reached on a final text. We fully support the proposal of the core group to convene the final Conference in March, which would finalize and adopt the treaty on the basis of the 26 July draft text. We have joined as sponsor of the relevant draft resolution (A/C.1/67/L.11) and encourage other countries to do so.

The illegal trade in, and the accumulation of, small arms and light weapons continues to be a major cause of violence and suffering and is an impediment to development. Lithuania considers the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects as the central multilateral framework to address the scourge of those weapons. Lithuania welcomes the adoption by consensus of the outcome document (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4, annexes I and II) of the Review Conference.

The agreement on an operational follow-up mechanism, the enhancement of regional cooperation, further progress on marking and tracing and improvement in matching needs with resources remain the issues of particular importance to us. As we proceed, we should look at ways of adapting the Programme of Action to new challenges. In particular, we need to explore the gender aspect of armed violence fuelled by the illicit trade, as it is crucial in understanding the different ways that men, women and children engage and are affected by it.

Just over two years after its entry into force, the Convention on Cluster Munitions is already having a substantial humanitarian impact, as the parties to the Convention are clearing contaminated land, destroying stockpiles and implementing victim assistance programmes. Lithuania welcomes the growing number of ratifications and accessions to the Convention, which now stands at 77 countries. Seven new countries have joined this year, but in order for the Convention to become universal we must put more effort into maintaining the momentum.

With respect to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, Lithuania remains convinced that the essential responsibility for the implementation of the Convention lies with the relevant State parties. However, in the case of the most affected countries, assistance from other stakeholders is vital. We call on the mine-action community to further assist affected States to overcome their particular challenges, such as the destroying of

PFM-type mines by Ukraine and Belarus in an effective and environmentally sustainable way.

As forums and instruments related to conventional weapons are becoming more numerous and complex, there is a clear need for a more integrated approach, increased coherence and cooperation among their respective memberships, secretariats, implementation support units and other stakeholders.

Confidence- and security-building measures remain an important contribution to overall peace and security situations and creating trust between countries. We find it deeply worrying that the number of Member States that submit their annual reports to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and report on military expenditures has fallen sharply this year. Lithuania has been providing its information regularly and calls on all States to submit their annual reports and to include, on a voluntary basis, information on the transfers of small arms and light weapons.

Finally, let me stress the importance of confidence- and security-building measures at the regional level. Lithuania would like to underline the use of the innovative toolbox developed in the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which could also be considered as an inspiration for other regional initiatives.

**Mr. Yennimatas** (Greece): At the outset, allow me to state that Greece fully aligns itself with the statement delivered yesterday by the observer of the European Union (see A/C.1/67/PV.14).

The past year has indeed been very rich in developments pertaining to arms control in the field of conventional weapons, albeit with mixed results. We witnessed progress at 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 efforts to reach an agreement on an arms trade treaty, despite an initial setback in July, continue to hold great promise. We believe that the Chair's draft treaty text as circulated on 26 July has encapsulated the substance of the negotiation process undertaken during the Diplomatic Conference. We believe that we should spare no effort in finalizing our work of last summer. In that respect, we welcome initiatives within the First Committee that will provide additional momentum leading to a new diplomatic conference in early 2013.

*Mr. Salim (Kenya), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

In contrast to those positive developments, Greece expresses its disappointment at the failure of the 2011 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 to reach an agreement on a protocol on cluster munitions. We continue to believe that the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) is the only forum in a position to include both the most significant producers and users of cluster munitions in future negotiations, in which the delicate balance between military utility and humanitarian concerns can be preserved.

With regard to more recent work in the context of the CCW, we welcome the discussions held in April pertaining to mines, other than anti-personnel mines, at the meeting of experts held in accordance with the relevant decisions reached during the fourth Review Conference of the CCW. In that respect, we reiterate our position that the issue of mines other than anti-personnel mines should remain within the framework of the CCW.

Concerning other instruments on conventional weapons, Greece welcomes the progress made during the eleventh Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, held in Phnom Penh in December 2011. Greece extends its gratitude to the Government of Cambodia for successfully organizing that event. We attach great importance to fulfilling our obligations according to the Convention. In that regard, Greece has completed its article 5 obligations — pertaining to mine clearance — four years ahead of schedule, while it is sparing no efforts to complete stockpile destruction, despite significant financial restrictions.

We are encouraged by what has been said here over the past few days and remain optimistic that we will make headway during the days ahead, in spite of some differences that may hinder progress in our work. However, our task needs to advance in a manner both practical and pragmatic, without losing sight of the financial constraints faced by Governments today. Further increasing the financial contributions of Member States within the various disarmament instruments should be reviewed with great caution.

**Mr. Alcántara** (Dominican Republic) (*spoke in Spanish*): It is truly a pleasure for the Dominican

Republic to join those who have spoken before us to most sincerely congratulate Ambassador Percaya on his election to the Chair of the First Committee. We also congratulate the other members of the Bureau and we assure it of our full cooperation in carrying out their duties.

My delegation trusts in the goals and methods of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. We support every step and measure to put an end to the tragic consequences of the proliferation and use of those weapons, more than half of which are illicitly traded. More than 1,000 companies manufacture such weapons in more than 100 countries. We know less about the number of them in circulation than we do about nuclear missiles in the world.

We are aware of the impact and disturbing consequences for tranquillity, social harmony, peace and stability. We also know of their harmful effects on Member States' initiatives geared to promoting the eradication of poverty and promoting sustainable development. As was mentioned yesterday, the Organization of American States has set up a special team for marking weapons. In addition, the Dominican Republic has just become an active member of a regional programme to promote the marking of firearms in Latin America and the Caribbean.

We are working with vigour in order to control the movement of weapons, and we have made progress in establishing control and oversight mechanisms to prevent the movement of weapons across borders. However, the challenges of border control as a means to combat and prevent the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons should be addressed from a more multilateral point of view in order to cover the strengthening of all international regimes that relate to the cooperation of customs and border-control institutions, strengthening infrastructure, updating equipment and training personnel in that area.

The Dominican Republic deplores the fact that we were not able to reach an agreement on an arms trade treaty that would be legally binding. The lack of common international norms on the import, export and transfer of conventional weapons contributes to conflicts. It also contributes to the displacement of people, to crime and to terrorism. In the current international context, the instruments at our disposal have not proved to be effective owing to their own limitations, especially in the areas of application, verification and follow-up.

Even the terms "small" and "light" used in international instruments when speaking about firearms are actually euphemistic — and I would say even deceptive — terms. It is almost as if for public purposes we were dealing with — as we say in our country — selling a cat and pretending that it is a rabbit. What those instruments call "small weapons" — and never before have quotation marks been better used — include revolvers and automatic pistols, as well as shotguns, rifles, small machine guns and assault weapons. The fact that we call those "light weapons" is at the very least shocking. It turns out that light weapons include nothing less than heavy machine guns as well. Portable grenade launchers also come under the category of light weapons, as do anti-air missiles, anti-tank missiles and missile systems, anti-air missile launchers and mortars that are of a calibre of less than 100mm.

An effective treaty on the trade in conventional weapons would provide all countries with rigorous parameters, which would probably guarantee a more responsible trade in weapons. We sincerely hope that the Conference set for next March will motivate the international community to reaffirm its commitment to correct this situation, basing itself on common and sound political will to effectively combat the scourge of weapons, most especially the scourge of the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons.

**Mr. Eloumni (Morocco):** We will focus mainly on one issue. Our statement will be available in full on the website and by e-mail to those interested in having it.

We firmly support the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the International Tracing Instrument. In that regard, we welcome the success of the Second Review Conference of the Programme of Action and the Instrument. We support strengthening their implementation.

In the same spirit, we supported the process aimed at concluding an arms trade treaty to regulate trade in order to prevent the illicit trade and address the humanitarian aspects of the trade in conventional weapons, with full respect for the legitimate right of States under the Charter of the United Nations. Morocco contributed actively to the work of the July 2012 Conference.

We regret that the Conference was unable to reach consensus on a treaty. We remain convinced that States should continue their efforts and build on the progress achieved. That is why we joined the determined call made in July by 90 delegations. That is also why we support the proposal to continue negotiations on a conference to be held in March 2013, as reflected in the draft resolution before the Committee (A/C.1/67/L.11).

We welcome the fact that the work of the conference is to be governed by the same rules of procedure and modalities. That includes consensus and the contributions by non-governmental organizations (NGOs). For Morocco, consensus is a means of ensuring that all concerns and views are addressed on an equal basis in order to ensure the widest possible support for the outcome of the conference. It is by no means a tool to block the process or to prevent an agreement, which is not inherent in the principle of consensus but rather pertains to an abusive interpretation of that principle.

Morocco welcomes the contribution by NGOs to that process. We appreciate the dynamism they bring and the expertise they make available to delegations, fully respecting the intergovernmental nature of the conference. Agreed arrangements regarding their participation should be maintained and respected. The process should continue to be transparent and inclusive. A President of the conference should be nominated at the earliest possible date. We need to make the best use possible of the time prior to the conference, as the time of the conference itself will be very limited. Early and intensified consultations would be crucial to the success of the conference. For the same reason, consultations, as well as the negotiations at the conference, should be based on the draft treaty of 26 July, while all proposals and the background documents of the previous Conference should continue to be available to the 2013 conference.

I will limit myself to those comments. The full statement will be available and will include other issues.

**Ms. Ruksakiati** (Thailand): In keeping with the time limit, I shall summarize my statement. The full text will be circulated in the room.

First, Thailand associates itself with the statement made earlier by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (see A/C.1/67/PV.14).

Thailand welcomes the outcome (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4, annexes I and II) of the second Review Conference of the United Nations

Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York recently. We would like to re-emphasize that an effective national mechanism is needed for the successful implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, which requires not only strong national commitment but also considerable resources.

As an importing country of small arms and light weapons, Thailand would like to urge exporting countries to engage more actively in enhancing such mechanisms, particularly by providing technical support. Given the transnational nature of the threat posed by small arms and light weapons, we believe that strengthened cooperation among importing and exporting countries is essential for the mechanism to work in a comprehensive and sustainable manner.

In that regard, Thailand once again expresses its appreciation to the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific for supporting our initiative to organize the upcoming workshop entitled “Building Capacity and Overcoming Language Barriers in Small Arms and Light Weapons Control”, to be held in Bangkok between 11 and 13 December.

Thailand hopes that the successful conclusion of the second Review Conference will provide further vital momentum for the international community to strengthen the multilateral conventional arms control efforts to finalize a robust arms trade treaty (ATT).

Although it was regrettable that the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty ended in July without a successful conclusion on the final document, the Thai delegation has never been discouraged. Thailand has always been committed to the ATT process since the outset, in 2006, and is of the view that the process is the most significant development in the area of multilateral conventional arms transfers thus far.

In that regard, Thailand would like to join a number of delegations in calling for a way forward to continue our negotiations for a robust treaty in order to build on the momentum achieved in July. We also share the view that the Conference produced an outcome that we could try to build upon at the future meeting. Therefore, we would like to support the use of the President’s 26 July ATT draft as the basis for further negotiations.

Thailand fully supports the international effort to ban inhumane weapons, especially anti-personnel landmines and certain types of cluster munitions. As a State party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, Thailand commits to fulfil its obligations under the Convention, especially in the clearance effort.

In that regard, we welcome the successful conclusion of the eleventh Meeting of States Parties, held in Phnom Penh in December 2011, and we look forward to a successful conclusion of the upcoming twelfth Meeting, to be held in December, in order to review the mid-term progress made on implementing the Cartagena Action Plan. We are pleased to say that Thailand will host a side event during the Meeting, with an aim of sharing our best practices and lessons learned in the area of victim assistance and social and economic reintegration.

In conclusion, Thailand urges the international community to maintain the positive momentum gained over the past year and exercise political will and flexibility to move forward with a multilateral effort to tackle the proliferation of conventional arms.

**The Acting Chair:** I now give the floor to the representative of Cambodia to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.8.

**Mr. Sea** (Cambodia): Cambodia would like to associate itself with the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (see A/C.1/67/PV.14). My delegation wishes to reiterate that the Royal Government of Cambodia attaches great importance to addressing the issue of conventional weapons.

The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is a major threat to international peace and security. Its dire human consequences are well researched and documented. Annually, more than half a million civilians are killed by conventional weapons. In addition to its physical toll on civilians, there is also a compounding impact on economic development and social stability.

To overcome that menace, enhanced international cooperation and coordinated action are a necessity. In that regard, while welcoming the adoption of the outcome document (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4, annexes I and II) 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, Cambodia strongly believes that technical cooperation and assistance to small and developing countries is vital for the full and effective implementation of the Plan of Action.

Another serious challenge for us to overcome is landmines and explosive remnants of war. At present, they constitute an imminent danger to peace and socioeconomic development. In my country landmines and explosive remnants of war are the painful legacy of decades of war — the darkest period in Cambodian history — during which the country was torn apart by a series of regional and domestic armed conflicts and a genocidal regime. Decades after the cessation of conflict, that tragedy lingers in the lives of victims in my country. As our people need to restore their livelihoods and the economy in the aftermath of decades of conflict, landmines and explosive remnants of war remain an obstacle to Cambodia's development and the well-being of our population.

Our vision regarding those silent killers is clear: Cambodia must be free from threats of anti-personnel mines and explosive remnants of war. We are determined to attain the shared goal of a mine-free world. We firmly believe that, to achieve that end, international cooperation and assistance are essential, especially for developing countries. As such, Cambodia signed the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction in 1997, and became a State party in 2000. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Somalia as the one hundred and sixtieth State party to this very important treaty.

To realize our commitment and determination, we have increased the number of demining operators, amplified our efforts in mine-risk education for civilians living in mine-affected communities, and increased services to victims. Moreover, it is necessary that a national mine-action authority be set up to regulate, formulate policy, coordinate and monitor the mine-action sector. In the same vein, Cambodia has decided to introduce the ninth Cambodian development goal — “Demining and victim assistance” — to complement the eight Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations. Furthermore, in 2010 the Royal Government of Cambodia adopted a national mine-action strategy for the period 2010 to 2019, to guide

the mine-action sector, which further demonstrates Cambodia's ownership in that important sector.

Cambodia made significant progress in this area from 1992 to 2009. Some 53,000 hectares of mine-affected land have been cleared nationwide for housing, farming and other infrastructure, and 860,000 anti-personnel mines and 1.9 million explosive remnants of war were destroyed. Despite those positive results, challenges remain that require further support and cooperation from the international community.

Cambodia's efforts are not confined within its national borders. My Government has also worked to reduce the global negative impact of mines and explosive remnants of war under the framework of United Nations peacekeeping operations. We have dispatched demining companies to the United Nations Mine Action Service for five consecutive years. At present, a Cambodian engineering unit is fulfilling its duties under the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, including demining services.

As a State party to the Mine Ban Convention, Cambodia has always been at the forefront of the mine-ban movement, in which Cambodian landmine survivors have played a key role in convincing leaders of many countries to join the Convention. Furthermore, we were privileged to hold the presidency of the eleventh Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Convention, held last year. The meeting was successfully held in Phnom Penh in December 2011, and enjoyed full cooperation from all States parties and the international community.

With the purpose of intensifying speed and efficiency in addressing the threat of mines and explosive remnants of war, and in order to achieve our ultimate goal of a mine-free world, Cambodia, on behalf of Albania and Slovenia, the past and future Presidents of the Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Convention, is honoured to introduce to the Committee the traditional draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction".

The main purpose of draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.8 is to underscore the need for the full universalization of the Convention and the strengthening of cooperation and implementation. Since the content of the draft resolution remains unchanged, except for a technical update, we hope that, as with similar draft resolutions

in previous years, it will receive broad support from States parties to the Convention and non-States parties alike.

**Mr. Amano** (Japan): As to the arms trade treaty (ATT), Japan shares the disappointment that we could not finalize our work and adopt the text of a legally binding treaty at the July United Nations Conference. However, we intensively discussed elements of the treaty throughout the four weeks of meetings, and we developed a common understanding about most of the elements of the future ATT.

While further work is necessary to improve the 26 July text from a legal perspective, we believe that the achievement of a robust arms trade treaty is very nearly within our grasp. We are pleased to see that things have moved to the point where we will soon be able to finalize our work. Japan would like to sincerely thank Ambassador Roberto García Moritán for his guidance.

We need to be mindful that people continue to suffer due to the absence of commonly agreed international standards for the transfer of conventional arms. Therefore, time is of the essence and we need to get back to work without delay. We have to conclude our negotiations on the basis of the 26 July text as soon as possible.

The draft resolution (A/C.1/67/PV.14) on the ATT was introduced yesterday by the representative of Costa Rica on behalf of its seven co-authors, which include Japan. We call on all Member States to support the draft resolution, which we hope will be adopted by consensus. Moreover, we call on all Member States to engage constructively in the negotiations at the March conference.

On the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, Japan strongly welcomes the adoption by consensus of the outcome (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4, annexes I and II) documents at the second Review Conference. I should like to congratulate the President of the Conference, Ambassador Joy Ogwu, and the four facilitators on their work to bring about the successful conclusion of that Conference.

As was shared among all States at the Review Conference, Japan believes that it is important to identify specific topics to be discussed well in advance of future Programme of Action meetings, as well as to ensure the participation of relevant experts at such

meetings. Japan is keen to continue its involvement in the future Programme of Action process. We look forward to working closely with other States and civil society to prepare those meetings.

Last week Japan, together with Cambodia and South Africa, submitted to the Committee a draft resolution on small arms and light weapons (draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.48). We appeal to each Member State to extend its support to the draft resolution, which we hope will be adopted by consensus.

Cluster munitions and anti-personnel landmines are major causes of serious humanitarian harm. Therefore, I should like to reiterate Japan's call to all those States that are not parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction to accede to them as soon as possible.

Finally, international cooperation and assistance is another key area. Since 1998, Japan has extended to 42 countries approximately \$468 million in aid for landmine, cluster munitions and unexploded-ordnance clearance activities, risk education and victim assistance projects. Japan is committed to continuing that support and to contribute to curbing the humanitarian problems caused by those weapons and others.

**Ms. Čubrilo** (Serbia): Serbia aligns itself with the statement made by the observer of the European Union (see A/C.1/67/PV.14). Nonetheless I should like to make a few additional remarks.

As it takes stock of the progress made and identifies the areas where further improvements are required, the international community needs to make additional efforts in order to address the challenges it faces in the field of conventional arms control in a systematic, inclusive and sustainable way. Harmonizing activities in addressing critical issues is of the utmost importance in order to ensure the most effective utilization of available resources.

Serbia will continue to intensify its own efforts at the national, regional and global levels in order to contribute to enhancing the effectiveness and coherence of the process of the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects as a matter of high priority. My country welcomes the recent successful conclusion of the second Review Conference on the Programme

of Action. We strongly believe that its results provide a vital stimulus to tackling challenges and obstacles still hampering the implementation of the Programme of Action in an efficient way.

Serbia has taken extensive legislative, regulatory and practical measures to ensure the comprehensive application of the Programme of Action and to consolidate and strengthen its institutional capacities for the suppression and eradication of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. In May 2010, the Government of Serbia adopted its strategy on controlling small arms and light weapons for the period 2010 to 2015 as the general framework for preventing and combating the unlawful production, possession and trade in small arms and light weapons.

The overall goal of the strategy is to establish an effective national control system for small arms and light weapons on the basis of the best international practices. The strategy also provides for setting up a council for small arms and light weapons as an ad hoc working body composed of representatives of the competent Government agencies with relevant professional expertise in the field. The small arms and light weapons council, headed by a national coordinator, was established in December 2011.

The main tasks of the council are to develop an action plan for small arms and light weapons control, which is now being prepared, ensure the harmonization of national legislation with the relevant United Nations, Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe and European Union regulations and standards, and coordinate the work of competent authorities in this regard.

Serbia has set up an efficient and inclusive export control system for weapons, military equipment, dual-use goods and related technologies, in line with the relevant international standards and incorporating all the criteria of the European Union Code of Conduct. The regulatory system that ensures a high level of control and transparency, combined with enhanced border and customs control measures, plays a pivotal role in strengthening surveillance and combating the illicit trade in arms.

In order to modernize existing solutions and provide for harmonization with new developments in the European Union and other relevant international organizations' regulatory frameworks, a new law on the foreign trade in arms, military equipment and dual-use

goods is being drafted as part of the constant overall effort to improve control measures in this area.

In addition to the extensive legislative measures, Serbia pays particular attention to the increased transparency in this domain. Its rank as the fourth country in the world on the Small Arms Trade Transparency Barometer in the 2012 *Small Arms Survey* provides telling evidence of its achievements in this respect.

For my country, the elaboration of a set of legally binding and commonly agreed international norms regulating the transfers of conventional arms is an imperative. Serbia regrets that it was not possible to bring that process to a successful conclusion in July. We are committed to concluding our work in order to achieve a strong, comprehensive and implementable arms trade treaty that establishes the highest possible common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms, thus promoting transparency and accountability and bringing clarity to the global arms trade. Serbia calls upon all delegations to continue to work together to achieve that principal goal.

Serbia continues to work in good faith on the fulfilment of all obligations under the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. The Mine Action Centre of Serbia, founded in 2002 as a national coordination body for demining, has established diversified cooperation with numerous international and regional partners in the field of mine action, including the International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance and the South-Eastern Europe Mine Action Coordination Council. In order to enable us to fulfil our remaining obligations related to the clearance of the areas contaminated with mines within the specified time frame, the assistance of international donors is of crucial importance.

**Mr. Neufville** (Liberia): As this is the first time that I take the floor formally, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Percaya and members of the Bureau on their elections to preside over our deliberations. I assure them of my delegation's support for the successful conclusion of this debate.

Liberia associates itself with the statements delivered at the Committee's 14th meeting by the representative of Côte d'Ivoire, on behalf of the Economic Community of West African States, and

by the representative of Indonesia, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

While the threat of weapons of mass destruction continues to be a significant cause of concern for the international community, it is also essential to recognize the destructive power of conventional weapons, most especially small arms and light weapons, which continue to wreak tremendous havoc on civilian populations across many regions of the globe. Countries such as mine, which experienced a protracted and devastating civil war, are conversant with the degree of suffering that those weapons bring to communities and societies through their illicit use and diversion into the illegal market.

Having witnessed the use of those weapons by both the authoritarian regime and criminal elements, Liberia believes that a tighter control regime that would limit the use of those weapons to only the legitimate State authority would go a long way towards curbing the menace caused by the illegal transfer and use of those weapons. In view of that, countries in West Africa are cooperating within the framework of the Economic Community of West African States to address the issue of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. The goal is to prevent unauthorized persons from gaining access to those weapons.

Despite the failure of the global community to establish common standards to regulate the trade in conventional weapons during the July Diplomatic Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, the progress made through the Conference brought much hope to ending the illicit and irresponsible transfers of conventional weapons. That progress is notable in the President's most recent draft treaty text. In fact, one is encouraged when pointing out that, had we managed to give ourselves additional negotiating time, the story could have been different today and we may in fact be closer to the adoption of a universal treaty.

In spite of the different views expressed during the Conference, there seems to be general consensus that an unregulated trade in conventional arms fuels the illicit trade, encourages diversion and, in some cases, leads to unfettered access and ultimately unauthorized use by non-State actors. Therefore, an arms trade treaty (ATT) is critical to achieving the international peace and security goals we all seek.

In the light of that, my delegation urges all Member States to demonstrate the political will and flexibility

required to reach consensus on the elements to be incorporated into the ATT. It is important that we revive the process launched at the July Conference and regain the momentum for deliberations that will lead to the effective use of conventional weapons. We must build on the progress made by improving and strengthening the draft treaty text, and not merely maintaining the status quo or, worse, weakening the most recent draft text.

In conclusion, the goal of a universal, legally binding treaty for the trade in conventional arms was and remains a noble one. A global ATT would certainly serve as a complement to existing and important, but non-binding, agreements such as the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, as well as other instruments that seek to contribute to the strengthening of the United Nations multilateral security framework. As the next phase of that process begins, representatives and civil society should seize the opportunity to adopt a treaty that can make a robust contribution within such a framework.

**Mr. Van den IJssel** (Netherlands): In addition to the earlier statement made by the observer of the European Union (see A/C.1/67/PV.14), I should like to make some remarks in my national capacity on the issue of conventional disarmament. I shall read out a shortened version of my statement. The full statement will be circulated.

Like others, we were disappointed that, despite the impressive and relentless efforts of President Roberto García Moritán, for which we commend him, we were not able to conclude the July Conference with the adoption of a strong and robust arms trade treaty (ATT). The text of 26 July may not have been the ideal outcome for everybody, but it does contain all the main elements of an ATT. We think it is important that we build on that progress. At the March conference, the Netherlands intends to propose a limited number of changes with the aim of further improving the text.

We strongly believe that we can conclude a meaningful, strong and robust treaty. We see the successful conclusion 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 as an encouragement, thanks not least to the wisdom and efforts of the presidency of Ambassador Ogwu of Nigeria. We very much welcome and support the draft resolution that has been proposed

to the Committee on the ATT, and we hope it will get maximum support (draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.11).

The Netherlands attaches great importance to stopping the human suffering caused by the use of cluster munitions. We have signed and ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We recently completed the destruction of our once considerable and modern stock of cluster munitions. The Dutch Government has also decided to work towards the legal prohibition of investments in cluster munitions production.

We think it is important that the Convention on Cluster Munitions become truly universal and call upon all States that have not done so to accede to that Treaty. It was encouraging that a considerable number of States not party to the Convention participated in the third Meeting of States Parties, in Oslo. We also hope to witness a growing recognition of the norms contained in the Convention by States that are not yet in a position to join the treaty.

The Netherlands is extremely concerned at the reported use of cluster munitions by the Syrian army. Those weapons can cause tremendous human suffering, even years after their initial use. The use of those weapons in the current conflict demonstrates the ruthlessness of the Syrian regime and its disregard for the life of its own citizens.

Fifteen years ago, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction was opened for signature in Ottawa. We have seen a lot of progress since. The use of anti-personnel mines had declined sharply and the trade has come almost to a standstill. The human, social and economic misery caused by landmines, however, has not ended. Many people in various countries throughout the globe are still facing the horrors of having to live or work in mine- and/or explosive remnants of war-infested areas. Continued attention and support for mine-clearance activities remains of great importance. The Netherlands will continue to support clearance activities and victim assistance worldwide. We have made available for the next four years €45 million for that purpose. We urge all States that have not joined the Mine Ban Convention to join it as soon as possible.

My last point is on the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms. The Netherlands is a firm believer in the importance of transparency in the field of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation.

Since the 1991 session of the General Assembly, where it was first introduced, the Netherlands has taken the lead in submitting to the membership the relevant draft resolutions on the United Nations Register on Conventional Arms. One of the important features of the Register is that a regular review takes place by a Group of Governmental Experts convened by the Secretary-General. In conformity with sub-paragraph 5 (b) of resolution 66/39, a new round of the Group was scheduled to start in the second half of this year.

When suggesting the date last year, we were expecting and hoping that by that time we would have a positive outcome from the ATT Conference. The next Group could reflect upon the consequences of an ATT

for the Register. Unfortunately, there was no outcome from the July Conference, and we will have to wait a little longer before we know what the provisions of the ATT will be and what its possible consequences for the Register will be. For that reason, we have submitted to the Committee a draft decision to postpone the start of the Group's cycle on the Register to 2013. We have been informed by the Secretariat that that would still fall within the present United Nations budgetary biennium, and therefore no additional costs are implied. We therefore hope that the Committee will be able to adopt the draft decision by consensus.

*The meeting rose at 1 p.m.*