Statement by
Ambassador Oswaldo de Rivero,
Permanent Representative of Peru
to the United Nations,
At the Disarmament Committee of the United Nations

New York, October 4, 2004
I would like to congratulate your nomination as Chairman of the Disarmament Committee. It is great to see such a distinguished Diplomat, from the Rio Group, like yourself, presiding this session. Knowing your professional qualities, I have no doubt of your success. I also would like to take this opportunity to congratulate to the rest of the members of the Board.

Mr. Chairman,

Peru fully agrees with the Declaration of Brazil, on behalf of the Rio Group. For that reason, and complying with the new rules of procedure suggested by the Chairmanship, I will deliver a very brief statement.

Mr. Chairman,

I will not follow the traditional trend of complaints on the failure or delays of the initiatives and negotiations on disarmament issues. On the contrary, I would like to convey to this Committee a recent achievement reached in the Andean region. Certainly, Mr. Chairman, the Andean Community composed by Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, has fulfilled one of the most advanced regional commitments regarding limitation, control and transparency on conventional armament, including measures of confidence and verification.

Those commitments are contained in an international instrument called “El Compromiso de Lima” (The Commitment of Lima). Furthermore, the Andean Community has adopted Decision 552 that establishes a plan for prevention, combat and eradication of illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons. Such decision constitutes the first sub-regional instrument in order to achieve the Program of Action 2001 of the United Nations.

Likewise, Mr. Chairman, all these commitments of the sub-region have been fulfilled with a Declaration of Presidents that establishes the “Zona de Paz Andina” (Andean Peace Zone). Such zone covers the territories, the aerial space and waters under sovereignty and jurisdiction of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela.

Based on such sub-regional achievements on limitation, control and transparency of armament, confidence-building measures and verification, I hope, Mr. Chairman, that in the year 2005 fruitful negotiations could be achieved, in particular for the implementation of the Program of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, and in the Non Proliferation Treaty Review Conference.

I also hope, Mr. Chairman, that next year we achieve an agreement on the items that the Disarmament Committee must deal with until the year 2008.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, my delegation is willing to support any kind of suggestion in order to improve the working methods, in the understanding that these improvements will serve for the implementation of the resolutions that we approve here.

Thank you very much.