Explanation of Vote by Indian delegation after the vote

CLUSTER 5: Regional disarmament and security

L.44 “Conventional Arms Control at the Regional and Sub-regional Levels”

Mr. Chairman,

India has requested the floor to explain its vote on resolution “Conventional arms control at the regional and sub-regional levels”, as contained in document L.44.

India has voted against the resolution as we do not agree that the Conference on Disarmament should be asked to consider the formulation of principles serving as a framework for regional agreements on conventional arms control since the CD is the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum that should concern itself with negotiating legal instruments of global application.

The United Nations Disarmament Commission is the mandated deliberative body within the UN disarmament machinery. Its function is to consider and make recommendations on specific disarmament issues. Indeed, in 1993, UNDC had adopted, by consensus, guidelines and recommendations for regional approaches to disarmament within the context of global security. We, therefore, do not see the need for the Conference on Disarmament to formulate principles for a framework for regional arrangements on conventional arms control.

Moreover, we believe that security concerns of States extend beyond narrowly defined regions and, consequently, the idea of preservation of a balance in defence capabilities in a regional or sub-regional context is both unrealistic and unacceptable.