Statement
By H.E. Mr. Dan COSTEA, Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of Romania to the Conference on Disarmament
on the German/Romanian Draft Resolution concerning
"Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditure"

Romania is honored to be the co-author of this resolution. In this capacity, allow me to add several remarks to the most eloquent introduction that has been just made by my distinguished German colleague.

First, it was in 1999 that we decided to bestow a biennial character to the resolution. One would say this is solid proof that we do believe in streamlining and rationalization of resolutions.

Second, the importance of transparency in military expenditures cannot be overstated—hence, the very decision of tabling this resolution again this year. On next December 12, 25 years would have passed since the General Assembly adopted the Resolution 35/142 B on “Reduction of military budgets”, which set up the UN system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures. Together with the UN Register of Conventional Arms, the two global arms inventories are truly valuable sources of data for both the military and the civil society.

Third, more needs to be done in order to develop a real culture of reporting that would lead, at the end of the day, to increased openness and transparency. They are needed namely in regions where tension still rules—including in Romania’s neighborhood—because of uncontrolled—not to mention unauthorized—conventional arsenals.

Like my German colleague, we hope that the resolution will be again accepted without a vote.

Thank you.