63rd General Assembly of the United Nations

Statement
by the Delegation of Peru
presenting the draft resolution
to First Committee
on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament
and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
(A/C.1/63/L13)

New York, 24 October 2008
May I extend to you, Mr. President, my warmest congratulations for your election. I also extend this greeting to the High Representative of the Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs and to the distinguished Directors of the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa; of the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific; and of the Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In this occasion I would like to highlight that the Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLiREC), since its creation by the General Assembly on December 3, 1986, by resolution 41/60J, has supported innumerable sub-regional and regional initiatives related to regional disarmament, with a clear view towards development. All this background of experiences and activities has been highly positive to reaffirm the commitment of the States from the region in favor of international peace and security.

The UNLiREC is, besides, the only one of the three regional centres whose mandate includes not only the implementation of measures in favor of peace and disarmament, but also for the promotion of social and economic development.

This additional mandate and its policy of "unit of the United Nations system" has allowed it to develop activities that go beyond the mere field of disarmament, establishing relations of cooperation and synergies with some agencies of the United Nations, like the Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), among others; with international organizations, as the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the World Organization of Customs and the INTERPOL; as well as with non-governmental organizations. Likewise, the Regional Centre works in close contact with organizations of civil society to promote and to integrate the questions of disarmament in the development program of the States of the region.

During these 21 years, the Regional Centre has granted assistance to the States of the region on:
1. Initiatives directed to the disarmament, integrating each day in an effective way the theme of disarmament to the sustainable development,
2. The promotion and implementation of multilateral instruments of disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and small weapons,
3. The creation of standards for confidence and security building measures,
4. Assistance to the States in matters of firearms, ammunitions and explosives, promoting means of improving current controls in its lawful trade and to prevent illicit traffic,
5. Improvement of public security,
6. Generation of a space for debate, assistance and cooperation among the States of the region on disarmament and security issues, and
7. Creation of a culture of peace, among others.
All these actions and initiatives have been possible thanks to voluntary contributions, by which the Centre has shown all these years that, in spite of lacking financial and human resources, it has been consolidated as an efficient, viable, and relevant institution for assistance to all States of the region in the promotion of security, disarmament and development to sub-regional and regional levels.

The voluntary contributions have drastically diminished since last year while the States demands are increasingly more numerous and diversified, affecting the capacity to respond in an efficient manner to these demands by the lack of sure sources of resources.

For that, it is of especial importance the need to provide a regular budget to the Centre that assure its normal operation to attend in a stable way the requests of all and each country of the region in the future.

The financial sustainability of the UNLIREC deeply concerns the countries of our region. For that reason, today I have the honor to present the draft resolution entitled "Regional Centre of the United Nations for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean", UNLIREC, contained in document A/C.1/63/L13, under theme 90 and sub-theme (c) of the Program, on behalf of the Group of countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC). This draft resolution is product of a meditated exchange of views on alternative methods to assure a stable basic financing for the Regional Centre, in follow-up of the recommendations included in the recent report of the Secretary-General (A/63/157).

This draft resolution requests the Secretary-General to provide, in charge of the current budget, for the biennial 2010-2011, the necessary support to assure the sustainability of the activities and basic operations of the Regional Centre of the United Nations for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to its program of activities can be carried out according to its mandate.

Investing in regional Centers is to invest in peace and regional and international security. Because of it, Mr President, I hope that as in previous years we will count with the valuable support of all delegations thus this draft resolution can be approved by consensus.

Thank you.