Mr. Chairman,

It is my pleasure to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.33 entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament".

Mr. Chairman,

I have already spoken on the work of the Conference on Disarmament during the 2012 annual session in my statement on 25 October in the framework of the Panel on the Disarmament Machinery. In light of this I believe I can be brief.

Traditionally the resolution on the report of the CD is adopted without a vote - although, I understand, there were some exceptions to that practice in the 1990s.

When I presented the draft for this year’s CD resolution in informal consultations in Geneva on 18 September, I pointed out that my objective was a consensus resolution. I also expressed my hope to have found the right balance in my draft to reflect the Reports of the Conference on Disarmament of 2011 and in particular of 2012. The latter had been adopted by consensus only a few days before after rather lengthy and difficult negotiations.

It turned out that we had to hold four extended rounds of informal consultations on the draft CD report resolution, two in Geneva and two here in New York.

The major difficulties were rooted in positions taken by various Member States, which, given their mutually exclusive nature, were objectively not reconcilable.
Two issues stood out in particular:

First: How exactly to reflect the fact that so many statements in the CD, including by visiting dignitaries, express serious concern at the ongoing situation of impasse in the CD for over a decade. And, concluding from this fact, how exactly the UNGA itself expresses its own view on this matter: The fact that once again the CD did not succeed in commencing its substantive work, as the UN General Assembly had called for so many times in resolutions year-in and year-out?

Secondly whether, and if at all, exactly how, the two documents should be reflected in the resolution which have played a major role in recent years in the efforts to establish a programme of work. They are the programme of work CD/1864 adopted by consensus in May 2009, which, as is well known, subsequently could not be implemented, and the draft programme of work CD/1933 Rev.1, which was submitted for adoption in March this year, but which did not find consensus because an objection was raised.

Mr. Chairman,

The approach taken in the draft resolution before you reflects on both issues what I believe is the best way under the given circumstances to express a view based on broad consensus.

In this connection I would like to remind ourselves of the fact that consensus is not identical with unanimity. Rather, consensus is the result of a fair and honest effort to arrive at an outcome which reflects on one hand a view vastly prevailing among Member States and which on the other hand those, who do not see their individual preferred outcome fully reflected, can still live with. This holds particularly true when some individual expectations and requests are clearly mutually exclusive.

It is against this background that I have proposed the draft resolution L.33 entitled „Report of the Conference on Disarmament“ to be adopted without a vote.

Mr. Chairman,

As it was the case in previous years, the draft resolution before us calls upon the Conference on Disarmament once again to overcome its ongoing deadlock, by adopting and implementing a programme of work at the earliest possible date in its forthcoming session. It also requests the UN Secretary General to continue to ensure the provision to the CD of all its necessary support services.

As outgoing President of the Conference on Disarmament I wish to express my hope that the Member States of the UN General Assembly will send a strong signal of political will to the Conference on Disarmament to act by adopting this resolution without a vote. And I also hope that the Conference on Disarmament will indeed act early next year.

I thank you.