Mr. Chairman,

It is my pleasure to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/68/L.27 entitled “Report of the Conference on Disarmament“.

Mr. Chairman,

As I have already had the opportunity to address the Committee on the work of the Conference in 2013 as part of the panel on disarmament machinery on Monday 21 October, I shall now briefly introduce the draft Resolution on the report of the Conference.

It is my hope that the Resolution will be adopted this year without a vote, as it has been for many years.

Following initial informal consultations in Geneva and further consultations here in New York, it is my belief that the draft Resolution as tabled is a fair and balanced reflection on the report of the Conference in 2013. The text builds upon the Resolutions adopted without a vote in previous sessions of the Committee.

During the debate on the disarmament machinery, many delegations have referred to the important role that the Conference has played in the past. The Conference’s role as the international community’s multilateral disarmament negotiating forum is reaffirmed in the draft Resolution, as it has been in previous years.
At the same time, it is a matter of concern that the Conference was not able to adopt a programme of work in its 2013 session, despite, as the draft Resolution notes, the intensive efforts by the Member States and successive Presidents in 2013.

The draft Resolution also welcomes the decision adopted by the Conference on 16 August to establish an Informal Working Group on a programme of Work, to which decision many delegations have referred during this debate on the disarmament machinery.

The draft Resolution also welcomes the Conference decision to request the current and incoming Presidents to consult during the intersessional period. As I indicated in my remarks on 21 October, I shall be consulting with Member States in the coming weeks.

As was the case in previous years, the draft resolution before the Committee 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 of all necessary support services to the Conference.

As current President it is my hope that this Committee can again send clear signals to the Conference. The draft Resolution provides the Committee with the opportunity to reaffirm the importance it attaches to the Conference. It also sends a message that there is a need to explore possibilities to overcome the Conference’s deadlock by adopting and implementing a balanced and comprehensive programme of work at the earliest possible date in next year’s session.

Mr. Chairman,

It is my hope that this Committee can adopt the draft Resolution on the report of the Conference on Disarmament without a vote.

I thank you.