Mr Chair,

The New Zealand Delegation extends our warm congratulations to the United Nations Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament, on this their thirtieth anniversary.

The Regional Centres play a crucial role in supporting member States to implement disarmament objectives, through disarmament education, capacity building and field programmes. Over the past decade alone, the Regional Centres have assisted in training over 20,000 people in disarmament and arms control issues – an impressive achievement indeed.

In New Zealand’s view, the regional approach to disarmament which the Regional Centres embody is very effective. Each Regional Centre is able to forge strong partnerships with the member States and organisations of its particular region, and take into account their specific needs and characteristics in carrying out that work.

New Zealand continues to value highly the contribution made to regional peace and security by the Regional Centre based in our part of the world. We are particularly appreciative of the
Regional Centre in Asia and the Pacific’s ongoing focus on activities to support the Arms Trade Treaty and for the work of Yuriy Kryvonos and his team.

New Zealand was delighted to participate in recent Arms Trade Treaty implementation workshops hosted by the Regional Centre in Asia and the Pacific, including a workshop for South East Asian States (hosted in Bangkok in April 2016) and a workshop for Pacific States (hosted in Apia in September 2016). We were especially grateful for the opportunity to append a Convention on Cluster Munitions universalisation event to the Apia workshop, celebrating the Convention’s 100th member, Palau.

New Zealand congratulates the United Nations Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament on an excellent first three decades – and we wish them many more to come.

Thank you, Mr Chair.