Mr Chairman
Distinguished Members of the Bureau
Distinguished delegates, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to thank the Chair for giving me the opportunity to speak during this session.

I also want to thank the Regional Directors and Mr Xiaoyu Wang for their presentations. And I want to thank Member States for their valuable comments and suggestions today. These reflect Member States recognition of the quality work that has been done by the Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament over the last 30 years.

This quality work would not be possible without the financial contributions of Member States. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all donors for their generous support. I especially thank those donors who have supported the Centres in a consistent manner for many years.

I take the opportunity to thank the three Member States that host the Centres – Nepal, Peru and Togo – for their partnership, especially when it comes to the operation of the Centres.

The Office for Disarmament Affairs has circulated a paper outlining financial contributions from Member States and organizations to the three Regional Centres over the past decade, from 2005-2015.

As you will see, the total contribution from donors has been steady, with only a brief dip in 2009 to 684,575 dollars after the global financial crises of 2008. You will also see that contributions bounced back in 2010 to over 2 million dollars.

The total average annual contribution from all Member States is over two million dollars. This does not include in-kind contributions to the Centres. In 2015, we saw the highest level of voluntary funding to date.

These contributions demonstrate recognition by Member States and other donors of the important work done by the Centres.

They are also, however, a strong indication of the increasing demand from recipient States for the capacity building and technical assistance provided by the Centres, as they attempt to address the challenges facing their countries and their regions.

Over the past three decades, the Centres have accumulated valuable regional expertise and become better equipped to expand their technical assistance to more Member States in need.

Unfortunately, because of limited available financial resources, many of the calls for assistance from regional States cannot be answered.

The 2030 Agenda for SDGs formally recognizes the link between sustainable development and peace and security, including disarmament. This comprehensive approach provides an
opportunity for the Regional Centres to use their unique experience and expertise to play a regional leadership role.

If the Centres are to take on this role and also meet growing demand, they will need continued, strengthened and on-going financial support and partnership from you.

I count on all Member States, especially those from the regions, to ensure the next thirty years of the UN Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament are as successful as the last three decades.

I thank you so much.