Thank you Mr. Chairman for the opportunity to address the First Committee under the Regional Disarmament and Security Cluster.

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies, distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour for me to address this Committee and provide a brief overview of the work of the Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean regions. You will also hear from my colleagues, the Directors of each of the Regional Centres, on their projects and activities. I wish to draw the attention of delegates to the reports of the Secretary-General on the Regional Centres (A/72/97-98-99) which are before this Committee for your consideration.

The Regional Centres continue to work with Member States, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations to promote, facilitate and strengthen regional cooperation, dialogue and confidence-building, provide capacity-building, training, as well as legal and technical assistance to support Member States in their efforts to implement regional and international treaties and other instruments. Their activities cover the entire gamut of issues on the disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control agenda: ranging from conventional weapons to weapons of mass destructions and emerging issues.

The Regional Centres will continue to foster cooperation with UN partners, regional organizations and other stakeholders to, inter alia, prevent the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in particular their diversion to non-State armed groups; enhance physical stockpile management, assist Member States in security sector reform efforts; support the implementation of Security Council resolutions; and promote the role of women in peace and security.

With the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Regional Centers will work with Member States towards realizing the 2030 Agenda, particularly Goal 16.4.

The Centres will continue to apply a synergistic approach and cooperate with relevant partners and stakeholders, building on comparative advantages and complementarities. Such
synergies will ensure the effective delivery of the Centres’ mandates with maximum benefit to Member States in their respective regions.

Looking ahead, the Centres, based on ODA’s mandate and the Secretary-General’s call for “disarmament that saves lives”, will continue to work with Member States to identify strategic priority areas for their respective regions, taking into consideration global trends, developments, challenges and opportunities.

I would like to take this opportunity to express appreciation to Members States and organizations that have made financial or in-kind contributions to the Regional Centres. I also would like to register our gratitude to the Centres’ host countries—Nepal, Peru, and Togo—for their longstanding support.

As you know, while the core staff and operational costs of the three Regional Centres are funded by the United Nations regular budget, their substantive programmes and activities depend on extra-budgetary resources. Against this backdrop, I encourage and invite all Member States to support the Centres through voluntary contributions. Your financial and political support allows the Regional Centres to maintain and expand their active engagement at the regional level.

Thank you.