"Chairperson,

I am taking the floor on behalf of

1. Algeria,
2. Antigua and Barbuda,
3. Argentina,
4. Australia,
5. Belarus,
6. Benin
7. Brazil,
8. Chile,
9. China,
10. Costa Rica,
11. Croatia,
12. Cyprus,
13. Czech Republic,
14. Denmark,
15. Djibouti
16. Dominican Republic
17. Egypt,
18. El Salvador
19. Estonia
20. Finland
21. Germany,
22. Ghana
23. Greece,
24. Guatemala
25. Hungary,
26. Iceland
27. Indonesia
28. Iraq
29. Ireland,
30. Luxembourg
31. Mexico,
32. Montenegro
33. Namibia
34. Netherlands,
35. New Zealand,
36. Norway
37. Nigeria,
38. Pakistan,
39. Peru
40. Philippines,
41. Portugal,
42. Republic of Korea
43. Romania
44. Russian Federation
45. Senegal
46. Slovakia
47. Slovenia
48. South Africa,
49. Spain
50. Sweden
51. Switzerland
52. Thailand,
53. The Former Yugoslav Republic of Korea
54. Trinidad and Tobago
55. Ukraine
56. United Arab Emirates

and my own country Austria (57). We would have supported decision L.61 “Thirty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research”.

We welcome the appreciation of UNIDIR’s work in the withdrawn decision as well as the acknowledgement of the Institute as a stand-alone, autonomous institution.

Our support for this withdrawn decision should also be seen in the light of our strong support for the proposed sustainable and stable funding structure and operating model outlined in the report A/73/256.
UNIDIR’s independence and credibility is vital for fulfilling the Institute’s important mandate, including to inter alia to:

- provide the international community with more diversified and complete data on problems relating to international security, the armaments race and disarmament in all fields
- promote the informed participation of delegations in disarmament fora.
- assist ongoing negotiations on disarmament and
- carry out more in-depth, forward-looking and long-term research on disarmament.

To deliver on its mandate, sound and predictable finances are essential. Currently, only 9% of UNIDIR’s budget is covered by the UN regular budget. To safeguard credibility and independence, a careful balance between regular budget and voluntary, often project based funding, needs to be struck. We therefore reiterate our support for the report’s recommendations for a modest increase in the contribution from the UN regular budget to the Institute. We look forward to working together with others to achieve this increase through future decisions on UNIDIR.

Thank you”