Chair,

I take the floor on behalf of Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Zambia and the European Union.

In the last few years we have witnessed a strengthening of gender perspectives in the work of the First Committee.

Additionally, the UN Secretary-General’s Agenda for Disarmament explicitly recognizes that gender perspectives make for more effective arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament.

Gender-perspectives provide key insights into how women, men, girls and boys can be differentially impacted by armed conflict, and weapons. It is a cross-cutting issue with direct relevance to the implementation of broader peace and security efforts and contributes to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, UN Security Council Resolution 1325, and the related Beijing +25 process.

The differential gendered impacts of armed conflict on women, men, boys and girls is a critical consideration. For example, while men make up most direct casualties from the use of small arms and light weapons, such weapons are often used to facilitate acts of gender-based violence against women and girls, resulting in long-term physical, psychological and socio-economic impacts. Applying a gender lens to our work allows us to devise more sustainable and comprehensive policy solutions which are inclusive and more consequential.
Pursuit of gender perspectives in our work strengthens diverse and meaningful participation by women and men in all aspects of arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament.

UNIDIR’s recent research publication, *Behind the Curve* highlights that women continue to be underrepresented in arms control and disarmament fora. We encourage targeted actions so that women and men are equally represented in discussions and decision making. This would help to achieve effective and sustainable outcomes in our work. Diverse perspectives can bring new insights and improve the functioning of our disarmament machinery and we urge States to improve gender balance in their delegations.

We welcome the work that has been done over the last year to advance these issues within the broader disarmament machinery including:

- The decisions taken on gender and gender-based violence at the Fifth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty;
- The focus on gender considerations for the upcoming Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention;
- The increase in First Committee resolutions which consider gender perspectives;
- Efforts to achieve gender parity in the selection of GGE experts;
- The work of the Geneva-based International Gender Champions Disarmament Impact Group, including the publication of a gender resource pack for multilateral practitioners.

We also welcome that, for the first time, all key UN disarmament leadership positions are held by women.

There is no doubt that civil society has played a pivotal role in raising awareness on gender perspectives in disarmament. Civil society provides advice and ideas that spur us on to meaningful action. We are thankful for their commitment and look forward to continued collaboration.

In conclusion, we need to collectively incorporate gender perspectives in all efforts within arms control and disarmament. Such an engagement can only improve the functioning of the disarmament machinery and strengthen international peace and security.

Thank you.