GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FIFTY-EIGHTH SESSION

First Committee
Agenda Item 71
1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions
on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons
Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious
or to Have Indiscriminate Effects
Draft Resolution A/58/1-50

STATEMENT

by

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Other International Organizations, Geneva

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- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -
Mr Chairman,

I take the floor on behalf of almost 60 co-sponsoring delegations (Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Mongolia, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay) and my own delegation. For the sake of brevity I will refrain from reading out their names aloud. I have the honour to introduce draft resolution L.50 on the 1980 Convention on the Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW).

My delegation is grateful to all the co-sponsoring countries for their support for this important resolution.

Mr Chairman,

This is a very important year for the whole CCW regime. The treaty forms an essential and integral part of international law applicable to armed conflict. It is designed to provide a framework within which humanitarian concerns regarding conventional weapons can be dealt with. We need the CCW to be a dynamic instrument responding to the many urgent humanitarian challenges before us. We need the CCW to address the continued occurrence of civilians being afflicted by armed conflict.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight two important issues, as reflected in this year's resolution.

Firstly, a Group of Governmental Experts has worked diligently throughout the year and will meet, for the third time this year, in November - a few weeks after the end of the First Committee. The Group has addressed explosive remnants of war, mines other than anti-personnel mines and the issue of compliance. The draft resolution before you expresses well-deserved support for the work conducted by the Group and encourages it and the Chairman-designate to submit a proposal for an instrument on explosive
remnants of war, as well as reports on mines other than anti-personnel mines, and on compliance to State Parties for consideration at their meeting in November.

My government strongly believes that we must do our utmost in November in order to agree on an instrument on explosive remnants of war. Such an instrument should, in a credible way, contribute to minimise the humanitarian consequences caused by explosive remnants of war. It is also important that we make substantial progress with regard to mines other than anti-personnel mines, and on the issue of compliance.

Secondly, the draft resolution calls upon all states to become parties to the Convention and its Protocols and to adhere to its provisions, including the important amendments to extend the scope to include armed conflicts of a non-international character.

Apart from substance and as a contribution to the rationalisation of work in this Committee, we see this year not asking for a report from the Secretary General on ratifications and accessions to the CCW. Instead we request that the General Assembly be periodically informed by electronic means.

Finally let me express the strong support of my Government for the Chairman-designate and for the two co-ordinators in conducting their work. I can assure you that Sweden will work hard for us to achieve real progress in November this year.

In conclusion, I wish to express our sincere hope that the draft resolution, as in previous years, will be adopted without a vote.

I thank you Mr. Chairman