Pakistan

Statement introducing draft resolution
“Conventional arms control at the regional and sub-regional levels”
in the First Committee of the 61st UNGA,
20 October 2006.

Madam Chairperson,

Now I would like to introduce the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/61/L-43 entitled “Conventional arms control at the regional and sub-regional levels” on behalf of the delegations of Bangladesh, Belarus, Egypt, Germany, Liberia, Malaysia, Nepal, Peru, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, and my own delegation.

Madam Chairperson,

This draft resolution aims to promote disarmament endeavors in the area of conventional disarmament at the regional and sub-regional levels. Though evidently important, this issue has not received the attention and support it deserves. We need a sharp focus on conventional balance and arms control.

In its preamble, the draft resolution outlines several principles and precepts. These include:

- the crucial role of arms control in peace and security;
- the threats to peace in the post-Cold War era arising mainly among States located in the same region or sub-region;
- the preservation of a balance in the defense capabilities of States at the lowest level of armaments contributing to peace and stability;
- the objective of agreements to strengthen peace and security at the lowest possible level of disarmament and military forces;
- a special responsibility of the militarily significant States and States with larger military capabilities in promoting such agreements for regional peace and security; and

- the objective to prevent the possibility of military attack launched by surprise and to avoid aggression.

The preamble of the draft resolution also notes with particular interest the initiatives taken in various regions including a number of Latin American countries; the proposals for conventional arms control in South Asia; and recognizes the "relevance and value" of the CFE Treaty in Europe which is described as a "cornerstone of the European security".

The operative part of the resolution, while deciding to give urgent consideration to the issue of conventional disarmament at the regional and sub-regional levels, requests the Conference on Disarmament, to consider formulating principles that can serve as the framework for regional agreements. It also requests the Secretary General to seek the views of Member States and submit a report to the next session of the General Assembly.

Madam Chairperson,

The co-sponsors look forward to the Committee’s strong support to these draft resolution.

*These resolutions reflect the core concerns and interests of the international community in the filed of disarmament and arms control. There is an abiding interest in the recommendations made in these resolutions, their follow up and their faithful implementation. They also represent considered views of several states and multiple constituents.*