India has cast a negative vote on the resolution contained in document L.6 entitled “Conventional arms control at the regional and sub-regional levels.” This resolution requests the Conference on Disarmament to consider the formulation of principles that can serve as a framework for regional agreements on conventional arms control.

The Conference, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, has a vocation of negotiating disarmament instruments of global application. In 1993, the UN Disarmament Commission had, by consensus, adopted guidelines and recommendations for regional disarmament.

There is no need, therefore, for the Conference on Disarmament to engage itself in formulating principles on the same subject at a time when it has several other priority issues on its agenda.

Further, we believe that the security concerns of States extend beyond narrowly defined regions. Consequently, the notion of preservation of a balance in defence capabilities in the regional or sub-regional context is both unrealistic and unacceptable to our delegation.