STATEMENT

BY

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Thematic Debate on Disarmament Machinery

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Mr. Chairman,

I would like to add few national points to the statement of European Union (EU), delivered by distinguished Ambassador Lint of Belgium that Slovenia fully supports.

Mr. Chairman,

As we know for some time now, the Disarmament Machinery does not serve properly its purpose any more. In other words, it is in state of crisis. That is why we in Slovenia warmly welcomed initiative of the Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to organize High Level meeting on disarmament that took place on 24 September this year here in New York. We have to admit ourselves that there was no real progress in the field of international disarmament and arms control for a very long time. At the High Level Meeting we heard many interesting and useful proposals and ideas. We believe now is a high time to move on with substantive follow-up and to start to implement those ideas. The present session of this distinguished Committee is a good opportunity for that. That is why we supported and co-sponsored a resolution presented by Austria on this issue that should in our view pave the way forward on how to modernize and reform the Disarmament Machinery that will be able to adequately respond to the challenges of our time.

One of the central elements of this new process should be a modernization of the Conference of Disarmament (CD) in Geneva. The CD faces two essential problems. Firstly, it does not reflect a post cold war reality of the 21st century, and secondly, it is not working at all for almost a decade and a half. The situation in the CD is indeed deplorable. To sum up our belief, Mr. Chairman, the CD urgently needs modernization and reforms.

In view of my delegation it would be most helpful to properly revise Rules of Procedure of the CD in order to make it more flexible and efficient and to open its membership to all members of the United Nations. Addressing the challenges of global disarmament is our common responsibility and the CD should reflect this reality. We believe that expansion of the CD could be a part of the solution rather than a part of the problem. Many of observer states and states candidates for membership dispose of experienced diplomats in multilateral negotiations, including in the disarmament and arms control areas. Opening and expansion would in our view enrich life and the work of the CD. The proposal to appoint a CD coordinator for enlargement in January 2011 would be in our view a welcome step in a right direction and one of elements for High Level Meeting follow-up resolution.

Speaking of the Conference on Disarmament, it should be also noted that this year, the delegations of observer states in the CD, including my own, have organized themselves in the informal Group of CD observers. The group has been coordinated by the distinguished delegation of Thailand in Geneva. The delegations of observer states started to participate visibly in the work of the conference. Different statements of the Group have been delivered, including one on the High Level meeting. The Group also made several contacts with the so called CD - P-6 – Presidencies, whose representatives attended our meetings and were briefing the Group on the ongoing activities in the CD. Slovenia is grateful to the CD P-6 colleagues for their work and all assistance to the group of observer states. On the other hand, the CD 2010 Annual Report, that this Committee will take note of, is very short on this issue and contains only short reference on the letter that the group sent to the CD president. We sincerely hope that situation will improve next year and that future CD reports will be more accurate and will better reflect the activities of the CD observers group in the CD.
Finally, Mr. Chairman, let me briefly say a few words on the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC). There is no doubt that UNDC is a part of this disarmament machinery. The usually long meetings that Commission holds each April here in New York have not been successful for years. We believe that the UNDC reform should follow the modernization of the CD in Geneva and should be part of future disarmament machinery reform package. In our view, we should reflect possibilities of how to improve its work. In this context we see a more prominent role of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs whose work Slovenia fully supports.

Thank you Mr. Chairman