65th UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FIRST COMMITTEE
(DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY)

Agenda Item 97(h)

Structured Discussion on Conventional Weapons

Draft Resolution L.36
Consolidation of Peace through Practical Disarmament Measures

Statement by

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Head of the Delegation of Germany

NEW YORK, 19 OCTOBER 2010

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Mr. Chairman,

As in previous sessions of the First Committee, my delegation has the honour to introduce, on behalf of the co-sponsors, draft resolution L.36 entitled *Consolidation of Peace Through Practical Disarmament Measures*.

We express our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his Report on this topic, as contained in document A/65/153 as well as to Member States that have co-sponsored this resolution in the past and to those who are doing so this year.

Germany has submitted this resolution biannually since 1996. It has been enjoying considerable support ever since, leading to its adoption by consensus, last time in 2008.

The concept of *Practical Disarmament* goes back to former Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali and his *Agenda for Peace*. It has since then been given increasing attention by the international community. Its basic idea is to focus the First Committee’s attention, in a more integrated manner, on the relevance of practical disarmament measures for the consolidation of peace in conflict and post-conflict environments. As experience has shown, measures like control of small arms and light weapons, including their ammunition or the demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, have become integral parts of effective conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation. Practical disarmament and arms control measures have lead to results with a direct impact on the lives of people in countries affected by conflict.

A concrete expression of the resolution’s intent is the work of the *Group of Interested States in Practical Disarmament Measures*. This Group meets since 1998 in an effort to strengthen international cooperation and to promote concrete projects of practical disarmament and arms control. It is open to states, international or regional organisations and non-governmental organisations with an interest in its activities.

In recent years the *Group of Interested States* has been focussing on the *UN Program of Action*, challenges and opportunities to enhance its implementation, including lessons learned and best practices.

At the BMS4 states underlined the central role of the *Programme of Action Implementation Support System (PoA-ISS)* as a comprehensive tool to facilitate cooperation and assistance for the implementation of practical disarmament measures, including the matching of assistance needs with available resources and encouraged its further development. We have taken care of this broad support in an expanded pp10 in the draft resolution. Given its central importance for the implementation of the UNPoA, UNODA has to be able rely on sufficient resources for maintaining it. This has been included in op6 in this year’s draft.

In order to identify, prioritize and communicate needs and match them with resources, in the report of the BMS4 states are encouraged to consider ways in which needs and resources can
be matched and coordinated more effectively. We are convinced that the well established *Group of Interested States* as an informal, open and transparent forum can and should facilitate the effective matching of needs and resources building on its experience and its broad based composition, which is encouraged in new op5 of the draft resolution.

Apart from that we have made only some technical changes to update the previous (2008) version.

I recommend this draft resolution for the consideration and support of this Committee.

Informal consultations were held prior to the tabling of the draft in an effort to once again secure its adoption without a vote. My delegation hopes that this tradition can be maintained.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.