Mr. Chairman,

Austria introduced draft resolution L.34 “Follow-up to the High-level Meeting held on 24 September 2010 - Revitalizing the Work of the Conference on Disarmament and Taking Forward Multilateral Disarmament Negotiations” during discussions in the disarmament machinery cluster on 18 October.

Following extensive consultations with delegations which approached us following the introduction of the original draft, the sponsors of the resolution decided to produce a revised text, which was issued on Friday last, 22 October, with changes to Operative Paragraphs 3 and 4 designed to address questions raised with the authors. In Operative Paragraph 3, the new text recognizes that suggestions were made both by Member States and by the Secretary General at the High-level meeting. In Operative Paragraph 4, the sponsors took account of views conveyed to them that the agenda item at the sixty-sixth session should focus on the substance of the matters in question and not on a single meeting. The sponsors accepted the logic of this approach.

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to delegations for their constructive feedback and cooperation, and believe that it should now be possible to adopt this draft resolution without a vote, setting the scene for our collective work in the year ahead. We thank all of the original sponsors and the many new co-sponsors who have since come on board from across all regions, and commend this text to the First Committee.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.