Statement by Ambassador Simona Miculescu  
Permanent Representative of Romania  
UNGA First Committee  
Thematic Debate – Cluster 5 - Other Disarmament Measures  
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Mr. Chairman,  

I'm taking the floor on behalf of Germany and Romania on the Agenda Item 89(b) entitled: "Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures", in order to introduce a draft resolution with the same title.  
The goal of this draft resolution is to constantly underline the need for strengthened transparency, as well as increased confidence-building among countries, in particular in the field of expenditures related to military enhancements.  

Mr. Chairman,  
The idea to reduce military expenditures through an active and voluntary engagement of states to a mechanism that registers their allocation of resources for military purposes came about as early as 1981. In the year in question, the UN Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures—recently renamed United Nations Report on Military Expenditures came into being as a way of promoting an environment of trust when it came to military enhancements. In the early years of the MilEx instrument an average of 30 states submitted reports, followed by a significant increase in the late 1990s, with over 120 states reporting at least once. Nevertheless during the last decade a downward trend became evident with regard to this practice.  

For the first time in 2011, a Group of Governmental Experts was convened to review the operation of MilEx, to examine the reasons that may prevent countries from reporting on military expenditures, and to provide recommendations for enhancing the efficiency of this reporting instrument. The report of the GGE clearly indicated that transparency on allocation of funds for military purposes is a fundamental aspect for cultivating trust and confidence among States and is therefore, a significant deterrent for international tensions or conflicts. The consensual report of the GGE was subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/20 of 2nd of December 2011. Following the recommendations of the Group of Governmental Experts, the present draft resolution is calling for the convening of a second GGE in 2016, with the purpose of assessing the impact of MilEx and to ensure its continued relevance to the disarmament measures.  

Further on, the resolution welcomes the efforts of the Secretariat in setting up the on-line platform for this Instrument which is meant at facilitating access to the information available, with the intent of ensuring a greater engagement by Member States.  

Mr. Chairman,  
These are the main additions to the text that otherwise was largely preserved as previously adopted by the 1st Committee.  
The draft resolution that Germany and Romania are presenting today has been a biennial one for more than a decade and traditionally adopted without a vote. Therefore it is our delegations' belief that during this Session it will be met with the same response.  
We hope, that Member States will endorse this draft resolution and its end goal and choose to give support by co-sponsoring it, as there remains no doubt that its impact will be of significant relevance for all.  
I thank you Mr. Chairman.