Resolution A/RES/69/L. „Effects of the Use of Armaments and Ammunitions Containing Depleted Uranium“

Delegation of Germany

Ambassador Michael Biontino

Explanation of Vote:

This year, Germany abstains from voting on the resolution „Effects of the Use of Armaments and Ammunitions Containing Depleted Uranium“ submitted by Indonesia.

Germany continues to regret that the results of the United Nations Environmental Programme’s report – document A/65/129/Add.1 – from 2010 remain to be quoted in a selective and misleading way. The mentioned UNEP report also stated that the measured „overall levels of radioactivity were low and within acceptable international standards, with no immediate dangers from either particle-based or waterborne toxicity“. These findings have not been adequately reflected in preambular paragraph 7.

In 2012 Germany had already given an „Explanation of Vote“ on the inadequate reflection of the content of the UNEP study. Unfortunately, no corrections have been made in the meantime.

In addition, preambular paragraph 5 and new operative paragraph 7 do not include the findings of the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency – document A67/177 – from 2012 that concluded inter alia that „in general, the existence of depleted uranium residues dispersed in the environment in the manner they were observed during the monitoring campaigns did not pose a radiological hazard to the local populations.“

Germany holds the view that the effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium should be studied further. We will continue to follow the discussions on this topic closely. Therefore it is with regret that this year’s text does not allow us to support the Resolution.