STATEMENT BY

Mr. Henk Cor van der Kwast
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Conference on Disarmament and Disarmament Ambassador at Large

On the occasion of the seventieth session of the General Assembly, First Committee,

Explanation of Vote

L.30

30th Anniversary of the UN Institute for Disarmament Research

NEW YORK, 6 November 2015
Mr. Chairman,

I would like to use this opportunity to explain our vote on resolution L.30 entitled "Thirty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research".

My delegation joined the consensus on this resolution as we support UNIDIR’s work and contributions. UNIDIR has fulfilled a useful role in the past and can fulfil a useful role in the future as an independent disarmament institute.

The Netherlands and UNIDIR have a long history of working together. Overall, this cooperation has been good and the work and products of UNIDIR have proven to be of a high quality. The Netherlands is therefore willing to continue to support UNIDIR, as demonstrated by the contract of 275,000 USD that was signed last Monday with UNIDIR on cyber security.

This project, which will be executed in cooperation with the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, will address new developments in international cyber security through advanced workshops. The focus herein lies on the application of international law, countering the proliferation of malicious cyber tools and techniques, and the stability and security of the global Internet itself.

We believe that UNIDIR should concentrate on research that benefits Member States, is useful for the discussion in the different disarmament fora and focusses on new developments in the field of disarmament.

Furthermore, we recognize that UNIDIR is facing certain challenges. In our opinion, these are not limited to the financial situation of the institution.

We thank the High Representative for Disarmament, Mr Kim, for his statement. This statement brings us forward.

In view of the need for an efficient and result-oriented organization, we believe UNIDIR will benefit from an assessment of its current business model and format. Together with the institute we have to deal with the institutional, administrative, financial and structural challenges of UNIDIR for coming years. An assessment should look into the management model of UNIDIR. Such an assessment can contribute to a focused and fresh approach for UNIDIR and make the institute ready for a more effective role on a value for money basis.

Finally, whilst we can appreciate the budget uplift in 2018 and 2019, we believe we have time to act in the short-term to put UNIDIR on a solid managerial, institutional and financial basis for the longer term by having a thorough analysis with recommendations to act upon at next year’s First Committee.