UNGA First Committee 2015

Explanation of Vote on Resolution L. 36 “Countering the Threat Posed by Improvised Explosive Devices”

Austria
George-Wilhelm Gallhofer

New York, 6 November 2015

Mr. Chairman,

Austria shares the concern about IEDs, which is expressed in the present draft resolution Nr. L36. At the same time, it is important to emphasise that the problem of IEDs should not be seen in isolation from the broader humanitarian challenge of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. For instance, the UN-SG in his latest report on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, released on June 18, 2015, enumerated IEDs among explosive weapons, whose use in populated areas exacts an unacceptable toll on civilians, and called on all parties to conflict to fully comply with international humanitarian law, as well as to develop policy standards to curb or limit the use of explosive weapons in populated areas in order to strengthen the protection of civilians. We would have liked to see this element included in the aforementioned resolution.

Thank you.

Check against delivery