

UK Explanation of Vote (after the vote)
On Resolution L.17: Relationship between Disarmament & Development

Mr Chairman,

The United Kingdom recognises the benefits that can come from disarmament and the positive impact they may have on economic and social development. It is for this reason that in previous years the United Kingdom has, in the company of European Union colleagues, been able to join consensus on this resolution. This year, however, we have been unable to do so and abstained on this resolution. Let me explain why.

L.17 contains a number of significant new elements both in the pre-ambular and operative paragraphs. We acknowledge the challenges faced by the international community and the development agenda in the emerging post-Cold War world, but we are not convinced that the changes taking place have matured enough to allow a group of experts, established at this time, to be able to re-appraise the situation in anything other than general and possibly inconclusive terms.

Although Op2 asks the Secretary-General to establish the group within existing resources, we question the need for the establishment of such a group now and the added value of any work that might be undertaken by it.