

October 31, 2008

EXPLANATION OF POSITION

Draft Resolutions L. 13 and L.42: United Nations Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament

Mr. Chairman,

I am speaking on behalf of the United States and the United Kingdom. We support the efforts of nations to work among themselves to solve regional problems, and we believe that UN regional centers can facilitate such work. However, funding for these centers should come from voluntary regional contributions, as it has since they were created.

Resolutions L.13 and L.42, “United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Latin America and the Caribbean” and “United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific,” request the Secretary General “to provide, from the biennial regular budget starting in 2010-2011, the necessary support to ensure the sustainability of the core activities and operations” of each centre.

While the United States and the United Kingdom have traditionally joined consensus on the resolutions on these centers, we will not be participating in the adoption of these resolutions this year. We are disassociating from the consensus because the resolutions fundamentally change the nature of the centers by including funding from the Regular Budget. We are opposed to this in general, but especially at a time when the current Regular Budget is being proposed to increase by more than 25%.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.