



General Assembly

Sixty-seventh session

First Committee

17th meeting

Thursday, 1 November 2012, 3 p.m.
New York

Official Records

Chair: Mr. Percaya (Indonesia)

The meeting was called to order at 3.40 p.m.

Expression of sympathy in connection with the victims of Hurricane Sandy

The Chair: I am indeed very happy and delighted to see the First Committee members again in the aftermath of tragic Hurricane Sandy. As we watched the horror, devastating loss of lives and extensive destruction of property and infrastructure caused by this natural disaster, we have all been affected in one way or another.

Those whose loved ones were directly impacted by the tragedy are in our thoughts and prayers. On behalf of all delegations, I would in particular like to express our heartfelt condolences to the Governments and peoples of the United States, Haiti, Cuba and the other countries that have borne the direct impact of this tragedy. As we watch the anguish of those directly affected on our television screens every day, we pray for them. I know that I speak for all delegations in saying that they are not alone.

I would now like to invite all delegations to rise and join me in a minute of silence in honour of those who lost their lives in the disaster.

The members of the Committee observed a minute of silence.

Agenda items 86 to 102 (continued)

Action on all draft resolutions and decisions submitted under disarmament and international security agenda items

The Chair: Hurricane Sandy, in its fury, has further set us back by an additional three days. It is incumbent upon us to work together to find a viable way of concluding our work in the limited time remaining. I have full confidence in our collective willingness and ability to prevail in that regard.

We will begin by seeking a creative and innovative way to expedite the rest of our thematic discussions on item subjects and the introduction and consideration of all draft resolutions and decisions submitted under all disarmament and related international security agenda items, as well as the action phase of our work, which focuses on voting.

Before we proceed, I would like to inform the Committee that the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Change Implementation in 2012, Mr. Kim Won-soo, has informed me that he will join us today at 4 p.m. to brief the Committee on the future role of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research. When he arrives, we will listen to the briefing and then continue our deliberations afterward. With members' concurrence, I will allow approximately 15 minutes for questions and answers.

As I announced during our previous meeting, on Thursday, 25 October, the Committee was scheduled to listen at its next meeting to the views

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

12-56921 (E)



Please recycle

of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on the issues before the Committee. Under the Committee's established practice, we would have had to devote up to half of the time for this meeting to that item. I am delighted to inform the Committee that the representatives of the non-governmental organizations concerned have notified me that, owing to the impact of Hurricane Sandy and the related depletion of the time available to the Committee, they would be happy to forgo the right to make oral statements and presentations. Instead, they have agreed to submit hard copies of their respective statements for circulation in the room and that each representative would take the floor to address the Committee for one minute.

I want to thank each and every one of them for their exemplary cooperation and appreciation of the dire situation of the Committee at this time. I must also stress that that arrangement is an extraordinary measure, necessitated by the extraordinary circumstances created by the unfortunate conditions that we are facing. As such, it does not constitute any precedent whatsoever.

The next urgent issue that I would like to address relates to the remaining list of speakers on conventional weapons and the other clusters. Overall, there are up to 100 speakers still to take the floor. Under normal circumstances, we would need at least four meetings to accommodate that number. Unfortunately, we do not have the time given the fact that we need another four meetings for the action phase.

As I mentioned in the case of the item on presentations of NGOs, the extraordinary circumstances facing the Committee also call for an extraordinary measure for addressing the matter of the remaining list of speakers.

In that regard, I have consulted the other members of the Bureau and would propose, in the best interests of the Committee and with its support, concurrence and understanding, what I would like to describe as the Sandy formula. Under that formula, delegations that have inscribed to speak under the clusters would announce their agreement in one minute not to make an oral statement or to read out their complete statements, but instead would submit hard copies of their prepared statements for posting on the First Committee's QuickFirst web portal.

In that one-minute statement, they may indicate if they wish to introduce draft resolutions or decisions. That will also be on the understanding that it is a

special measure for a peculiar situation and that it does not create any precedent whatsoever.

As members might have heard, the Secretariat itself was not spared by Hurricane Sandy, which has severely affected much of the information technology network, including the e-Doc system that processes documents, which has been only partially restored. As such, delegations that need to introduce revisions to their draft resolutions are encouraged to do so orally.

To ensure that the Committee is well placed to maximize the remaining time by speeding up its work with the aim of concluding this session in a timely manner that will enable delegations scheduled to travel back to their respective stations to do so without much delay, I propose that we begin the action phase of our work tomorrow. To facilitate the process, we will begin the voting process with a set of draft resolutions that have had a history of commanding consensus in the Committee. The Secretariat will distribute the list of draft resolutions later today.

As members are aware, in accordance with the rules of procedure, delegations have the right to take the floor in explanation of vote before or after the vote either in the Committee or in the General Assembly. Again, taking into account the acute reduction of the time available to the Committee in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, I would appeal to delegations that wish to speak in explanation of vote to kindly consider doing so in the General Assembly during its consideration of the reports of the First Committee.

To ensure that all delegations fully understand the process for the action phase, the Secretariat has prepared an informal paper, similar to that circulated in previous years, that addresses the ground rules for taking action on draft resolutions. That document will be posted on QuickFirst and will also be circulated in the room shortly. I would ask members to ensure that they obtain a copy of it.

I now call on the representative of the Russian Federation.

Mr. Vasiliev (Russian Federation): If we are to introduce draft resolutions and make statements, are we supposed to do so in all official languages? Will they be posted to the QuickFirst website, for example, in my case, in Russian, or will they be interpreted by the Translation Service to make it available to all members who do not speak Russian?

The Chair: I ask the Secretary of the Committee to take the floor to respond.

Mr. Cherniavsky (Secretary of the Committee): Unfortunately, the whole premise of QuickFirst is based on the notion that the documents are distributed in one language only, because we do not have the resources, in maintaining the website, to translate them into all the official languages. It would definitely be available only in the official documents.

The Chair: I call on the representative of the Russian Federation.

Mr. Vasiliev (Russian Federation): With that explanation, I am afraid that some delegations will feel it is inconvenient to introduce draft resolutions in English only, as their statements have already been prepared in the official languages of the United Nations.

The Chair: I now call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. Cherniavsky (Secretary of the Committee): As far as interpretation is concerned, interpretation will be provided in all official languages in the room. Delegations are therefore free to use any official language of the United Nations to introduce draft resolutions. What we are talking about is the documents put on QuickFirst. That is the only limitation.

The Chair: I now give the floor to the representative of Algeria.

Mr. Moktefi (Algeria) (*spoke in French*): After your presentation, Mr. Chair, we would like a few clarifications on the subject of the changes that you would like to make that will affect the work of the First Committee. Usually, there is a traditional process that we follow, but now we are affected by the disruptions caused by Hurricane Sandy. We understand that you are concerned about ensuring an orderly progression of work.

However, Sir, your proposal to start taking action tomorrow on certain draft resolution requires clarification. We believe that the Member States are not yet ready for that step, as the thematic debate stage has not been completed. We believe it is risky to get ahead of ourselves, as that could fundamentally disrupt the process.

We understand fully that some delegations have representatives among us who must return to Geneva as soon as possible. That is a constraint that should

not influence the First Committee's consideration of the issues. All delegations are represented, and thus logically should, despite all the disruptions, follow the normal and traditional process that the First Committee habitually follows. To disrupt that state of things is risky, and could lead to a loss of control over the process.

My suggestion is to keep things as they are, that is, to continue the thematic debate until the end and then begin the phase of taking action on draft resolutions. We could shorten the thematic debate by asking delegations, as you have done, Sir, to show some restraint and limit their statements to one minute at the maximum. That approach could accelerate the process by respecting its organization, according to which there are logical stages before the final stage, in which we take action on draft resolutions.

The Algerian delegation will accept your proposal, Mr. Chair, but would like to say that we if we start disrupting the process with votes and statements, it will get mixed up, and in end everything will be disrupted. I believe that my concern has been noted.

The Chair: I now give the floor to the representative of Cuba.

Mrs. Ledesma Hernández (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): Our delegation understands the steps that you have encouraged us to take, Mr. Chair, in order to ensure that our work continues despite the scheduling and material disruptions we have experienced because of Hurricane Sandy. We will join the consensus in the room on what is decided with regard to the thematic debates and the way to use the time allocated to them in a flexible manner.

However, what we are concerned about is the phase of adopting draft resolutions, as we did not clearly understand the explanation given with regard to the options for general statements and explanations of vote, which have always been delivered at the same time as the adoption of draft resolutions. As to that specific stage of our work, we would like to ask for a focus that is more in step with traditional practice. We are not quite sure what the proposal was on explanations of vote, but we do think that that part of our work in the Committee is important, as it allows many of the delegations to explain the reason behind their votes.

The Chair: If I have not made it very clear, I should like again to explain the formula for our discussion.

First of all, I thank the representatives of Algeria and Cuba for their comments. I do understand.

I would like to make it very clear that it is not the intention of the Chair to bypass the process of the cluster discussion. What we are going to do, once we agree on this formula, is to return to cluster 4, under which there are approximately 44 speakers inscribed on the list. I am going to ask each of those speakers to speak for one minute. I would advise those delegations that are going to speak that their complete statements will be posted on the QuickFirst web portal. Certainly, that statement will also be reflected in the press release to be issued at the end of the meeting.

Once we exhaust the list for cluster 4, I will invite the Committee to move on to clusters 5, 6 and 7. Once we have completed the list of speakers for all the clusters, we will move on to take action on the draft resolutions that were previously adopted by consensus. I am not sure whether we will be able to finish the entire list of speakers on clusters 4 to 7 today. After having consulted with the members of the Bureau, it is my intention, once we finish the list of speakers for the clusters — perhaps today or tomorrow; we do not know yet, but my best guess is tomorrow — to invite the Committee to move on to take action on draft resolutions that have traditionally been adopted by consensus. I will also ask the Secretariat to share those draft resolutions with members. The Secretariat will also approach each author of those draft resolutions as to whether that particular draft resolution is ready for action to be taken on it or not.

That is the situation and the plan that I am putting forward to the Committee.

I shall now give the floor to representatives for comments.

Mr. Hallak (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): We fully understand your concerns, Mr. Chair, and your wish to complete our work in the best possible way. However, nature has had its word. My delegation supports the statements of the representatives of Algeria and Cuba.

We are concerned about a change in practice and in the way that the First Committee works. We will show some flexibility. If we have understood correctly, although we are not sure, the General Committee is to hold a meeting to extend the period of work of all the Committees owing to the United Nations suspending work in New York for three days. We will therefore show

some flexibility, but we would like to say that these are exceptional circumstances and that in future we cannot accept the measures that we are taking now as the usual mechanism and practice of the First Committee.

Ms. Mehta (India): I will take less than the minute offered to us all. I only want to say that I endorse completely and wholeheartedly the very flexible and accommodating approach to completing our work that you, Mr. Chair, have proposed. I think that that is really the way forward.

Mr. Hoffmann (Germany): I think that it is certainly fair to say that these are exceptional circumstances and that the proposal that you, Mr. Chair, have made is the best way forward under these circumstances.

I have listened very carefully to the statements made hitherto. I found that they all express flexibility as to the proposal. I therefore take it that no one has objected to it. I would suggest that, in order not to lose even more time, we should now quickly move forward in the way that you, Sir, suggested.

Mr. Najafi (Islamic Republic of Iran): In short, I would like to say that we fully support the proposal. We understand that this is an extraordinary situation. It is not normal and could not set a precedent for the future. We fully support the proposal.

Mr. Simon-Michel (France) (*spoke in French*): On behalf of France and Finland, I would like to say that we fully support the proposal.

The Chair: I would once again underline the fact that none of us is happy with the current situation. We wish that we could have been in a better situation. But, again, I must underscore the fact that it will not change the practice of the First Committee. It should not be used as a precedent for future sessions of the First Committee. Again, we are facing an extraordinary situation and, in that regard, we need to adopt extraordinary measures.

I thank members for their understanding, flexibility and cooperation.

May I take it that the Committee agrees to proceed in accordance with the procedure that I have proposed today to speed up our work?

It was so decided.

The Chair: As I said earlier, we have the honour of receiving Ambassador Kim Won-soo to brief the Committee on the future role of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research. On behalf of

the Committee, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to him for kindly briefing us on that important issue. I now give him the floor for seven minutes.

Mr. Kim Won-soo: I thank you, Mr. Chair, for giving me the opportunity to brief the First Committee on the idea of consolidating the entities involved in research, training and library services across the system around the world. I will try to be very brief, even less than seven minutes, so that I can have more chance to interact with Committee members.

As all Committee members well know, currently we have seven research and knowledge service-related entities around the world, including the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR). They are the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, UNIDIR and the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development in Geneva. We also have the United Nations System Staff College and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute in Turin, Italy, the Dag Hammarskjöld Library in New York and the Library of the United Nations Office at Geneva. The idea is to create synergy so that those entities can provide better service in all areas of knowledge and learning services to Member States and other countries, too.

Although all those entities carry out their mandates superbly, these days we face the common challenge of ensuring an appropriate funding level for all of them. There is a need to upgrade our engagement with the outside world at the higher level. The idea is to consolidate those seven entities under one consolidated, global roof in order to provide Member States and all the constituencies one single window of contact with them. The essence of the proposed reform is to create a global structure, under which we will ensure that all seven entities maintain their substantive independence and the brand name that they have cultivated over the past two decades. The new entity is not intended to observe all the knowledge entities required by the system, but would rather facilitate coherence in those functions by providing clarity as to what is already being done. It would also complement other existing entities in responding to needs without overlapping or interfering with their work.

We are at the very early stage of developing our ideas. Right now we are engaged in a bottom-up consultation process with all the entities, including UNIDIR, so we will have ample opportunity to interact

with Member States, particularly First Committee members, on the details of the plan before we finalize our proposal for consideration by Member States next year, most probably, not this year. We will continue to engage with First Committee members and will inform them of the progress that we make with UNIDIR's Director, staff and Advisory Board.

We will use November for that purpose. I think that we will then have greater clarity on the details of what that new structure will look like; what UNIDIR's relationship with the new entity will be; and how staffing, reporting lines and funding mechanisms can be preserved and further developed. The idea is to give a better window for greater funding to reach the entities because, given the current international financial climate, all of them face the common challenge of dwindling financial contributions from Member States. We therefore need to find a new way that will allow all the entities to benefit from a stable source of funding and clearer connections with the substantive departments located in New York, Geneva and elsewhere in the system.

With that, I will conclude my remarks so as to spare more time for interaction with Committee members.

The Chair: In keeping with the working methods of the Committee, I will now suspend the meeting to enable the Committee to have an interactive discussion in an informal setting.

The meeting was suspended at 4.25 p.m. and resumed at 4.40 p.m.

The Chair: With members' concurrence, I shall now call on the representatives of non-governmental organizations to address the Committee for one minute.

I give the floor to the representative of Reaching Critical Will.

Ms. Acheson (Reaching Critical Will): I would like to thank you, Mr. Chair, for this opportunity to briefly address the First Committee on behalf of the non-governmental organizations accredited to the Economic and Social Council. My name is Ray Acheson and I am with Reaching Critical Will.

Our sympathies are with those in the Caribbean and the east coast of the United States who have been affected by Hurricane Sandy. Recognizing the unprecedented situation brought about by this storm and considering the numerous important decisions that remain on the First Committee's agenda, we have agreed that it would

be prudent to submit our statements in writing. Printed copies of the interventions are being distributed and will be available on www.reachingcriticalwill.org. It is important to note that this is a unique situation and will not be considered a precedent to be repeated in future meetings. We fully support your efforts, Sir, to ensure that the vital work of the Committee for this year is completed.

The Chair: We will now return to the list of speakers under cluster 4.

Ms. Anderson (Canada): I would like to add my voice in expressing our condolences to those affected by Hurricane Sandy and to thank you, Mr. Chair, for your proposals to get us back to business rapidly, which my delegation fully supports.

I would like to draw delegations' attention to two small revisions to draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.41, entitled "Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices", which was submitted to the Secretariat yesterday. As damage from the recent hurricane has prevented the Secretariat from producing revised documents, my delegation has provided paper copies of the changes, which will also be sent to all delegations electronically and by facsimile.

Consistent with our desire to conduct a transparent and inclusive process in developing the draft resolution, some targeted changes have been introduced to paragraphs 2 and 3 to address specific issues identified by a number of States. In paragraphs 2 and 3, the group of governmental experts would be asked to make recommendations on possible "aspects" of a treaty rather than "elements", and the draft resolution makes even more explicit that a group of governmental experts is not mandated to negotiate a treaty. With those changes, we believe that we have been able to positively address some of the outstanding matters raised by delegations.

Mr. Gómez Camacho (Mexico): I take the floor on behalf of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.46, entitled "Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations", to formally introduce an orally revised version of that draft resolution to the First Committee in order to accommodate the remaining concerns of delegations. Copies of that revised text are being circulated in the room. The main changes clarify further the role and functions of the disarmament machinery and the availability of resources to carry out the work of the open-ended working group.

In the third preambular paragraph, we reaffirm the role and functions of the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission in accordance with the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. In paragraph 2, we specify that the working group will convene its sessions for up to 15 working days within the available time frames, thus ensuring the availability of resources. In paragraph 3, we specify that the report of the working group will reflect all proposals made, thereby guaranteeing that all views are taken into account. In paragraph 4, we request the Secretary-General to transmit the report of the working group to the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission. We are confident that this orally revised draft resolution will receive the support of all delegations.

Mr. Woolcott (Australia): We express Australia's condolences to the people of the Caribbean, the United States and Canada for the loss of life caused by Hurricane Sandy.

You now have a difficult task in shepherding our work, Mr. Chair, and we fully support your approach, which was outlined today. We have distributed Australia's statement. The headlines, in under 60 seconds, are: on the arms trade treaty (ATT), as one of the authors, we remain committed to achieving a strong and effective treaty quickly through a fair and credible process. That is what the draft resolution on the ATT this year (A/C.1/67/L.11) sets out to do. Australia will again provide financial support to Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific to participate in the negotiations in March. That is in addition to the \$1 million we have committed to start a multilateral facility to help countries implement an ATT. Germany has now committed funding, and we ask other donors to join us.

Finally, Australia ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions on 8 October. We continue to provide support for mine action under our mine action strategy and as chair of the Mine Action Support Group.

Mr. Aisi (Papua New Guinea): Along the lines of the statement by my colleague from Australia, I will be very brief. Our statement will be posted. The headline from us, just as from him, is that we remain concerned about the proliferation of small arms, especially the illegal use of and illicit trade in them. We are therefore pleased that the outcome document (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4) of the recent second Small Arms Review Conference,

presided over by Ambassador Joy Ogwu of Nigeria, was a positive one. More recently, we were able to submit our second report, which outlines the status of the implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms in Papua New Guinea. We are also working on a national counter-terrorism and transnational organized crime bill. In that connection, we would like to thank our partners, especially Australia, New Zealand, Japan, the United Nations, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Melanesian Spearhead Group, for the work that they do.

Lastly, we remain concerned about the outcome of the recent arms trade treaty and look forward to working with other delegations in that respect.

Ms. Liufalani (New Zealand): In response to your very creative proposal, Mr. Chair, which we fully support, New Zealand will circulate its full statement on conventional weapons and ask that it also be placed on the QuickFirst website.

In addition to outlining New Zealand's views on small arms and light weapons, cluster munitions and landmines, the statement also outlines New Zealand's views of what would constitute a successful outcome with regard to the arms trade treaty, which is a top priority for my Government. Success, in our view, is not a treaty that does little except to enshrine the status quo, or one filled with clever, but very concerning, loopholes. Rather, success should be a treaty that offers a real prospect for contributing meaningfully to our collective security. New Zealand is committed to working with all stakeholders towards the achievement of that goal.

Mr. Jerman (Slovenia): As this is the only time that my delegation is taking part in the thematic discussion this year, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chair, on your assumption of the Chair of the First Committee.

I would like to also extend our condolences to the victims of Hurricane Sandy from the several countries that you, Sir, referred to earlier.

We agree with the so-called Sandy formula that was proposed by you, Mr. Chair, and we would like our statement to be distributed to delegations by the Secretariat.

Ms. González Román (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): First of all, we would like to express our condolences to the countries affected by the recent hurricane.

My delegation appreciates the efforts that you, Mr. Chair, and the Secretariat are making and we support the approach that you, Sir, suggested to find a solution to the special circumstances in which we find ourselves. Consequently, Spain will not make the statement that it had planned to deliver at this meeting. We would like to announce that we will provide the text to the QuickFirst website and will be distributing it in the room.

Ms. Resch (Finland): I will be very brief. It is clear that we urgently need global norms and standards to govern the arms trade. We need a robust and legally binding arms trade treaty. We also need to tackle the illicit trade and the excessive accumulation of small arms and light weapons. We are happy to announce that the Ottawa Convention entered into force in Finland on 1 July.

A hard copy of our statement will be distributed in the Conference Room. It will also be posted on the website of the First Committee.

Mr. Najafi (Islamic Republic of Iran): My delegation adds its voice to those expressing condolences to the people affected by the hurricane.

I will give my full statement on cluster munitions and conventional weapons to the Secretariat in order for it to be reflected in the press release to be issued.

In the short time I have, I would just like to make one point on the arms trade treaty: the possible resumption of the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty can be a success only if delegations are fully respected and allowed to conduct real negotiations and to decide all issues by consensus and if all proposals are accorded equal importance.

Mr. Atienza De Vega (Philippines): We support your efforts, Mr. Chair, to streamline the work of the Committee, and we join everyone in expressing our sympathies over the loss of life and property caused by the hurricane.

The Philippines remains committed to the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. We call on States with the capacity to do so to provide assistance to prevent the illicit transfer of arms. We reiterate our call on arms-producing States, which have a special responsibility to apply legal restrictions, to curb the illegal trade in small arms and light weapons.

We remain hopeful that we will be able to resume our work on an arms trade treaty, which is key to regulating the trade in conventional arms. We therefore support draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.11, entitled “The arms trade treaty”, which calls for the convening of another conference, in March 2013. We have to exercise flexibility so that we will be able to achieve our goals there. We cannot afford another failure to negotiate an arms trade treaty.

As requested, we will submit our statement in full so that it can be made available on the First Committee website.

Mr. Gaspar da Silva (Portugal): I would also like to add my voice to those offering condolences to the victims of the hurricane and to the countries affected.

Naturally, my statement is aligned with the statement previously delivered on behalf of the European Union (see A/C.1/67/PV.14), which allows me to be very brief.

Actually, there are only two issues that my delegation would like to point out. First, with regard to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which was open for signature in 2008 and entered into force in 2010, we believe that cluster munitions indiscriminately affect military targets and the civilian population, causing intolerable suffering and continuing to create victims many years after the end of the conflicts in which they were used. That is why Portugal was so disturbed by recent reports of their use by the Syrian forces, which we strongly condemn.

With regard to the second issue, we wish to express our utmost support for the early conclusion of a robust arms trade treaty, as mandated by the General Assembly. Portugal believes that a final and short diplomatic conference should be convened as soon as possible. We also think that the President’s draft of 26 July remains the best and only basis, in our view, for the swift and successful conclusion of those negotiations.

To that end, Portugal will join as a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.11, entitled “The arms trade treaty”, in the hope that it will garner the support it merits in the Committee.

Mr. Tarar (Pakistan): We would also like to convey our condolences in connection with the victims of Hurricane Sandy.

Our full statement will be available on QuickFirst and in the back of the room.

Notwithstanding the potential for mass destruction of nuclear weapons, it is conventional weapons that fuel conflict, destabilizing States and societies. Ironically, the weapons that propel and sustain conflicts come from areas that enjoy peace.

As we commence efforts to reconvene the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, it is vital to address both the supply and demand side of the conventional arms equation. We must draft a treaty that is concise, implementable, non-discriminatory and anchored in a strong international consensus.

Pakistan has taken several measures to promote the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. Similarly, we are a party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its five Protocols.

Mr. Ružička (Slovakia): I would also like to express our sympathies to all the countries and people affected by the hurricane.

In the interest of time, and taking into account the Chair’s urgent call, I will not deliver my entire statement. Rather, the full version of the statement will be circulated and posted on the QuickFirst website. I ask delegations to refer to the full version of the statement of Slovakia when referring to my country’s views on issues related to conventional weapons.

I also request that a full statement of my delegation be fully reflected in the press release.

Mr. Gujubo (Ethiopia): I would like to join the preceding speakers with regard to both the countries and the people who were victims of the hurricane.

My delegation aligns itself with the Chair’s timely proposal in implementing the “Sandy formula”. Accordingly, my delegation’s statement will be reflected on the QuickFirst website.

Ms. Wörgötter (Austria): We fully support the Chair’s efforts for effective time management. In the light of that, we will refrain from reading out our statement on conventional weapons, which focuses on several aspects from the perspective of the protection of civilians. We also will make it available to be posted on the web.

Mr. Noonan (Ireland): I would like to join others in expressing sympathy to all of those who have been affected by the recent hurricane, wherever they may be.

In support of the approach that you, Mr. Chair, have outlined for taking our business forward, we will not read out our statement, but we have circulated it in writing.

Mr. Balslev (Denmark): We share in the condolences expressed here. We align ourselves with the statement made by the observer of the European Union (see A/C.1/67/PV.14). We will not read our statement, which focuses on the arms trade treaty that is within our reach as we convene a shorter and final conference in March. We will post our statement on QuickFirst, as well as distribute it in the room.

Mr. Sene (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): We also offer our condolences to the victims of Hurricane Sandy. Our statement will be sent to the Secretariat so that it can be published on the First Committee portal. However, I would like to emphasize the main points of the statement, in particular, the reopening of negotiations on an arms trade treaty which will integrate, inter alia, all conventional weapons categories, including small arms and light weapons, munitions and related technologies. With respect to combating anti-personnel mines, Senegal remains convinced that implementing the Ottawa Convention must remain a priority if we wish to help the world to rid itself of those devices. In conclusion, Senegal was pleased with the coming into force on 1 August 2010 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which we ratified on 3 June 2011, because we believe that it signals significant progress in protecting civilians and in strengthening international humanitarian law.

Mr. Jang Won (Republic of Korea): Let me join others in expressing condolences to all of the victims of Hurricane Sandy. Let me briefly emphasize two things. The Republic of Korea is supporting, and will actively participate in, the discussions leading towards the conclusion of a robust and legally binding arms trade treaty. My delegation also believes that adequate attention should be given to addressing the issue of illicit brokering activities, to raising awareness of the threat posed by illicit brokering, and to contributing to international efforts to that end. The Republic of Korea has twice co-authored with Australia the biennial General Assembly resolution on preventing and combating illicit brokering activities. My delegation would like to request the continued support of all Member States for the draft resolution presented at this year's session (A/C.1/67/L.24).

Mr. Gill (India): I would like to join other delegations in extending our heartfelt sympathies to the victims of the hurricane. We would like to thank the Chair and the Secretariat for the steps they have taken for the smooth conduct of our remaining tasks.

Since last year's session of the First Committee, several significant meetings have taken place on conventional arms under the auspices of the United Nations. We welcome the Review Conference on the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and its adoption of an outcome document (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4) by consensus.

With regard to the arms trade treaty (ATT) and the Diplomatic Conference on it held in July this year, we believe that, given the complexity of the issues involved, it was not possible for the Conference to adopt an agreed text. We believe that further work needs to be done and that a treaty of that kind, which would be legally binding when in force, should not be rushed through. India is prepared to engage in further work on an ATT in a consensus-based process and outcome.

Our views on the other major issues on the conventional weapons agenda are outlined in our written statement, which we request the Secretariat to circulate and which we request to be put up on the QuickFirst website.

In closing, I would also like to associate ourselves with the statement made by the delegation of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement on that subject (see A/C.1/67/PV.14).

Mr. Ovsyanko (Belarus) (*spoke in Russian*): We would like to join with delegations that have offered their condolences regarding the consequences of the hurricane.

Pursuant to the Chair's proposal, we will put the full text of our statement on the First Committee website. I would just like to share with the Committee a few elements of that statement.

Briefly, we believe that the uncontrolled spread of conventional weapons is a threat to peace and security and could have serious consequences. In that regard, we support the efforts aimed at establishing a new international instrument that would help deal with the key problems having to do with those issues. We note the progress made during the Conference on the Arms

Trade Treaty (ATT) which took place this year. With regard to continuing the talks on the treaty, we believe that it would be helpful — and the only possible option for achieving the universality of the treaty — if the talks were continued on a United Nations platform.

We are convinced of the need to continue the discussion in the United Nations of the issue of controlling small arms and light weapons. We welcome the final document (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4) on questions of implementing the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. In terms of the implementation of the Programme of Action on the regional level, we would just like to note the project undertaken by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the United Nations Development Programme in collaboration with Belarus on capacity-building to manage the supplies of small arms and light weapons and their safe storage, where it has been successfully implemented with the financial support of donors from among States parties to the OSCE.

Mrs. Abdullah (Iraq) (*spoke in Arabic*): I also express our condolences to those affected by Hurricane Sandy. Our statement will be posted on QuickFirst. We support the March 2013 Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty. Our Parliament ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions in October.

Mr. Tilegen (Kazakhstan): Given your request, Sir, and considering that time is limited, I would just like to mention that our statement will be distributed in the room. We request that it to be posted on the QuickFirst portal.

Mr. Iyongo (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (*spoke in French*): The Democratic Republic of the Congo conveys its condolences to the persons and States affected by Hurricane Sandy. The Democratic Republic of the Congo has submitted its statement to the Secretariat and requests that it be posted to QuickFirst.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo also takes this opportunity to express its support for the arms trade treaty process that will take place in March, and we would like to sponsor that treaty.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to Australia and Germany for their assistance regarding the issues of small arms and light weapons in our country.

Mr. Shein (Myanmar): Like those of many other delegations in the room, my heart goes out to the families of the victims of Hurricane Sandy.

Following your guidance, Sir, we would like to request, through you, that the Secretariat post my statement on the QuickFirst website.

Mr. Hoffman (Germany): I express our condolences to the victims of Hurricane Sandy.

The German delegation had planned to make two statements introducing two draft resolutions: on practical disarmament measures (A/C.1/67/L.37) and on the report of the Conference on Disarmament (A/C.1/67/L.33). We have posted both statements on QuickFirst. Furthermore, we have circulated the statement on the report of the Conference on Disarmament by e-mail to all missions today, and circulated copies in the room this afternoon. Copies of the practical disarmament measures statement are at the back of the room.

Mr. Mwinyi (United Republic of Tanzania): First of all, we would like to express our condolences to the people of the United States and the Caribbean who have been affected by Hurricane Sandy. Secondly, we would like to thank you, Mr. Chair, for your proposal to streamline the work of the Committee.

Mr. Salim (Kenya): We also express our condolences to the victims of Hurricane Sandy. We will also follow the “Sandy formula” you proposed, Sir.

While I have the floor, I would like to highlight that the Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty offered us the best opportunity to address one of the biggest challenges we currently face: the unregulated traffic in conventional arms. That we did not manage to go beyond our various fears and phantoms to complete the task, which I suspect most of us know must be done, is a pity. Members are in almost-universal agreement that the trade in arms simply needs better regulation. Members are agreed that an arms trade treaty is achievable. Therefore, if we leave aside all the expressions of deep disappointment and chagrin at the perceived failure of the Conference, we need to be cognizant of the fact that we still have work to do, and to do it urgently and properly this time.

Mr. Butao (Malawi): I am speaking on behalf of our Deputy Permanent Representative. Since we are taking the floor for the first time, let me begin by congratulating you, Sir, and ensuring you of Malawi’s

support and cooperation. Secondly, let me express our condolences to those affected by Hurricane Sandy.

We would like to align ourselves with the statement that was made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (see A/C.1/67/PV.14). Our full statement will be posted on the Committee's website.

Mr. Idris (Eritrea): My delegation also extends its sympathies to the victims of Hurricane Sandy.

Eritrea supports the proposal regarding taking forward the work of the Committee. Eritrea's statement on conventional weapons reflects our activities regarding the implementation of the Programme of Action and the Mine-Ban Treaty, as well as our views regarding the arms trade treaty. The full version of our statement will be posted on the First Committee web portal, QuickFirst. We wish to request that our statement be duly reflected in the press release.

The Chair: We now move to cluster 5, "Other disarmament measures and international security".

Mr. Abdelkhalek (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would have liked to take the floor following the representative of Indonesia, who spoke on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. However, given the limited time, I would like to state that the Arab Group, like all delegations, offers its condolences to those affected by Hurricane Sandy.

The statement of the Arab Group under cluster 5, "Other disarmament measures and international security", states that agreements are the sole way to regulate disarmament and international security issues. The Arab Group expresses its concern over the increase in international military spending and the implementation of the action plan adopted by the International Conference on Disarmament and Development. We believe that international bodies should take into account the necessary environmental measures for disarmament. Finally, we are concerned about information and communications technology being used against the interests of other countries in military, economic and social spheres. We welcome the work of the Groups of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security.

I welcome the way in which you, Mr. Chair, are creatively conducting the deliberations under the formula that you suggested. We are also grateful to the

Secretariat for having proposed that new formula. We hope that our statements will be posted on QuickFirst.

The Chair: I now give the floor to the representative of Indonesia to introduce draft resolutions A/C.1/67/L.16, A/C.1/67/L.17, A/C.1/67/L.18 and A/C.1/67/L.20.

Mr. Cassidy (Indonesia): I am honoured to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). The Movement would like to express condolences to all countries affected by Hurricane Sandy. I will not deliver NAM's whole statement. Rather, we would like to follow the Chair's proposal to have our statement reflected on the QuickFirst web portal and in the press release for this meeting.

Under cluster 5, NAM would like to introduce the following four draft resolutions: A/C.1/67/L.16, entitled "Effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium"; A/C.1/67/L.17, entitled "Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control"; A/C.1/67/L.18, entitled "Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation"; and A/C.1/67/L.20, entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development".

Ms. Hong (Singapore): As my delegation is taking the floor for the first time in this session, allow me to congratulate you, Mr. Chair, and the other members of the Bureau on your appointments. My delegation appreciates the Chair's concerns and fully supports his proposed approach in moving forward the work of the First Committee. We will therefore not be reading out our statement, the full version of which will be circulated. We would also be grateful if our full statement could be posted on the First Committee website.

My delegation would like to emphasize Singapore's full commitment to the goals of disarmament and non-proliferation. We would also like to join our First Committee colleagues in conveying our condolences to those affected by the recent hurricane.

Mr. Wu Jianjian (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): First of all, China wishes to associate itself with other delegations in expressing our sympathies and condolences to those affected by Hurricane Sandy.

At present, the international community faces the risk of the abusive use of information and communications technology. A current priority for Member States is to jointly preserve the peaceful nature of the information space and to prevent it from becoming

a new battlefield. Pursuant to that trend, China, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan jointly submitted to the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly an international code of conduct for information security. I wish to underscore the following.

The United Nations is the only appropriate forum for drawing up and establishing international rules for information security. Secondly, the code of conduct is a political document on a voluntary basis. Thirdly, our objective is that Member States will start a process to formulate international rules for information security on the basis of the code of conduct. We hope that the international community will reach consensus at an early stage.

China will provide the Secretariat with the full text of our statement. We hope that it will be posted on the website of the First Committee.

The Chair: I now give the floor to the representative of the Russian Federation to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.30.

Mr. Vasiliev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We will follow the work formula that you, Mr. Chair, proposed. This year, as a sponsor along with 35 States, the Russian Federation introduces the updated draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.30, entitled “Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security”. The draft resolution is based on resolution 66/24, of 2 December 2011. It primarily contains text clarifications with regard to the previous version. The new element welcomes the start of the work of the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security, whose first meeting was held in August. The Group’s mandate calls for it:

“to study existing and potential threats in the sphere of information security and possible cooperative measures to address them, including norms, rules or principles of responsible behaviour of States and confidence-building measures with regard to information space” (A/C.1/67/L.30, para. 4).

We hope that, continuing to build on the work of the previous Group, the current Group of Governmental Experts will develop practical measures for cooperation and coordination among countries in the area of international information security.

We would like to thank all the sponsors of our draft resolution and, bearing in mind the importance and urgency of the issue, call on States that have not yet endorsed the draft resolution to consider becoming sponsors. We look forward to the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus, as in previous years.

My full statement will be posted on the website.

The Chair: I now give the floor to the representative of Trinidad and Tobago to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.35/Rev.1.

Mr. Charles (Trinidad and Tobago): We wish to join others in offering our condolences to those affected by Hurricane Sandy in the United States, as well as our sister islands in the Caribbean — Cuba, Jamaica and Haiti, which were also negatively affected.

After we submitted draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.35 to the Secretariat, Trinidad and Tobago hosted three rounds of informal consultations and a number of bilateral meetings with a view to ascertaining the views of Member States on the draft resolution, first adopted in 2010. Draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.35/Rev.1 was the outcome of the consultations and bilateral meetings. The Secretariat has not yet been unable to post it on QuickFirst owing to the effects of Hurricane Sandy.

Trinidad and Tobago is of the view that draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.35/Rev.1 is a text that is neatly based on compromises and flexibility and recognizes the different positions of Member States. As the Committee knows, in multilateralism one does not always get everything one requests. The text of draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.35/Rev.1 is a reflection of the balanced views of Member States.

It is our view that the draft resolution will be sponsored by additional Member States. We have already received the names of more than 50 sponsors, and sponsorship is still open. We are hopeful that the draft resolution will be adopted by consensus, as was the case in 2010 when it was first introduced. We will post the full text on the QuickFirst website.

Mr. Amano (Japan): I would like to express our heartfelt condolences to the victims of Hurricane Sandy and those who were affected by it. Japan believes in the great potential of disarmament and non-proliferation education for achieving progress towards a peaceful and secure world. However, under the current exceptional circumstances, I am not going to read out the statement that I prepared for the discussion on this cluster. Instead,

I request that the full text of my prepared statement be posted on QuickFirst.

The Chair: I now give the floor to the representative of India to introduce draft decision A/C.1/67/L.54.

Mr. Gill (India): I take the floor to introduce, on behalf of my delegation, draft decision A/C.1/67/L.54, entitled “Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament”, on an item by that name to be included in the agenda of the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session.

My delegation believes that the role of science and technology in the context of international security of disarmament is an important and dynamic subject that affects the interests of all Member States. There is therefore a need for dialogue and cooperation among Member States to find a viable, forward-looking approach, taking into account current trends and possible future directions. That underpins the intent of our delegation in introducing draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.54. We hope that the First Committee will adopt it, as in previous years.

There are some other elements related to science and technology that are reflected in our full statement, which will be submitted to the Secretariat to be put on the QuickFirst website.

The Chair: With the cooperation, understanding and flexibility of members, we have now managed to move on to cluster 6, “Regional disarmament and security”.

Mr. Cassidy (Indonesia): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. As with our very short statement under cluster 5, I would like to also ask the Secretariat to put our statement on the Committee’s web portal. The full statement itself will be circulated in the room.

Mr. Farghal (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, my delegation would like to associate itself with the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

We would also like to mention a number of points contained in the Group of Arab States’ full statement on regional disarmament, given the importance of the matter for our Group.

We would like to emphasize that nuclear weapons have the potential to cause a global catastrophe, making a mass grave of the entire planet. The Middle East

is one of the most prominent areas of tension in this regard. We would like to ensure nuclear disarmament for the Middle East.

In order to implement the conclusions of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Group of Arab States participated in the discussions organized by the facilitator of the Conference and put forward many proposals.

We would like to highlight the many steps that the Arab Group has undertaken to ensure the success of the Conference, including its initiative at the International Atomic Energy Agency. The Arab Group would like to say that all delays in convening the 2012 conference in accordance with the conclusions of the 2010 Review Conference will cause us to lose ground in terms of disarmament and constitute a hindrance to nuclear non-proliferation, in particular in the Middle East, thereby undermining Member States’ policies in this area.

The Arab Group stresses the importance of putting all nuclear installations in the Middle East under nuclear safeguards agreements and of implementing the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Israel must become a signatory of that Treaty as a non-nuclear-weapon State. We hope to hold serious negotiations on nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. We hope that Israel and other countries of the region will participate constructively in the conference.

Mr. Aquino (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation has the honour of taking the floor on behalf of the member States of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR).

The members of UNASUR join other delegations in expressing their condolences for the loss of life caused by Hurricane Sandy in many sister nations. We hope that those countries will soon overcome the difficulties that they are facing.

As you have asked us to be brief in our statements, Mr. Chair, we would like to ask for the full statement of UNASUR on this cluster to be published on the QuickFirst webpage and included in any press statement on the topic.

Ms. Kennedy (United States of America): I wanted to ask a question about the draft resolution that was introduced by my good friend, the representative of

Mexico, namely, draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.46, which asserted that this proposed new body would be able to ensure the availability of resources. My delegation understands the instruction is to request statements on programme budget implications whenever there are new financial implications. I was struck by that assertion, and mystified as to how those resources would be made available. If the idea is that they would be diverted from the Conference on Disarmament, that would appear to me to be prejudging the schedule of that body. In short, I question that, and I would assert that it needs a statement on programme budget implications.

The Chair: I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee for a clarification.

Mr. Cherniavsky (Secretary of the Committee): When draft resolutions or decisions are submitted by delegations to the Secretariat, normally they are sent to Conference Services and the budget office to ascertain whether they have any possible programme budget implications. In that particular case, the document has already been sent to Conference Services, as well as to the budget office. We are still awaiting the latter's response. Therefore, at this point I cannot say what kind of programme budget implications it could have. We will probably receive a response from the budget office very soon. The only delay is probably due to Hurricane Sandy.

Mr. AlArfaj (Kuwait) (*spoke in Arabic*): We would like to express our condolences to all of those who have suffered as a result of Hurricane Sandy.

We hope to help the world emerge from the nightmare of nuclear proliferation and ultimately to rid it of nuclear arsenals and weapons of mass destruction.

Our country welcomes the Helsinki conference, aimed at creating a nuclear-weapon-free and weapons-of-mass-destruction-free zone in the Middle East. We call upon all States parties to participate in that conference.

We also call upon Israel to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to put all of its installations under the control of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

With regard to the Iranian nuclear programme, the State of Kuwait hopes that cooperation will continue between Iran, the IAEA and different countries in order to implement the international instruments, eliminate doubts regarding the objectives and nature of that

programme, eliminate the threat of that programme to Gulf States and eliminate the sanctions that can hinder regional efforts towards prosperity and development in Iran. Nonetheless, Iran and all the countries in the region have the inalienable right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination.

Mrs. Ledesma Hernández (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Cuban delegation wishes to convey its appreciation for the expressions of solidarity and sympathy for the loss of life in the wake of Hurricane Sandy and for the many material losses in the devastated cities. We thank the delegations once again for their solidarity.

With regard to the statements on the different thematic clusters that our delegation was going to present, we ask that those statements be published on the website.

The Chair: I now give the floor to the representative of Algeria to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.6.

Mr. Moktefi (Algeria) (*spoke in French*): I will have to improvise, as I do not have my text with me. Nevertheless, I would like to officially and very briefly introduce draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.6, entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region". We call for the support of all Member States for the draft resolution, which is generally adopted by consensus. It has approximately 50 sponsors, and we therefore hope for fervent support for the text.

Mr. Jabrailov (Azerbaijan): Since my delegation is taking the floor for the first time, allow me to congratulate you, Mr. Chair, on your election as Chair of the First Committee.

Azerbaijan aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

We understand that there is a tight schedule and, as delegations know, it is impossible to deliver the statement in one minute. The full version of our statement concerning regional disarmament will therefore be posted in on the QuickFirst website.

Mr. Shein (Myanmar): I shall be brief. I will send the full statement to the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat.

Mr. El Oummi (Morocco): My delegation supports the way you would like to proceed, Mr. Chair, and we

will make our statement available to delegations on the website.

The Chair: I now give the floor to the representative of Peru to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.38.

Mr. Aquino (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): Every year my delegation has the honour of introducing, on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group, draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.38, entitled “United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean”, which recognizes the important work carried out by that Centre in the activities to strengthen peace, stability and security in the region.

We ask that the complete version of our delegation’s statement on this cluster be posted on the QuickFirst website.

Mr. Najafi (Islamic Republic of Iran): My delegation associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. We will give our full statement on this cluster, “Regional disarmament and security”, to the Secretariat in order for it to be reflected in the press release.

We would like to make just one point on the 2012 Helsinki conference. In our view, that is a Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) conference, which has been decided by the States parties to the NPT, and the facilitators should report only to the 2012 and 2015 NPT Review Conference and its meeting. It was not a decision by the United Nations and cannot be considered a United Nations meeting. There is no United Nations resolution on that conference. Therefore, the 2012 conference should be considered as a subsidiary forum of the NPT Review Conference. Consequently, all the rules applicable to the NPT Review Conference should be applied to the 2012 conference. The decisions already taken consensually by the States parties to the NPT must form the basis of any decision taken therein.

The Chair: The Committee will now take up cluster 7, “Disarmament machinery”.

I give the floor to the representative of Indonesia to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.14 and draft decision A/C.1/67/L.58.

Mr. Cassidy (Indonesia): As with our previous two statements, we would like this statement to be fully

reflected in the QuickFirst web portal and in the press releases on today’s meeting.

The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) would like to introduce two drafts under cluster 7.

The first is draft decision A/C.1/67/L.58, entitled, “Open-ended Working Group on the Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament”. The second is draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.14, entitled “United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament”.

NAM requests full support for those two draft resolutions.

Mr. Abdelhalek (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): My delegation concurs with the statement of the representative of Indonesia, who spoke on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. My delegation would also like to have our statement posted on the QuickFirst website, just as we did for the two previous statements that we gave on behalf of the Group of Arab States.

Briefly, with respect to cluster 7, our Group supports the disarmament machinery and terms of reference of the United Nations, particularly with respect to the special session; a new session could then amend that machinery. The Arab Group therefore supports the holding of a fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, in accordance with NAM’s proposal.

The Conference on Disarmament must play its full role in that regard. The current impasse does not mean that the Conference itself is defective. Rather, it has to do with a lack of political will on the part of the main countries on the Conference. My delegation therefore wishes to say that we cannot give priority to one issue over others, and non-proliferation must not be done at the expense of full nuclear disarmament. We call for the cessation of production of fissile materials so that the world will be rid of the type of weaponry that depends on such materials.

Mr. Román-Morey (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): As with the previous clusters, the member States of the Union of South American Nations request that the full version of our statement under the present cluster be posted on the QuickFirst website.

The Chair: I now give the floor to the observer of the European Union for one minute.

Mr. Kos (European Union): I would like to speak on behalf of the European Union and its member States. Several other countries have aligned themselves with this statement.

First of all, I would like to express our condolences to the victims of Hurricane Sandy. I would also like to support the Chair's "Sandy formula". I will therefore be very brief.

We will be circulating the full version of our statement in the Conference Room. We would like to request the Secretariat to post our statement on QuickFirst.

At this point, I would like to say that we are convinced that it is more important than ever to have appropriately functioning disarmament machinery. At the same time, we regret that both the deliberative and negotiating bodies set up under the auspices of the General Assembly have been falling short of their agreed mandates.

Our detailed views on the First Committee, the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission will be found in the full version of our statement.

The Chair: I now give the floor to the representative of Norway to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.46.

Mr. Langeland (Norway): My country's statement has been circulated today. First, my delegation would, like others, like to express its deep condolences to the victims of Hurricane Sandy. My delegation will follow the proposed formula so that our statement will be made available for everyone. Finally, my delegation finds it encouraging that at this session the First Committee will actually seek to do something about the state of affairs in the established intergovernmental machinery and not just talk about it. We hope that we can adopt draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.46.

The Chair: Before giving the floor to the Secretary to explain the action to be taken in tomorrow's proceedings, I should like to inform the Committee that, before taking action on tomorrow's items, we will exhaust the rolling list of speakers under cluster 7.

I now give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. Cherniavsky (Secretary of the Committee): Delegations have received informal paper 1, which

contains the list of draft resolutions that the Committee will be taking action on tomorrow. With the Chair's permission, I have just received information that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/67/L.36 would like to defer taking action on that draft resolution. Therefore, delegations are asked to strike A/C.1/67/L.36 from cluster 4. Also, the clusters are self-explanatory.

I would also like to draw the Committee's attention to the paper that was distributed along with informal paper 1, which contains the ground rules for taking action on draft resolutions. That document, which has a very long history, explains in detail how we will proceed to take action.

First of all, delegations will have the opportunity to explain their positions before and after we take action on the draft resolutions, in accordance with the established practice of the Committee. Such explanations will take place before and after each cluster, but not before and after each draft resolution. That is one of the methods adopted by the Committee to expedite its work.

I would also like to draw the Committee's attention to the special provision on explanations of position by delegations before and after action is taken on draft resolutions. As delegations know, document A/67/250 set forth the parameters for the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly. In one of the paragraphs on explanations of vote, it is stated that delegations would be requested, in accordance with the established practice, to explain their positions only once, either in the Committee or in the plenary of the General Assembly.

The Committee has clearly heard the appeal from its Chair for delegations to exercise that particular right, if possible, in the plenary of the General Assembly, given the difficult time constraints we are facing now in terms of logistics and time management.

We would also appeal to delegations to approach the Secretariat with their requests for recorded votes, if any, in a timely manner, so that we would be able to prepare for taking appropriate action in that particular regard.

The Chair: We have now exhausted the time available to use for this meeting. I propose adjourning the meeting now. I understand that some participants have to go home to places with no electricity. That is the case with me.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.