

FIRST COMMITTEE

Thematic Discussions on Disarmament and International Security Agenda Items 99 (d), (e), (f) and (h) Regional Disarmament and Security

Introductory Remarks to the Presentations of the Three Regional Centres

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24 October 2016 — 10:00-13:00 — Conference Room 4

Thank you Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I make my brief presentation to the Committee, I would like to invite you to watch a video in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the three UN Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament.

It is an honor for my colleagues and I to address the First Committee on regional disarmament, under agenda item 99, and specifically on the activities of the Office for Disarmament Affairs' Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. In keeping with their mandate, the Regional Centres support regional disarmament measures, at the request of States, taking into account the specific characteristics of each region, with a view to enhancing the security of States and contributing to regional and international peace and security.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the UN Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament. During the past three decade, the Regional Centre have worked very closely with their partners, especially the Member States in advancing regional initiatives to promote arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation in their respective regions.

Since last year's First Committee, based on requests from Member States and UNODA's programme priorities, the three Regional Centres have undertaken activities mainly in the following areas:

- 1) provision of capacity building programmes and legal and technical assistance to Member States in their efforts to accede to and to implement global and regional instruments, such as the UN PoA on the illicit trade in SALW, various regional and subregional instruments on combating illicit SALW and their control, the Arms Trade Treaty, BWC, CWC and Security Council resolution 1540.

- 2) promoting dialogue and confidence building through organizing global and regional conferences and workshops on both WMD and conventional arms issues, as well as on regional security challenges.

3) undertaking advocacy and outreach activities to promote global treaties, and raise public awareness on disarmament and non-proliferation including through peace and disarmament education programme. I will leave the details of these activities to the Directors of the Regional Centres to elaborate on their respective Centre's programmes.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the inseparable and mutually reinforcing link between sustainable development and peace and security. Target 4 of Goal 16 point to the need to address and reduce the illicit arms flows, which forms a key part of a coherent and integrated approach to the prevention of armed violence, with a view to achieving sustainable peace and development.

In the final report of BMS6, States noted that the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons has implications for the realization of several Sustainable Development Goals, including those relating to peace, justice and strong institutions, poverty reduction, economic growth, health, gender equality, and safe cities and communities. States underlined the importance of the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument for attaining Goal 16 and target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

This recognition underlines the valuable role that the Regional Centres can play in contributing to the achievements of the SDGs. The Regional Centres shall continue their close cooperation with Member States requesting assistance and with relevant regional organizations; as well as with donors and other partners. We also look forward to your continued support and engagement in the activities undertaken by the three UN Regional Centres.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.