Mr. Chairman,

I have asked for the floor to introduce draft resolution contained in document A/C-1/58/L.18 entitled “Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) in the Regional and Sub-regional Context”. This, as can be seen, is a new initiative and has been tabled to address multiple factors that affect peace and security. While the UN Charter depicts the maintenance of peace and security at the global level as the primary responsibility of the international community, in practice, tensions at the regional and sub-regional levels constitute the main source of instability. These tensions contribute to arms race, endangering not only international peace and security, but also undermining efforts aimed at arms control and disarmament. Consequently, spiraling arms race, particularly in the regions of tension and conflict obstructs peaceful settlement of disputes rendering their resolution even more difficult, widen poverty and spread despair and anger.

2. Another reason that encouraged this delegation to table the draft resolution is the availability of an overwhelming body of evidence which clearly establishes that initiation of such CBMs in tension ridden regions has paid tangible dividend for peace. By lowering tensions through CBMs and peaceful dispute settlement, states can devote their resources and energies to the socio-economic advancement of their people. Such an approach could also supplement efforts for arms control and disarmament since most threats to peace and security in the post Cold War era arise mainly among States located in the same region or sub-region.

Mr. Chairman,

3. Regional arms race in the bane of development. Acquisition of military arsenals beyond the legitimate security requirements is prime cause of economic debilitation. There exists a symbiotic link between conflict and underdevelopment; between war and poverty. This insidious relationship must be broadened in order to put an end to the suffering of vast segments of mankind. Regional arms race must stop through the achievement of security at the lowest level of armaments.

4. Accordingly, a combination of political and military CBMs could help in strengthening peace and security, and also encourage regions of tension to take measures for arms control and disarmament.

5. As a result of open-ended consultations with Member States and taking cognizance of many of their concerns, the draft resolution is representative of the aspirations of a wide body of the international community. It highlights several aspects of CBMs:

- **First:** States locked in territorial and other disputes may adopt CBMs in order to prevent armed conflict either through bilateral, sub-regional or regional dialogue.

- **Second:** Renunciation of use or threat of use of force and re-affirmation of the Charter principles listed under Chapter-VI may facilitate the peaceful settlement of disputes among states.
Third: Development of CBMs which encourage maintenance of military balance amongst the regional states in the acquisition, development and deployment of various weapon systems.

Fourth: CBMs to strengthen peace along the borders to avoid conflict and prevent the unintended or accidental outbreak of hostilities, particularly in nuclearized theaters.

Mr. Chairman,

6. The preambular paragraphs of the draft resolution reiterate the basic purposes and principles of the UN Charter as also the General Assembly and Security Council resolutions relating to the prevention of armed conflicts; it recognizes the need for peaceful dialogue in the regions of tension in order to avert conflict; it welcomes the peace processes already initiated in various regions to resolve disputes through peaceful means bilaterally or through mediation by third parties; it also recognizes that regions which have already developed CBMs at bilateral, sub-regional and regional levels in the political and military fields, including arms control and disarmament, have greatly improved the climate of peace and security in their regions and contributed to the improvement of socio-economic conditions of their people.

Mr. Chairman,

7. The Operative paragraphs of the resolution call upon the Member States to refrain from the use or threat of use of force; re-affirms its commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes under Chapter-VI of the UN Charter; calls upon the Member States to open consultations and dialogue in the regions of tension and conflict without pre-conditions; urges strict compliance with bilateral, regional and international arms control and disarmament agreements to which the contending states are parties; urges also the maintenance of military balance in the regions of tension in the acquisition of weapons systems; encourages the promotion of bilateral and regional CBMs to avoid conflict and prevent unintended and accidental outbreak of hostilities.

8. The draft resolution also requests the Secretary General to consult the regional states and ascertain their views with a view to promoting CBMs in the regions of tension.

9. My delegation believes that the resolution serves as a platform for all regions of tension and conflict by encouraging states to address their disputes in a peaceful manner and to avert the specter of war and destruction. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, my delegation hopes that the draft resolution contained in document L.18 will be adopted with the full consent of this Committee.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.