STATEMENT

by

Ms. Charlene Roopnarine,

Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations

on

Agenda Item 96 (r) - Draft resolution entitled: “Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control” contained in document A/C.1/69/L.47

under

Cluster 5: “Other Disarmament Measures and International Security”

United Nations Headquarters
October 28, 2014
Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Jamaica on behalf of the Caribbean Community ("CARICOM").

I take the floor to introduce the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/69/L.47 entitled: "Women, disarmament, non - proliferation and arms control", under agenda item 96 (r).

Mr. Chairman,

This resolution was first introduced in 2010 and since that period, the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago and the co-sponsors of the resolution have invited the First Committee of the General Assembly to recognize in a comprehensive manner, the role of women including in decision-making processes relating to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

On each occasion since then, the First Committee of the General Assembly adopted the following resolutions on this subject, resolutions 65/69 of 2010, 67/48 of 2012 and 68/33 of 2013. It should be noted, Mr. Chairman, that these resolutions transcend the notion of women as victims of armed conflict and armed violence and provide an acknowledgment of and support for women’s participation and their actual and potential contribution to the process of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

Mr. Chairman,

The draft resolution now before us (contained in document L.47), builds on its predecessor resolutions and reflects recent progress made in the area of disarmament, non – proliferation and arms control and related matters. The draft is expansive in scope and highlights specific strengthened commitments which identify concrete initiatives, States are being requested to undertake and to accord priority to the leadership role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

It will be recalled, Mr. Chairman, that resolution 68/33 only provided technical updates and there were no substantive changes to the text contained in resolution 67/48. Consequently, we are now taking the opportunity to highlight what we consider to be important changes to bring the resolution in line with what has transpired over the last two years as they relate to the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. Accordingly, there is language relating to women’s participation in preventing the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, bearing in mind the significant work being done to curb the illicit trade in small arms
and light weapons, especially in regions which are disproportionately affected by this illicit trade.

In the same vein, Mr. Chairman, we also wish to acknowledge the imminent entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty on December 24, 2014 and language in the Arms Trade Treaty which addresses the issue of serious acts of violence against women and children.

After informal consultations of the whole, as well as bilateral consultations, a large number of States including co-sponsors and others, articulated that progressive discourse on the issue of women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control cannot be delinked from the Arms Trade Treaty, and such discourse would be deficient if there is no mention of the important role women could play in assisting in the implementation of a number of provisions in the Arms Trade Treaty.

Additionally, Mr. Chairman, the draft resolution, for the first time, encourages Member States to strengthen the collection of data disaggregated by sex and age, in order to better understand the impact of armed violence, in particular, the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons on women and girls. This paragraph seeks to have an adequate knowledge base through data collection, in which to guide national policies and programmes in addressing the extent to which women and girls are disproportionately affected by armed violence.

Mr. Chairman,

Trinidad and Tobago and the co-sponsors of the draft resolution have concluded that this draft resolution should be implemented efficiently and effectively and that there should be a reasonable amount of time for the preparation of reports and consequently recommends that the First Committee should address the issue on a biennial basis, as opposed to an annual basis, which is the practice to date. Having the resolution adopted biennially would provide Member States with appropriate time flexibility on which to report on their implementation of the current resolution.

In this regard, we thank the Secretary General for his report on the measures taken by Member States to implement resolution 68/33 and request the Secretary General to report further, on Member States’ implementation of the current resolution.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, Trinidad and Tobago and the co-sponsors of this draft text and others, strongly believe that document L.47 is more streamlined and focused in its intent.
If one may use the number of co-sponsors as an indicator of the interest shown in the potential of this draft resolution, then it is noteworthy that there has been a progressive increase in the number of co-sponsors of this resolution since its birth in 2010.

Trinidad and Tobago takes this opportunity to thank the co-sponsors and all other delegations which have shown tremendous flexibility during the informal consultations and bilateral consultations on contents of the draft resolution which have enriched the text before us today. Having regard to the importance of this matter to the international community as it relates to women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, we are once again requesting the support of all Member States for this draft resolution to be adopted by consensus as with previous resolutions on this matter.

I thank you.