

PRESIDENTIAL REPORT TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT ON PART I OF THE 2007 SESSION

1. On 24 January 2007 Ambassador Mtshali of South Africa in her capacity as the President of the Conference on Disarmament announced that the 2007 Presidents of the Conference have appointed the following as Co-ordinators:

Ambassador Wegger Strømme of Norway for agenda item 1 entitled "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament", Ambassador Carlo Trezza of Italy for agenda item 2 entitled "Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters", Ambassador Paul Meyer of Canada for agenda item 3 entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space", Ambassador Carlos Paranhos of Brazil for agenda item 4 entitled "Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons", Ambassador Petko Draganov of Bulgaria for agenda item 5 entitled "New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons", Ambassador Makarim Wibisono of Indonesia for agenda item 6 entitled "Comprehensive programme of disarmament", and Ambassador John Duncan of the United Kingdom for agenda item 7 entitled "Transparency in armaments".

2. The 2007 Presidents of the Conference have undertaken to assess the work done during the first part of the session and to propose a way forward for the second part of the session. This report is based on their interaction with and inputs received from all Co-ordinators, their own participation in the plenaries and the informal meetings, bilateral consultations with all delegations, and meetings with groups and group co-ordinators.

3. During the first part of the session the Coordinators have chaired a large number of informal meetings under the authority of the 2007 Presidents of the Conference, during which the member States had the opportunity to carry out thorough discussions on all agenda items.

(a) The informal meetings under agenda item 1 covered a wide spectrum of issues, including a

possible convention prohibiting nuclear weapons, other legal instruments, a phased programme on nuclear disarmament, as well as transparency and confidence-building measures. Several other specific measures were also discussed.

- (b) The informal meetings under agenda item 2 covered several issues but delegations tended to focus on a possible treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices.
- (c) The informal meetings under agenda item 3 covered several issues related to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, including possible elements of a future international legal instrument on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space, as well as proposals for transparency and confidence-building measures.
- (d) The informal meetings under agenda item 4 covered several issues, including a possible legally binding instrument to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, as well as nuclear-weapon-free zones.
- (e) During the informal meetings under agenda item 5, a variety of issues related to this agenda item was raised. Delegations expressed their views on these issues and their relevance to the Conference.
- (f) The informal meetings under agenda item 6 identified a wide spectrum of issues, some of which were dealt with by other Co-ordinators or in other fora.
- (g) During the informal meetings under agenda item 7, a variety of issues were raised. Delegations expressed their views on these issues and their relevance to the Conference.

4. The above has given ground for the assessment that:

- (a) a certain momentum has been created to move the Conference on Disarmament out of its longstanding stalemate and that every effort should now be made to actually do so;
- (b) there exists a general recognition that this requires a fair amount of give and take by all delegations;
- (c) the method of working with Co-ordinators has been useful and appreciated and should continue;
- (d) in some areas progress could be facilitated if the system of Co-ordinators was given a more structured form;
- (e) during the second part of the session the Conference should focus on issues where there exists a critical mass of common ground to build upon;

- (f) to move the work of the Conference forward substantively, it would be necessary for the Conference to take a formal decision;
- (g) there is a general readiness to begin negotiations, without any preconditions, on a non-discriminatory multilateral treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices; continued focused work on issues under agenda items 1, 3 and 4 carries the potential of establishing common ground on which to move towards future negotiations;
- (h) all agenda items should be kept open for proposals and efforts that might be brought forward later during the session and appropriate time should be allocated during the second part of the session for agenda items 5,6 and 7.

5. In view of the above, the 2007 Presidents of the Conference on Disarmament propose the following:

Decision by the Conference

The Conference on Disarmament decides, without prejudice to future work and negotiations on its agenda items,

1. To appoint Ambassador Strømme as Co-ordinator to preside over substantive discussions on nuclear disarmament and the prevention of nuclear war.

The Co-ordinator shall present a report to the Conference on Disarmament on the progress of the work before the conclusion of the second part of the current session.

2. To appoint Ambassador Trezza as Co-ordinator to preside over negotiations, without any preconditions, on a non-discriminatory and multilateral treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

The Co-ordinator shall present a report to the Conference on Disarmament on the progress of the work before the conclusion of the second part of the current session.

3. To appoint Ambassador Meyer as Co-ordinator to preside over substantive discussions dealing with issues related to Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space.

The Co-ordinator shall present a report to the Conference on Disarmament on the progress of the work before the conclusion of the second part of the current session.

4. To appoint Ambassador Paranhos as Co-ordinator to preside over substantive discussions dealing with appropriate international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

The Co-ordinator shall present a report to the Conference on Disarmament on the progress of the work before the conclusion of the second part of the current session.

Complementary Presidential Statement

Following the above decision by the Conference on the appointment of four Co-ordinators for specific issues, there is also an understanding in the Conference that Co-ordinators for the agenda items previously appointed by the 2007 Presidents of the Conference will continue their work, as appropriate and under the authority of the 2007 Presidents of the Conference, during the second part of the current session.
