

# CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/PV.1070  
12 June 2007

ENGLISH

---

## FINAL RECORD OF THE ONE THOUSAND AND SEVENTIETH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Tuesday, 12 June 2007, at 10.05 a.m.

President: Ms. Elisabet BORSIIN BONNIER (Sweden)

The PRESIDENT: I declare open the 1070th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament. I have two speakers on my list, the United States of America as well as Germany.

Before giving them the floor, I will just briefly update the Conference, as I promised to do at our last plenary. I have during the week consulted and have carried out open-ended informal consultations by the President, and we have then explored whether the vehicle of a complementary Presidential statement could help us to find a way out of our stalemate. I feel that we have not exhausted the consultations on that possibility yet.

My plans are therefore to have another round of open-ended informal Presidential consultations, and they will follow 10 minutes after the closure of this meeting and will take place in this room. I then intend to have the next formal plenary meeting on Thursday, 14 June, at 10 a.m. in this room. The purpose of that is to circulate the result, if there is one, from the consultations of my office.

I see a bird in the room. That reminds me of one remark by one delegation a short while ago as we were discussing the possibility and the text of a Presidential statement. He looked at the text very approvingly and he said, "Listen, if this bird doesn't fly, the bird doesn't have wings." So I take it as a good omen that we have this flying bird in the room.

So, with those remarks, I will now give the floor to the first speaker on my list, the Ambassador of the United States of America.

Ms. ROCCA (United States of America): Madam President, I take the floor today to express the United States' support for your efforts.

We share the frustration expressed by many over the past few weeks in regards to the CD's current stalemate. Unilateral, bilateral, and other multilateral arms control and disarmament efforts have far outpaced the CD in recent years, which has led many to question the body's legitimacy. Movement over recent months left the United States hopeful that the Conference was on the brink of starting substantive work, including the drafting of an FMCT. As we have stated before, we understand that L.1 is the best possible compromise and as such leaves many delegations, including ours, wishing for more. But we recognize it as the best chance to move this body forward.

We acknowledge the urgency in the need to increase cooperative efforts to confront the real threats to international security and are ready to get to work. Madam President, our delegation appreciates your candour and efforts to mobilize the Conference, at a time when most delegations hold negative perceptions of the fate of this session of the CD.

Yet, even with the current deadlock, the United States has many reasons to remain positive. In that regard, let me share with you an announcement made in Washington last week.

As you know, in 2004 President Bush directed the size of the nuclear weapons stockpile be reduced by 50 per cent by 2012, resulting in the smallest stockpile since the 1950s. Last week, the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) announced that it

(Ms. Rocca, United States)

had increased the rate of nuclear weapons dismantlements by 50 per cent over last year's level, and will continue at the sharply higher rate for the rest of the year. At the beginning of fiscal year 2007, NNSA established a goal to increase the dismantlement rate of retired nuclear weapons by nearly 50 per cent, but because of dramatic improvements in procedures, tools and policies NNSA was able to reach this goal four months ahead of schedule.

Once these weapons are dismantled, the plutonium will be placed in highly secure storage, until a facility is constructed and operating to turn the material into fuel to be burned. This plutonium disposition programme, based on the 2000 non-proliferation agreement between Russia and the United States, aims to eliminate 68 metric tons of weapon-grade plutonium in both countries by the end of 2007.

Dismantling nuclear weapons is complex and expensive. In order to increase its dismantlement capacity, the NNSA made substantial investments in previous years across the nuclear-weapons complex to hire additional technicians, purchase the right equipment and tools, and develop better safety and security procedures. As a result of the increase in dismantlements and reductions, today's stockpile is one quarter of its size at the end of the cold war.

The United States remains hopeful, because it is making its own efforts in nuclear disarmament. We will not stand still on the issue of reducing nuclear weapons pending some multilateral agreement. We are taking the necessary steps to reduce our stockpile of nuclear weapons in efforts to make the world a safer place for all.

The CD has the potential to be part of the action in this goal. The United States will continue to support the initiatives in the CD and keep hope that substantive work will soon end this hiatus, but we will also continue to participate in cooperative efforts elsewhere to advance common goals and strengthen international peace and security.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the distinguished Ambassador of the United States of America for her statement and also for the encouraging remarks addressed to the Chair.

The next speaker on my list is the Ambassador of Germany.

Mr. BRASACK (Germany): I have one short, unprepared statement. The statement is about the Heiligendamm statement on non-proliferation adopted last Friday by the G-8. Yesterday I submitted this paper, together with another paper on the fight against nuclear terrorism, to the secretariat, with a request to issue it as an official document of the CD, but since that might take time I thought it would be useful just to update orally on the language which refers to this august body we are sitting in. So I am very selectively, I must admit, mentioning some of the issues in the document and you will have in due time the opportunity to study that document yourselves.

The non-proliferation declaration contains 20 paragraphs, and I shall read out paragraph 9, which is in direct connection with this body. As I mentioned, "We strongly support the endeavours under way to overcome the stalemate in the Conference on Disarmament. We reaffirm our support to the early commencement of negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty."

(Mr. Brasack, Germany)

Further paragraphs, and I am selecting here two or three of these paragraphs, paragraph 2 says, “The global proliferation challenge requires determined action and international cooperation on the basis of a broad and multifaceted approach. To be successful we need to work jointly with other partners and through relevant international institutions, in particular those of the United Nations system, to strengthen all instruments available for combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.”

Paragraph 4: “We reaffirm our commitment to the multilateral treaty system which provides the normative basis for all non-proliferation efforts. The strengthening and universalization of WMD-related treaties, in particular the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, are therefore a key priority. These three treaties continue to be essential instruments to maintain international peace and security and are the cornerstones of the international regime for non-proliferation and disarmament.”

Paragraph 5: “We will continue to encourage States to fulfil their obligations under the multilateral treaty regimes and to help States in effectively implementing those obligations at their national levels, inter alia by accounting for, securing and physically protecting sensitive materials.”

The PRESIDENT: I thank you for your statement.

I have no more speakers on my list. Does any delegation wish to take the floor at this stage? That does not seem to be the case.

That concludes our business for today at this plenary meeting. Our next formal plenary meeting will be held this Thursday, 14 June, at 10 a.m. also in this room.

Before adjourning this plenary meeting, I will just remind delegations that you are all invited to my open-ended informal consultations on a complementary statement. They will begin in 5 to 10 minutes in this room.

This meeting stands adjourned.

The meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.