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# Conference on Disarmament

2 February 2010

English

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## Final record of the one thousand one hundred and sixty-fifth plenary meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Tuesday, 2 February 2010, at 10.15 a.m.

*President:* Mr. Md. Abdul Hannan.....(Bangladesh)

**The President:** I declare open the 1165th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

Allow me to welcome the new Ambassador of Sri Lanka, Ms. Kshenuka Senewiratne, and Ambassador Gerard Corr of Ireland and assure them of our cooperation in discharging their duties.

First of all, I appreciate your cooperation in adopting the agenda for the 2010 session of the Conference at the last plenary meeting on Tuesday, 26 January. I also thank you for your participation during last week's address to the Conference by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh.

I have a list of delegations who have requested to take the floor during today's plenary meeting. I first give the floor to the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mr. Ri Jang Gon.

**Mr. Ri Jang Gon** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Mr. President, it is my pleasure as coordinator to inform the Conference of the common views of the Group of 21. On behalf of the Group of 21, allow me to sincerely congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament and to assure you of our full support and cooperation in your endeavours to move the Conference on Disarmament forward towards fulfilling its mandate.

The Group of 21 thanks the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, Dr. Dipu Moni, for her address at the last plenary meeting and expresses its sincere appreciation for the transparent and inclusive manner in which the Bangladesh presidency is presiding over the proceedings of the Conference.

The Group of 21 is fully committed to extending its cooperation to the 2010 session of presidents during their respective presidencies, and to other members of the Conference, and will remain constructively engaged in the work of the Conference, as we have done in the past. The Group of 21 looks forward to a fruitful 2010 session of the Conference.

The Group of 21, consisting mainly of countries of the developing world, attaches great importance to the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating body. The achievement of total nuclear disarmament remains a long-standing commitment and priority of the Group of 21.

The Group of 21 would like to highlight that in the Final Document of the 2009 Sharm El Sheikh Summit, the Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement "reaffirmed the importance of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) as the sole multilateral negotiating body on disarmament, and reiterated their call on the CD to agree on a balanced and comprehensive programme of work by, inter alia, establishing an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament as soon as possible and as the highest priority. They emphasized the necessity to start negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified framework of time, including a Nuclear Weapons Convention. They reaffirmed the importance of the unanimous conclusion of the ICJ that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and to bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control".

The Group of 21 recalls that the Conference on Disarmament adopted a programme of work for the 2009 session of the Conference thanks to a demonstration of flexibility by all member States. The Group of 21 will continue to demonstrate such flexibility and invites other groups to show matching flexibility.

The Group of 21 believes that the member States will be able to reach consensus in providing the Conference on Disarmament with a balanced and comprehensive programme of work by taking into account the concerns of all States.

I would like to conclude by reiterating our readiness to make a constructive contribution to the work of the Conference.

**The President:** I thank the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for his statement on behalf of the Group of 21. I now give the floor to Ambassador Omar Hilale of Morocco.

**Mr. Hilale (Morocco)** (*spoke in French*): Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure first of all to extend the Moroccan delegation's congratulations to you on your accession to the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament and to assure you that you have the active support of my delegation in ensuring the success of our work. Your experience and your country's commitment to disarmament are great assets that should make it possible for us to tackle the challenges facing the Conference on Disarmament. The encouraging statement by your country's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Dipu Moni, testifies to the importance that your country attaches to the goals of the Conference. I should also like to join you in welcoming the new Ambassadors of Sri Lanka and Ireland and to assure them that my delegation is committed to working together with them in the Conference.

The 2010 session of the Conference on Disarmament is taking place in an international environment that is conducive to disarmament negotiations. The international community looks forward with hope to a number of forthcoming events. First of all, the joint statements by the United States of America and the Russian Federation bode well for an imminent agreement on a new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START). The success of those negotiations will do much to strengthen international peace and security. Secondly, the Global Nuclear Security Summit, which is being organized at the initiative of President Obama and is to be held in Washington in April 2010, will be an important meeting in the context of international non-proliferation efforts. Thirdly, the eighth NPT Review Conference is scheduled to take place this May in New York. It will offer an opportunity to revitalize international efforts to strengthen the non-proliferation system. That Conference will have the task of strengthening the NPT, the cornerstone of non-proliferation, which has been severely tested in recent years by disturbing threats to world peace and security.

The positive atmosphere generated by these forthcoming events was preceded by a number of encouraging developments. For instance, the Conference on Disarmament adopted its programme of work in 2009 after years of inaction. Meanwhile, on 24 September 2009, the Security Council adopted at its summit resolution 1887 (2009) on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament by a unanimous vote and for the first time in the Council's history. Observers considered this resolution to be a strong point on the disarmament agenda.

The same feeling of optimism was seen during the Article XIV Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty held in New York on 24 and 25 September 2009 under the co-presidency of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Morocco and France, Mr. Taïb Fassi-Fihri and Mr. Bernard Kouchner. Numerous dignitaries participated in the Conference, including United States Secretary of State, Ms. Hilary Clinton, who reiterated her country's commitment to work for ratification of the Treaty. We also welcome the announcement made at the Conference by the Chinese Minister for Foreign Affairs, who said that his country intended to collaborate with the international community for the entry into force of the Treaty.

These developments in 2009 and those we anticipate in 2010 are positive, encouraging and promising. They have generated an impetus which the Conference on Disarmament should exploit fully. It has been a long time since a session of the Conference

on Disarmament opened in an environment so favourable to its purpose and its primary function as a multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. Given that the Conference on Disarmament is a reflection of the will of its member States, it is imperative that its members come together with political goodwill to implement its mandate.

Moved by this ambition, we join in the appeal by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, who said in his message to the Conference on Disarmament at the opening of the session that 2010 should be a historic year for disarmament and non-proliferation. We therefore urge all members to show flexibility, put aside their differences and focus on what is most important to achieve the ultimate goal we all desire: a nuclear-weapon-free world. The dialogue and spirit of compromise that prevailed during the adoption of the agenda, thanks to the enlightened leadership of the President and the flexibility of all members, should serve as a leitmotif for adopting the programme of work as quickly as possible. International public opinion would never understand if the Conference on Disarmament failed to take advantage of the impetus we have seen around the world for disarmament.

This is why the prompt resumption of negotiations within this forum is an international priority and would allow the Conference on Disarmament to meet the international community's expectations with regard to international peace and security.

To this end, the Conference on Disarmament must take an integrated and pragmatic approach as it reviews the pressing international issues on which it is to negotiate.

First of all, it is urgent that we draft a treaty banning the production of fissile materials. This instrument should be non-discriminatory, verifiable and should include mechanisms for stockpile management. The current conditions and the clear commitment of the nuclear Powers are propitious for renewing the Shannon mandate.

Secondly, it is important to commence negotiations for the conclusion of a binding treaty on negative security assurances to protect non-nuclear States against nuclear threat. Unilateral declarations whereby nuclear Powers undertake to apply the principle of non-first use of nuclear weapons are inadequate because they are not legally binding and are reversible.

In this context, the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones, including one in the Middle East, is an essential component of the non-proliferation process. The denuclearization of the Middle East is not only imperative for world peace and security, but is also a security need for all the countries of the region. What is more, it would strengthen the negotiations aimed at resolving the Middle East problem, which we all fervently hope will resume as soon as possible.

Thirdly, the prevention of an arms race in outer space is more timely than ever, owing to the rampant militarization of space and the growing number of countries with space capabilities. Outer space is part of world heritage and should be used only for peaceful communal means.

International terrorist networks are using increasingly sophisticated means to carry out destructive attacks. This is of the utmost concern to us, especially since several credible international reports indicate that non-State actors and terrorist networks are frantically seeking to acquire material that can be used for purposes of mass destruction. International terrorists are open about their intentions to acquire or create "dirty bombs" in order to provoke psychological shock by inflicting as many civilian casualties as possible. International cooperation is thus more necessary than ever to prevent nuclear terrorism.

Cognizant of this growing threat to international security, Morocco has for several years joined in the international community's efforts to combat this modern scourge that no cause can justify. It is within this context that the Kingdom of Morocco held an

international seminar in Rabat from 3 to 5 June 2009 on the prevention of illicit trafficking in nuclear and radioactive materials. That meeting, the second of its kind following one held in 2008, sought to consider ways of implementing principle 3 of the action plan of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism for the detection and prevention of trafficking in radioactive materials.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I should like to reiterate the importance my country attaches to all questions relating to multilateral disarmament and our commitment to working with all members towards a rapid resumption of the substantive work of the Conference.

**The President:** I thank Ambassador Hilale for his statement. I now give the floor to Ambassador Valery Loshchinin of the Russian Federation.

**Mr. Loshchinin** (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Thank you, Mr. President. Allow me to welcome you, Ambassador Hannan, as President of the Conference on Disarmament. We are pleased to see you — a representative of Bangladesh, a country with which we enjoy friendly relations — in this responsible position. You can always count in your work on the unfailing support and cooperation of the Russian delegation. We would like to express our gratitude to the P-6 of 2009 for their efforts to achieve progress. We hope that the P-6 for 2010 will make a significant contribution to the Conference. We also wish to welcome the new Ambassador of Sri Lanka and wish her success in our joint endeavours in the Conference on Disarmament.

The Conference has already taken its first important step this year by agreeing the agenda of the forum. Unfortunately, this was not easy. Delegations had to demonstrate flexibility and a readiness to negotiate on an issue that had been considered traditional. We hope that the spirit of mutual understanding will prevail in subsequent stages of the Conference's work, including when decisions are made on the programme of work.

We are beginning our work in a decisive period. Many initiatives have been taken over the past year to improve the international situation. These milestone events included the Russian-American negotiations on the elaboration of a new treaty on the reduction of strategic offensive arms based on the understandings reached by Presidents Medvedev and Obama, and the United Nations Security Council summit on non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, as well as a number of other events.

Russia considers it important to take advantage of this new mood in favour of solving practical tasks in the area of security. Our delegation's work is therefore focused on facilitating the emergence of multilateral disarmament issues from the long-standing impasse and the resumption of the substantive work of the Conference on Disarmament. At the same time, we are proceeding from the need for strict compliance with the existing international legal framework for multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation, its universalization and the elaboration, where necessary, of new arms control agreements. We believe that the United Nations must continue to play a central role in collective efforts on peacekeeping and international security and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, as well as in countering new challenges and threats.

An unquestioned priority for us on the disarmament agenda is ensuring the stable functioning and strengthening of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, increasing its effectiveness and rendering it universal. We are convinced that the challenges facing the nuclear non-proliferation regime should be addressed on the basis of the Treaty. We see the main task of the forthcoming Review Conference in 2010 as elaborating coordinated and "implementable" recommendations capable of preserving the future effectiveness of the Treaty and based on a precise balance between all three fundamental pillars of the NPT: non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and peaceful use of atomic energy.

The intensification of non-proliferation efforts is also dictated by the threat of WMD falling into the hands of terrorists. We call on all States that have not yet done so to join the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism proposed in July 2006 by the Presidents of Russia and the United States of America.

Russia is taking practical steps to accelerate the process of nuclear disarmament. Our country is fulfilling its obligations in that area in good faith, both under bilateral agreements and in accordance with article 6 of the NPT. We have completed implementation of START I, and we are complying with the provisions of the Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty. The negotiations with the United States of America on a new treaty to replace START I that will ensure the further substantial limitation of strategic offensive arms have entered their final stage. The Russian delegation at those negotiations is prepared to work towards a constructive outcome so that a treaty may be signed in the near future.

Russia has fully implemented a unilateral presidential initiative of 1991 and 1992 on the reduction of non-strategic nuclear weapons.

We confirm our commitment to the INF Treaty on intermediate-range nuclear forces. Moreover, we believe that the implementation of the proposal made by the Russian President on 12 October 2007 concerning the globalization of the INF regime could be an important factor in strengthening international peace and security at both the global and regional levels.

We are also in favour of the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) as one of the most important instruments for strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and limiting nuclear weapons. As you know, Russia ratified the Treaty in 2000, and we have consistently advocated its early entry into force. Maintaining the moratorium on nuclear tests, for all the importance of that measure, cannot replace States' legal obligations. We therefore call on all countries, particularly those on whom the Treaty's entry into force depends, to sign and ratify it as soon as possible.

Russia welcomes initiatives aimed at giving impetus to the process of genuine disarmament. Many of them, notably the Hoover initiative, the Global Zero initiative, the Evans-Kawaguchi commission report and the activities of the Luxembourg Forum, are certainly of great interest, particularly insofar as they touch on the issues of nuclear disarmament and strengthening the international non-proliferation system, first and foremost the NPT, and the understanding that deep reductions in nuclear weapons are possible only in conditions in which the principle of indivisibility and equal security for all is respected.

We support intensified multilateral diplomacy in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, particularly within the United Nations and the Conference on Disarmament. We note the important role of the Conference in the cause of strengthening international security. We would like to express our gratitude to all delegations, as well as to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, and the Secretary-General of the Conference, Mr. Sergei Ordzhonikidze, for their efforts to increase the effectiveness of this forum, including their persistent efforts to form a consensus on the agenda for the 2010 session. It is in the interests of Russia for the substantive work of our forum to resume as soon as possible. We are in favour of the early adoption of a programme of work for the Conference for 2010 similar to the programme of work for 2009 (CD/1864).

Preventing the militarization of outer space continues to be our top priority in the Conference. The draft treaty on prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space, introduced by Russia and China in February 2008, if implemented, will contribute not only to preventing the appearance of weapons in outer space but also to ensuring the predictability of the strategic situation and international security in general. This is in the interests of all States enjoying the benefits of a peaceful outer space. Discussions on this

draft in various formats, including international conferences, have revealed a high level of interest in this issue in the world community.

I should like to point out that our consent to the discussion mandate for the working group on prevention of an arms race in outer space implies — and we wish to stress this — that, subsequently, when the situation is ripe, work on this issue will move into a negotiating format.

At the end of last year's session, together with China, we submitted for the consideration of the Conference an official document (CD/1872) summarizing the outcome of the discussions already held in the forum and containing reaction to the comments received regarding the draft treaty.

The Russian delegation is also prepared to discuss nuclear disarmament issues. Russia supports the commencement of negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. The elaboration of such a treaty, in our view, would be a multilateral measure in the area of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and, consequently, a real contribution to the strengthening of the NPT regime. We also support the establishment of a working group with a discussion mandate for substantive consideration of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. We are in favour of developing a global agreement on security assurances, taking into account Russia's military doctrine in this area. We support the expansion of the geographical scope of nuclear-weapon-free zones in the context of solving the problems related to such assurances. We welcome the establishment of new zones, particularly in Central Asia.

The agenda we have adopted offers us an opportunity to discuss the broadest range of key international security issues.

Mr. President, you, as the first President of the 2010 session of the Conference, have the difficult duty of preparing the basic framework for and organizing the practical work of the session. Our main common task is to reach consensus as soon as possible on a programme of work that will satisfy all States without exception and to resume the substantive work of the forum. In conclusion, I would like to endorse what the Secretary-General of the United Nations said in his video message to us: "I believe that the year 2010 can be a historic year for progress in disarmament and non-proliferation."

**The President:** I thank Ambassador Loshchinin for his statement. I now give the floor to Ambassador Gerard Corr of Ireland.

**Mr. Corr** (Ireland): Mr. President, first of all, allow me to assure you, and your colleagues who will preside over this Conference in 2010, of the full support and cooperation of my delegation.

It has been customary in the past for permanent representatives, on taking up duty, to set out their countries' approaches to various matters relevant to this Conference. I do not intend to do so in detail, for a number of reasons. First, because Ireland's position on the various issues is well known and has been consistently held over many years. Second, because there is no ongoing substantive work in this Conference on which it is necessary to comment. Nonetheless I believe it useful to recall briefly some of our views on the most important issues before the Conference. Needless to say, my delegation endorses the statement delivered by the representative of Spain on 19 January on behalf of the European Union.

First and foremost, Ireland attaches the highest priority to the complete and verifiable elimination of all nuclear weapons. It is high time that nuclear weapons joined chemical and biological weapons among the weapons outlawed by the international

community. As has been highlighted on numerous occasions over recent decades, including by the New Agenda Coalition, to which my country belongs, as long as any State has nuclear weapons, others will want them, and any use of a nuclear weapon would be catastrophic. The only way to deal with the threat to humanity posed by nuclear weapons, therefore, is to eliminate them.

Pending the complete and verifiable elimination of all nuclear weapons, Ireland supports the taking of practical steps to prevent their further proliferation and avoid nuclear war. This has been our consistent policy since 1958, when Ireland tabled, at the United Nations General Assembly, the first of a series of resolutions which ultimately led to the conclusion of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

There are several steps which can be taken in the short term to facilitate nuclear disarmament. We wish to see the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the conclusion of which was one of this Conference's most recent achievements. We call on those States on which the treaty's entry into force depends to live up to their responsibilities.

We believe that this Conference should add to its list of achievements a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. The negotiation of such a treaty is long overdue. We believe that, for such a treaty to be meaningful, it should include a verification mechanism and cover existing stocks. The negotiation and conclusion of such a treaty would limit the expansion of existing nuclear arsenals and therefore can be understood as a significant step in a phased programme towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Also pending the elimination of nuclear weapons, Ireland strongly believes that those States which have become parties, as non-nuclear-weapon States, to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons have the right to expect legally-binding assurances that nuclear weapons will not be used against them.

The 65-year history of the existence of nuclear weapons is proof, if proof were needed, of the difficulty of undoing developments in the creation and deployment of weapons. It is a strong argument for the adoption of a preventative approach where possible, and for that reason Ireland strongly supports the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

While the foregoing issues are commonly regarded as the "core issues" before the Conference on Disarmament, Ireland does not exclude that the Conference may be able to do valuable work in other areas.

This Conference has more than enough work waiting to be done. It is therefore deeply disappointing that the Conference has not managed to engage in the substantive work of negotiation for almost a decade and a half. Hopes were raised last year with the adoption in May of a programme of work. All too soon, however, the Conference's inability to implement its own consensus decision led many to conclude that it was back to what one of my predecessors in 2006 described as "no business, as usual".

As my delegation has stated before in this room, Ireland has not seen any meaningful work done here since we became a member of the Conference in August 1999. During this time, three of my predecessors have arrived in this chamber at the commencement of their tours of duty, hoping to see the Conference resume its role of negotiation during their time in Geneva. They have been disappointed. I sincerely hope that I will be able to leave here with a more positive tale to tell.

We are pleased that the Conference has reached agreement on its agenda for 2010. It is important now to move forward without delay to agree on a programme of work. We believe that the results of the painstaking efforts undertaken in 2009 offer a solid



foundation for our activities in 2010, and look forward to the early commencement of substantive work.

Ireland continues to attach the highest importance to engagement with civil society. As well as the adoption of a programme of work, the year 2009 was notable for one other development which was especially welcome to my delegation – the fact that the Conference, for the first time, held informal meetings at which representatives of non-governmental organizations made statements on issues related to the agenda items of the Conference. My delegation hopes that this positive experience can be repeated and will lay the ground for enhanced interaction between civil society and the Conference, to our mutual benefit.

Finally, I mentioned that my country became a member of this Conference in August 1999. It did so in the company of four other States: Ecuador, Kazakhstan, Malaysia and Tunisia. We remain the most recent countries to be admitted to membership of the Conference. The active involvement of Ireland in disarmament issues did not begin with our membership of the Conference – on the contrary, it dates back many decades. Similarly, there are countries today which, despite being active in a host of other multilateral forums are excluded from membership of this body. The further enlargement of the membership of the Conference is an issue deserving of attention, together with consideration of whether its working methods are fit for purpose in today's world.

Allow me to conclude, Mr. President, by wishing you and your P-6 colleagues the very best in your leadership of our work during 2010.

**The President:** I thank Ambassador Corr for his statement. I now give the floor to Ambassador Angelino Garzón of Colombia.

**Mr. Garzón (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*):** Thank you, Mr. President. On behalf of Colombia I should like to join previous speakers in welcoming the new Ambassador of Sri Lanka and the new Ambassador of Ireland. The Colombian delegation also wishes to endorse the statement made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as coordinator of the Group of 21.

As this is the Colombian delegation's first statement in a plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament this year, allow me to congratulate you, Mr. President, on assuming the presidency of the Conference and to express our full support for the job you and your team are doing at a crucial time for this forum. We are confident that your extensive diplomatic experience will help to make our work proceed smoothly.

I should also like to take this opportunity to express our support for the other five countries that make up the P-6, a mechanism that we believe has proven useful for advancing the work of the Conference.

Mr. President, the presence of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh here last week had a very positive impact. Her message was a clear sign of Bangladesh's political will, which is necessary as we work towards a single goal: ensuring that the States members of the Conference on Disarmament agree to negotiate legally binding disarmament instruments.

Last year we adopted a programme of work contained in document CD/1864, thanks to considerable effort from Algeria with support from the P-6 and all the rest of us. It was a balanced programme of work that was far from perfect but represented a shared compromise.

Great political will was shown by all at that moment, and as a result great expectations were created, not only in Geneva but throughout the world. We celebrated our achievement at the time, but it was not enough for substantive work to begin.

Given this background, we believe that 2010 is a crucial year for the Conference on Disarmament. The Conference's credibility and reputation will depend once again on the political will and flexibility that we all must show for a second consecutive year. Together we can build great projects step by step, and under your leadership, Mr. President, we already took the first step last week when we adopted the agenda. Now, with the wisdom and contribution of everyone, we must take the second step by quickly adopting a programme of work for 2010.

Colombia considers the programme of work adopted last year to be a useful and viable document that could serve as the basis for consultations with all members.

In addition, we believe that a programme of work has to reflect and address the interests of all delegations, which are essential elements of it.

My country has pressed for nuclear disarmament to be given pride of place in the work of the Conference. The peoples of the world cannot be at peace until all nuclear weapons cease to exist. That is why we must try harder to take the necessary steps that will allow us to move forward towards that goal and ensure that the resources now invested in nuclear weapons can be used instead to abolish the hunger afflicting millions of people throughout the world, including, absurdly, millions of children.

We also believe that the Conference on Disarmament is ready to take on the challenge of negotiating a treaty to ban the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons that will address the issue of stockpiles and include effective verification mechanisms. We believe that such an instrument would be an important contribution to international peace and security.

Mr. President, we are aware of the need to focus our attention on the aforementioned issues, among others. Nevertheless, my country considers that it would be useful to reconsider the issue of enlarging the membership of the Conference.

In addition, we believe that it is important for civil society to participate in our debates. Civil society participation in other forums has been exemplary, and civil society points of view may be of help to us in our deliberations on the complex and sensitive issues before us.

Mr. President, Colombia is fully committed to disarmament and security. As part of that commitment, we had the great honour to welcome more than 1,000 delegates to the city of Cartagena for the successful celebration of the Second Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention last December. Under the exemplary leadership of Norway, a concrete plan of action was adopted that will facilitate important advances in issues of relevance to the Convention, particularly in the realization of countries' commitments to assist victims and ensure the full enjoyment of their rights. Much work remains to be done, and Cartagena is a clear sign from the international community that anti-personnel mines are a thing of the past, that there is no reason for them to remain in national arsenals, and that they pose a real threat to human integrity and dignity.

Mr. President, the year 2010 is full of major challenges. The NPT Review Conference will be one of the most important of those challenges. What we achieve in May could help us to consolidate the current momentum in the realm of disarmament and non-proliferation.

We must also continue with the full implementation and strengthening of the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons. The Fourth Biennial Meeting of States to be held in June represents a fantastic opportunity to consolidate our efforts to combat the illicit trade in these weapons.

Lastly, Mr. President, let me assure you that Colombia will continue to participate constructively in the work, discussions and decisions of the Conference on Disarmament.

We should all reflect for a moment, whether in this forum, in our offices or at home, on the importance of our actions here and their consequences for international peace and security. The decisions we make will have an impact on the lives of our children and future generations. We cannot let them down. We must act with efficiency, flexibility and commitment. They are simply waiting for us to fulfil our civic duty as leaders to save the world from the threat of nuclear weapons.

**The President:** I thank Ambassador Garzón for his statement. I now give the floor to Ambassador Senewiratne of Sri Lanka.

**Ms. Senewiratne (Sri Lanka):** Mr. President, at the outset, I wish to congratulate you most warmly on your assumption of the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament and assure you of the full support and cooperation of the delegation of Sri Lanka in discharging your mandate. We are at an extremely crucial juncture, where we need to redouble our efforts to reach an early agreement on the Conference's programme of work for this year and traverse that path before us with resolve to progress on issues before us. In this regard, my delegation commends you for the efforts you have already undertaken during the past few months to reach out to the member States, underscoring the importance of engagement in order to move forward.

Sri Lanka attaches much importance to the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. In order to continue to preserve the unique role of this body, it is vital that the Conference begins its substantive work on the basis of a comprehensive and balanced programme of work at an early stage. In this regard, we welcome the adoption of the programme of work last year under the able leadership of Ambassador Idriss Jazaïry of Algeria, together with his P-6 colleagues. Therefore, my delegation is confident that you, Mr. President, together with your P-6 colleagues, will continue to build on this progress in reaching an early agreement this year.

As in the past, Sri Lanka will continue to remain committed and will actively participate in the deliberations of the Conference in a bid to forge ahead, while taking into account the concerns of all delegations and in compliance with the rules of procedure, so that the Conference can commence its substantive work without further delay.

Mr. President, I wish you and your P-6 colleagues success in your efforts to regain the momentum we reached last year and to bring a decade-long impasse in multilateral disarmament negotiations to an end. I have no doubt that all of us here share this objective.

**The President:** I thank Ambassador Senewiratne for her statement. I now give the floor to Ambassador Desra Percaya of Indonesia.

**Mr. Percaya (Indonesia):** Mr. President, let me begin by associating my delegation with the statement made by the distinguished representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on behalf of the Group of 21.

Mr. President, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to you for the manner in which you have presided over the Conference on Disarmament. At our last meeting you managed to take us one step forward by adopting the agenda of the Conference. On this basis, we can move forward, with the hope of commencing our concrete work for the year 2010.

Yesterday, Mr. Gareth Evans spoke eloquently and presented the report of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament. The report has provided excellent information on the state of play of current disarmament efforts and a comprehensive action agenda. It touched upon the issues of disarmament and non-

proliferation, as well as peaceful uses of nuclear energy to be undertaken in the short, medium and long term. It has indeed provided a wide range of measures, which should be taken seriously in our disarmament endeavours to achieve a peaceful world free of nuclear weapons.

One of the important points underlined by the Commission on this is, and I quote: “Nuclear weapons are the most inhumane weapons ever conceived, inherently indiscriminate in those they kill and maim, and with an impact deadly for decades. They are the only weapons ever invented that have the capacity to wholly destroy life on this planet, and the arsenals we now possess are able to do so many times over.”

Fully aware of the magnitude of the danger posed by these horrendous weapons, Indonesia continues to strive for achieving total nuclear disarmament as its highest priority. The longer we keep these weapons, the longer we continue to expose ourselves to their possible use and threat of use and the more likely we are to be at risk, for various reasons – including from accidental use and terrorist acts. Hence, it is imperative that those countries that possess nuclear weapons re-evaluate and reassess their nuclear doctrines and policies.

In relation to our global disarmament efforts, the 2010 NPT Review Conference is approaching. The Review Conference is expected to provide concrete results in disarmament efforts globally. I have the honour to reiterate Indonesia’s position that the Review Conference should address the issue of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy in a balanced manner. Nuclear-weapon States should undertake their commitments and obligations on the basis of article 6 of the NPT. Indeed, emphasizing one pillar of the treaty alone will not help much in attaining our collective security.

Indonesia, as one of the countries that has renounced the option of possessing nuclear weapons, has a justifiable right to demand that those who possess nuclear weapons provide legally binding assurances not to use or threaten to use those weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States. A mere declaratory statement by a nuclear-weapon State is insufficient and inadequate. While striving for the ultimate objective, the total elimination of nuclear weapons, negative security assurances will serve as an interim measure to ensure and enhance a sense of security for non-nuclear-weapon States, and this, at the same time, will play an important role in preventing the proliferation of such weapons.

With regard to the fissile material treaty, Indonesia is of the view that such a treaty should be non-discriminatory and effectively verifiable and should include the existing stockpiles of fissile materials so as to ensure that these materials will not be utilized or diverted to produce nuclear weapons. Hence, a fissile material treaty should serve as a legal instrument, not only to address the issue of non-proliferation but also the issue of disarmament of nuclear weapons.

Finally, I would like to appeal to member States to exercise their utmost flexibility in order to allow us to get the Conference on Disarmament back on track and resume its substantive work.

**The President:** I thank Ambassador Percaya for his statement. I give the floor to Ambassador Manfredi of Italy.

**Mr. Manfredi (Italy):** Mr. President, allow me first of all to congratulate you on your presiding over the Conference on Disarmament. Please be assured of our full support for your efforts to achieve success in your task.

Italy’s full political commitment to support the Conference on Disarmament’s task in negotiating nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation has made us decide again this year to send our Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Vincenzo Scotti, to address the

Conference on 9 February, and we are very grateful that the Presidency has agreed to this and that it will organize his presence here.

**The President:** Thank you, Ambassador Manfredi, for your statement. I would like to say that we are deeply encouraged by your announcement of the presence of your Deputy Foreign Minister next week at our plenary session.

Would any other delegation like to take the floor? That does not seem to be the case.

At this stage I would like to inform the Conference of the status of the consultations I have had so far on the programme of work for this year's session.

Immediately after the adoption of the agenda on 26 January 2010, I initiated consultations with the objective of an early adoption of the programme of work for the 2010 session. During my consultations I heard various positions and views on the draft programme of work. I am grateful to delegations for their valuable positions and views. I also consulted the incoming presidents of the 2010 session on this matter. I will need further consultations before I submit something for the consideration of the Conference.

From my consultations, I have sensed urgency on the part of a number of delegations regarding the early adoption of the programme of work. Many have mentioned that CD/1864 should form the basis of this year's programme of work, but I have also heard different opinions and positions. However, all the delegations I have consulted have told me that engagement with the aim of getting everyone aboard is perhaps the right way to proceed before trying something else. In light of that, I will hold further consultations before I propose something to the Conference, hopefully soon. In the spirit of transparency and inclusiveness in the Conference's work, I propose to have informal consultations following the plenary meeting on Thursday, 4 February 2010, on the development of a draft work programme.

I would request delegations to speak specifically on that matter at the informal consultations and indicate their positions. This will be helpful in having an open discussion on the various views on this matter with the participation of all member and observer States.

Does any delegation wish to take the floor? That does not seem to be the case.

Before concluding our business for today, I would now like to turn to the Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference, who would like to share some information with respect to the organizational aspects of the Conference at its 2010 session.

**Mr. Sareva** (Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference): Mr. President, last week the secretariat distributed an information note for delegations, CD/WP.557, with respect to the organizational aspects of the 2010 session of the Conference on Disarmament. This information note is also available on the Conference on Disarmament website. I will not repeat the various topics addressed in that document, which are well-established practices of the Conference, but let me draw attention to a number of specific issues.

Firstly, you will have noted that the Conference secretariat has established a generic e-mail address, [cd@unog.ch](mailto:cd@unog.ch), which I would highly recommend using for all electronic communications with the secretariat. While organizational responsibilities remain unchanged, as has been outlined in the note, we have also established a general focal point for Conference-related issues. That focal point is Ms. Charlotte Laut-Hernández. She can be reached on 022.917.2281 or via the generic e-mail address that I have just cited.

As there have been quite a number of changes in the composition of delegations, I would like to ask you to kindly complete the related form, which has been distributed, and to return it to the secretariat by the end of this week, so that we can issue an up-to-date list of participants for the 2010 session.

With respect to the distribution of documentation, the secretariat would like to rationalize and improve, as much as possible, the practice that we have in place with regard to paper copies of documents. I would therefore be grateful if delegations could complete the related note on this issue — it has been distributed and is on your desks — and to return it to the secretariat, also by the end of this week, bearing in mind that all documents are available either on the United Nations official documents system (ODS) at: <http://documents.un.org>, or on the CD website at [www.unog.ch/disarmament](http://www.unog.ch/disarmament).

Also, when submitting electronic copies of documents, kindly bear in mind that most of our computers can no longer accept diskettes. Therefore, it would be appreciated if documents could be submitted in Microsoft Word format, either by e-mail or through the use of a USB memory stick.

**The President:** I thank the Deputy Secretary-General for this useful information.

The meeting is adjourned.

*The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.*