
Conference on Disarmament

15 June 2010

English

Final record of the one thousand one hundred and eighty fifth plenary meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Tuesday, 15 June 2010, at 10.10 a.m.

President: Mr. Luiz Felipe de Macedo Soares(Brazil)

The President: I declare open the 1185th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

Before turning to our distinguished guest of today, I would like to acknowledge the presence of our new colleagues: Ambassador Pedro Oyarce of Chile, Ambassador Ali Alhakim of Iraq and Ambassador Seyed Sajjadi of the Islamic Republic of Iran. I would like to assure them of our fullest cooperation in the accomplishment of their duties.

Today we are receiving the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Brazil, Ambassador Celso Amorim, on the occasion of the commencement of the Brazilian presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. I have the honour and the pleasure to invite Minister Amorim to address the Conference.

Mr. Amorim (Brazil): Mr. President, it is a pleasure for me to address the Conference on Disarmament, over which I have had the privilege to preside twice. As the new Brazilian presidency begins, I wish to reiterate my country's confidence in this body.

From my own personal experience, I can say that, for too long, the Conference on Disarmament has experienced failure and frustration as part of its routine. Now the environment is favourable for the Conference on Disarmament to be instrumental in this crucial area of international security. The Conference can spearhead an even more profound change: the effective participation of developing nations, non-nuclear-weapon States, in such matters.

Thanks to the economic crises of the last years, a consensus is emerging that legitimacy and efficacy in international relations demand decisions that are taken democratically, with the participation of a broad and representative group of countries. Global governance is being rebuilt. The world cannot be run by clubs of self-appointed decision makers.

In the economic and financial fields, some progress has been achieved. But in the political domain, the legitimacy and efficacy gaps have not been filled. This is particularly true in the realm of international peace and security. The unfortunate identification of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council with the five nuclear-weapon States recognized by the NPT renders decisions on such matters the object of a certain "market reserve". Decisive action by the Conference on nuclear disarmament can help change this anachronistic reality.

We welcome the initiatives to promote nuclear disarmament that have been promoted at both the bilateral and multilateral levels. Brazil went to the 2010 NPT Review Conference convinced that it would be the chance for the survival of the NPT as an effective multilateral instrument.

We are glad to see that more and more people – scientists, activists, political leaders are coming to share our view that the best guarantee for non-proliferation is the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Likewise, the most effective way to reduce the risks of the misuse of nuclear materials by non-State actors is the irreversible elimination of all nuclear arsenals.

Nuclear weapons have no role in the more peaceful, democratic and prosperous world that we all want to build. We need not only undiminished, but indeed increased, security for all, especially for countries that do not possess, and do not aspire to possess, nuclear weapons.

A change in mentality is needed. The cold war logic of the capability of mutual destruction must be left behind. We have to embrace the simple truth that nuclear weapons diminish the security of all States, including those who possess them. The world will not

achieve sustained stability as long as proliferation is spurred by protracted action on nuclear disarmament and by the continued modernization of nuclear arsenals.

The Review Conference achieved a modicum of success. This relatively positive result allows for cautious optimism. We are entitled to hope that we may be entering a new phase in nuclear disarmament. The fact that we were able to build on the “13 steps” to nuclear disarmament and that the nuclear-weapon States reaffirmed their “unequivocal undertaking” to eliminate nuclear arsenals is good news. Of the highest importance was the decision to convene, in two years’ time, a conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. Brazil stands ready to contribute to this conference. Despite the evident complexities of the situation in the Middle East, the lessons learned from the successful confidence-building process between Brazil and Argentina in the nuclear field could provide a technical input in regard to the goals to be pursued at the Middle East conference. But words alone will not make the world a safer place. They must be matched by deeds.

Ten years ago, we thought we had reason to celebrate. But most of the pledges agreed upon at the Review Conference of 2000 have remained on paper. The first decade of the new millennium has faced virtual paralysis in nuclear disarmament. Positive moves in relation to some aspects should not blind us to the lack of progress in other areas, such as de-alerting and the modernization of arsenals. Indeed, in some cases, we have gone backwards.

Brazil welcomes the promise of quantitative reductions in arsenals by nuclear States. However, this is far from enough. Cuts in arsenals have been offset by qualitative improvements in nuclear forces, by the modernization of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems, and by the roles still ascribed to nuclear weapons in national defence doctrines. It is disturbing that, to a great extent, the establishment of such reductions does not mean that the weapons will actually be destroyed or disposed of.

A more stringent timeline for nuclear disarmament is essential. It is rather disappointing that the final document of the NPT Review Conference refers only to a “sense of urgency”. Still, if the political will is there, the new action plan provides a basis to move forward in pursuing the goal of a world free from nuclear weapons.

The positive dialogue between the New Agenda Coalition, the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and a number of other non-nuclear-weapon States was instrumental in the consensus. The non-nuclear-weapon States have been delivering their part of the deal. We now look forward to continued political will and to more expeditious steps to fulfil the nuclear disarmament commitments enshrined in article VI of the Treaty. That is where the “compliance deficit” lies.

The impetus given by the recent NPT Review Conference encourages us to put an end to the paralysis of the Conference on Disarmament. We must resume negotiations immediately and pursue action-oriented goals.

As I was coming here today, I reread a statement I had made in this Conference 10 years ago. It is sad how much of it could be repeated today without any change.

We must stop choosing inertia as the Conference’s preferred procedure. If the Conference is to resume its place as a relevant negotiating body, immediate action must be taken. An ad hoc committee to deal with nuclear disarmament would surely help pave the way for further multilateral work on this issue.

As we proceed with negotiations on a fissile material treaty (FMT), we need another subsidiary body dealing with steps leading to nuclear disarmament. A fissile material treaty should not only ensure a verifiable ban on the production of materials for nuclear devices. It must also address the existing stocks of weapons-useable material. There are ways, I

believe, which could be explored to overcome the present difficulties regarding the approach to be taken in order to start negotiations on a FNT. Brazil is presenting a working document with this aim.

Other subsidiary bodies on the questions of negative security assurances and the prevention of an arms race in outer space must also be established. Negative security assurances reinforce the notion that international security must be based on the rule of law, rather than the use of force. Progress on a legally binding international instrument related to negative security assurances remains an important goal for this Conference. Outer space must be preserved from weaponization. The growing dependence of our societies on space activities makes it imperative that concerns related to the improper uses of outer space be adequately addressed. As a developing country engaged in a space programme that is totally peaceful, Brazil expects unrestricted access to an outer space that is free of weapons.

The relative success of the NPT Review Conference proves that differences among nations are always tackled better by means of dialogue and diplomacy. The Tehran Declaration, signed by Brazil, Turkey and Iran, on questions relating to the Iranian nuclear programme illustrates how those tools could help bridge gaps and overcome obstacles. Recrimination and suspicion yielded to patient negotiations.

It is important to recall the reasons that inspired two developing countries, non-permanent members of the Security Council, to dare to deal with an issue of such significance in the realm of international peace. Turkey and Brazil were chiefly guided by the aim — which I am sure is shared by all in this room — of finding a formula that would ensure the exercise of Iran's right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, while providing assurances that Iran's nuclear programme has exclusively peaceful purposes.

We did not invent a new scheme. We merely revived — or, as a major Western paper put it, “resuscitated” — a proposal originally put forward by the Vienna Group, taking into account the parameters that were repeatedly indicated to us as being key to a confidence-building agreement. The result was acknowledged by highly respected institutions and personalities — from Dr. ElBaradei to Ambassador Pickering, from the Arms Control Association in the United States to the Organization of the Islamic Conference — as an achievement worth pursuing. It is difficult to understand why it has not been at least given a chance to bear fruit. Its value as a confidence-building measure, as a platform for further talks, has not been put to the test.

It is still too early to know precisely what the effects of new sanctions will be. One can only hope that the most promising opportunity so far to engage Iran in a dialogue about its nuclear programme is not missed. No matter what, if and when the parties decide to go back to the negotiating table, they will face an even steeper challenge.

The presence of IAEA inspectors is the best assurance; it is the best means of allaying concerns that material might be diverted for non-peaceful purposes. It is Brazil's conviction that persuasion will do more than threats, that the creation of a positive atmosphere is the only viable path towards a solution that is satisfactory to all.

This Conference must do its part by maintaining the momentum created by the NPT Review Conference. It must engage in substantive discussions on all the topics of the agenda, particularly nuclear disarmament. It must reaffirm, by practical, results-oriented activity, the utility of investing political capital in multilateral initiatives. Member States can count on our steadfast commitment to restore the Conference on Disarmament's central role in dealing with the crucial security issues of our times.

I would ask your indulgence to do something which I do not normally do — self-quoting — not because of the wisdom of the words, but because of the lessons contained in them and what happened or did not happen after that.

In the year 2000, just after the successful NPT Review Conference, as President of that Conference, I alerted people to the fact that “the continued paralysis of the Conference on Disarmament cannot but cast doubt over the value of progress achieved elsewhere”. (...) “The real question we face is this: is it or is it not true that, in spite of our divergent priorities and concerns, we all share the same interest in reinforcing the multilateral machinery for disarmament and non-proliferation? And, if this is the case, how far are we prepared to go in displaying the necessary flexibility to allow for constructive solutions that do not jeopardize perceived vital interests?”

No convincing answer has been given to this question for the last 10 years. Let us hope it will be different this time.

Thank you.

The President: I thank the distinguished Minister for Foreign Affairs of Brazil for his statement. I will now suspend the meeting for a few minutes in order to escort the Minister from the Council chamber.

The meeting was suspended at 10.25 a.m. and resumed at 10.35 a.m.

The President: The plenary meeting is resumed. I would first like to say a few words on the use of time during this portion of the session.

Since January 1979, I am the 190th person to assume the presidency of this body. This is merely a consequence of the rotation based on the alphabetical list of the membership in accordance with the rules of procedure. The duty of the President is to apply the rules of procedure so that the Conference can fulfil its functions as a disarmament negotiating forum, according to rule 1.

The next step to be taken is undoubtedly to adopt a programme of work for the current annual session. The Conference will address this matter at its plenary meetings, which will take place following the customary schedule. I shall try, however, to facilitate the deliberations by holding consultations with every delegation. I am sending letters to all heads of delegation to invite you to bilateral meetings with me at precise dates and times. I hope this arrangement will be convenient to colleagues and that you will accept my invitation. Of course, I shall be as flexible as possible in order to accommodate your needs. The next weeks coincide with events of special interest to a number of delegations, and every effort is being made to take that into account.

In addition, we will proceed with informal meetings on all items of the agenda, according to the timetable contained in document CD/WP.560, as amended on 11 June.

Finally, let me say that any agreement on a programme of work that will open the way to the effective functioning of the Conference will depend exclusively on the Conference itself: that is to say, on all its Member States. Brazil alone, my delegation alone or, still less, myself, cannot achieve any results on our own, but we shall spare no effort to be of service to this body.

At this time I would like to give the floor to delegations that wish to make statements. The following delegations are registered on the list of speakers: Colombia, on behalf of the Latin American members and observers, Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

I have the pleasure to give the floor to Ambassador Clara Inés Vargas Silva of Colombia.

Ms. Vargas Silva (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I am addressing this Conference on behalf of the following Latin American members of the Conference on Disarmament: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela; and on behalf of the observer States of Costa Rica, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay.

It is a particular honour for us to deliver this statement under the presidency of a great fraternal neighbour of the region, the Federative Republic of Brazil, and of you, Mr. Ambassador, who have participated actively, constructively and proactively in the work of this forum. We congratulate you on assuming this tremendous challenge of the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. We have every confidence that, with your abilities and leadership, we will make headway in the work of the Conference. You, and your delegation, can count on our full support in developing your work.

Allow us, through you, to welcome the presence here today of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federative Republic of Brazil, His Excellency Celso Amorim. His participation reaffirms the importance that your country attaches to this task and reinforces the need to have the leadership and political will of member States, key elements in the revitalization of this forum.

On several occasions over the past few years, member and observer States from our region have addressed this forum to share points of view on the issues and work of the Conference, working constructively, and ever flexibly, in the interests of the quest for consensus. Last year, we achieved a major step by adopting a programme of work after a long period of impasse. It had proved impossible, however, to progress to its implementation. This year, despite efforts, we find ourselves halfway through the session and we have still not managed to adopt and implement a programme of work.

We trust that the efforts of the P-6 platform will lead to work getting underway. This was demonstrated by the submission, during the presidency of Belarus, of document CD/WP.559. We trust that during your presidency, when we will see our regional interests represented, discussions may continue as before, so as to begin substantive work as soon as possible. Last week in the Conference on Disarmament we resumed the exercise of forging ahead on informal substantive work on all agenda items, through constructive dialogue, in line with previous practice. We still consider this to be a worthwhile exercise as we work towards adopting a programme of work.

The creation of the first populated nuclear-weapon-free zone, through the adoption of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, confirms the conviction of the Latin American and Caribbean group of States regarding the importance that our region attaches to nuclear disarmament. We have been pioneers in this field; the establishment of this first nuclear-weapon-free zone in a densely-populated region inspired the creation of similar zones in other regions of the world and marked a concrete step towards achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world.

The world in which we live today reaffirms the importance of the Conference on Disarmament as the only multilateral negotiating body in this domain. This was demonstrated in the final document of the NPT Review Conference, which, once again, assigns a leading role to the Conference on Disarmament as a universal negotiating forum.

It would be appropriate here to reiterate the urgent need for the Conference on Disarmament to resume its work and responsibilities as soon as possible, and to adopt and implement a comprehensive and balanced programme of work that takes into account all agenda priorities, in accordance with its rules of procedure and through constructive dialogue. In this respect, we will continue to support the deployment of mechanisms to enable us to find alternative ways to reach a consensus, and thus to translate progress made into formal steps towards the adoption of a programme of work for the Conference on Disarmament and, in turn, the conclusion of new disarmament and non-proliferation instruments.

Mr. President, we reaffirm our support to you, and your delegation, and appeal to members of the Conference on Disarmament to ensure that this body fulfils its mandate and resumes its rightful role. We urge you to seek creative solutions, which, on the basis of

established procedures, will enable the Conference to make a contribution to the multilateral system of disarmament and non-proliferation.

We cannot afford to ease up on our efforts. We must continue the work of discussing the proposal submitted and considering how we can improve on it. But, it will require the participation of all of us, in keeping with the principle of multilateralism, in a constructive spirit and with the flexibility and the political will to move towards the adoption of a programme of work.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank Ambassador Clara Inés Vargas Silva of Colombia for her statement and kind words addressed to the presidency and delegation of Brazil.

(The President *continues in English*)

I now have the pleasure to give the floor to Ambassador Mohammed Ali Alhakim of Iraq.

Mr. Alhakim (Iraq) (*spoke in Arabic*): In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Mr. President, thank you very much for your kind words of welcome. It is a great honour for me, as the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Iraq, to join you at the Conference on Disarmament. We offer our thanks and appreciation to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Brazil, Mr. Amorim, for his important statement. His presence with us here today indicates clearly the importance that His Excellency and the Government of Brazil attach to the work of the Conference on Disarmament.

Mr. President, I would like to congratulate you warmly on the assumption by your country, fraternal Brazil, of the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. I would also like to assure you of the full support and cooperation of the delegation of Iraq in the performance of your duties. We have every confidence that, with your experience and expertise, you will lead our work to a fruitful outcome. I take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation for the efforts of the P-6 to restore the effectiveness of the Conference on Disarmament so that it can perform its true role of addressing disarmament and non-proliferation issues.

I am also pleased to congratulate the distinguished ambassadors who have been appointed as coordinators of the informal meetings on the seven agenda items. We look forward to working with them. My delegation also wishes to associate itself with the statement issued on behalf of the Group of 21 at the start of the present session and to thank Ambassador Hisham Badr for his active role and outstanding effort.

My Government believes that there is a need to eliminate sources of tension and armed conflict in the world, to stop the arms race and to put an end to the futile squandering of economic resources. We have therefore adopted a new, realistic, clear and balanced policy based on Iraq serving as a stabilizing factor in the regional and international sphere, and avoiding situations that could increase tension in the Middle East region and the world. We have decided that Iraq will use its wealth and resources for reconstruction and the restoration of its infrastructure, which was destroyed as a result of the former regime's approach to armament and the irresponsible policies that it pursued in dealing with the country's regional and international situation. The Government of Iraq has emphasized its commitment to and respect for the international treaties and conventions on disarmament and non-proliferation in accordance with the Permanent Constitution of the Republic of Iraq.

The Government of Iraq attaches great importance to the question of general disarmament. Accordingly, Iraq has acceded to all the major disarmament treaties and reaffirms that it is fully committed to complying with all the provisions and requirements of those treaties, which include the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Biological

Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention. Iraq has also been a State party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, since 1969, and is a party to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. It signed a model protocol additional to the International Atomic Energy Agency Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement on 9 October 2008. Pending ratification of the protocol, Iraq officially declared, on 17 February 2010, that it would henceforth voluntarily apply the additional protocol, pursuant to article 17 thereof, and it formally notified the International Atomic Energy Agency that it would do so.

The commitment of the Government of Iraq to disarmament and non-proliferation conventions and treaties stems from a belief that universal accession to international conventions on weapons of mass destruction, universal compliance with those conventions, without distinction, and the complete elimination of these weapons offer the international community a real guarantee against the use or threat of use of such weapons and, also, help to achieve international peace and security.

The Conference on Disarmament is at a critical juncture. We need to redouble our efforts to reach agreement on a comprehensive and balanced programme of work that responds to the concerns of all member States in accordance with the rules of procedure, and we need to make progress on the issues raised. In this regard, Iraq attaches particular importance to the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, which has a record of past successes. We hope that the members of the Conference will reach agreement on the programme of work as soon as possible so that we can make progress and achieve the goals to which we aspire in the field of disarmament, in particular nuclear disarmament. This would serve the interests of international peace and security by taking advantage of the successes achieved in the international arena, including the positive outcomes of the NPT Review Conference and the agreement reached between the United States of America and the Russian Federation with the signature of the START Treaty.

Nuclear disarmament must remain a top priority for the Conference, in accordance with the special status that it was granted in the final document of the first special session of the General Assembly on Disarmament in 1978 and the conclusion reached by the International Court of Justice in its advisory opinion of 1996, which states that the use or the threat of use of nuclear weapons is contrary to the rules of international law on armed conflict, and that States have an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in every respect, under strict and effective international control. We therefore reiterate that complete nuclear disarmament is a key priority for us, as the destructive potential of these weapons makes their complete and definitive elimination necessary for the survival of all mankind. Their continued existence poses a threat to international peace and security and to the survival of mankind.

Despite recent positive steps in the international domain, the fact that the bulk of nuclear arsenals are being maintained and that new types of nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons delivery systems are being developed continues to give cause for concern. We must agree on the need for a binding international legal instrument to give assurances to the non-nuclear-weapon States that nuclear-weapon States will not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons, and we must identify the means whereby progress towards this goal can be made. Although negative security assurances are a crucial element and an important step in this direction and it is fair and legitimate for non-nuclear States that have voluntarily relinquished any nuclear military options by acceding to the Treaty to demand such assurances, these assurances are not a substitute for the goal of complete nuclear disarmament. We therefore call on the Conference to renew its earnest efforts to develop a legally binding framework in which to provide such assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States.

The continuing production of fissile materials poses a threat to both the nuclear non-proliferation process and nuclear disarmament. Iraq supports the idea of a negotiating mandate to develop a non-discriminatory, multilateral, internationally verifiable and effective treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices; negotiations would need to include existing stockpiles, otherwise such a treaty would be incomplete and ineffectual.

Outer space is the common heritage of humanity and should be explored for peaceful purposes only. The militarization of outer space could lead to a new arms race, which must be prevented. The Conference on Disarmament must consider adopting an international instrument to prevent the weaponization of outer space. I take this opportunity to welcome the draft Treaty on the Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space that was introduced by the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China in 2008, as it is a constructive initiative that will contribute to substantive discussions on the non-militarization of outer space.

Mr. President, Iraq reaffirms its support for the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, as this is an important step towards the elimination of nuclear weapons. Through you, we call on the international community to ensure the implementation of the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference, which is a crucial element in this context. In addition, we call for the implementation of Security Council resolution 487 (1981) and emphasize that security and stability in the Middle East require the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, in accordance with the objective set out in paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991), in addition to the relevant General Assembly resolutions that are adopted annually by consensus, and International Atomic Energy Agency General Conference resolutions GC (53)/Res/16 and GC (53)/Res/17 of 2009.

In conclusion, Mr. President, allow me to offer you and the other presidents my best wishes for every success in your mission. We look forward to your wise leadership of this Conference.

The President: I thank the distinguished Ambassador of Iraq, to whom I renew my words of welcome and whom I thank for the kind words addressed to the presidency. I now have the pleasure to give the floor to the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ambassador Seyed Mohammed Reza Sajjadi.

Mr. Sajjadi (Islamic Republic of Iran): Mr. President, it is an honour for me to join you as the new Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva. I have the great pleasure to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. My appreciation also goes to your predecessors for the clarity and coherence they brought to the work of the Conference. I assure you of my full support and cooperation in the work of the Conference.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to His Excellency Celso Amorim, the distinguished Foreign Minister of Brazil, for his important statement, which underscores Brazil's strong commitment to disarmament.

Multilateralism is a key element in the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Promoting international and regional peace and stability, including through disarmament and non-proliferation, as a high priority, is on the agenda of my Government. For both of these reasons, my delegation attaches great importance to the work of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. In our view, the Conference on Disarmament should fulfil its responsibilities in a manner that meets the security concerns of all nations. We would like the Conference to play its role in current international affairs by adopting a balanced and comprehensive programme of work

that is responsive to the four core issues before it. The rules of procedure of the Conference should be the guiding principles for our endeavours.

Nuclear disarmament remains the highest priority for my delegation in the work of the Conference. Nuclear weapons are the most inhumane weapons ever conceived. It is a matter of regret that, two decades after the end of the cold war, the legacies of the cold war still remain strong. Nuclear weapons and doctrines and strategies based on the use of nuclear weapons, particularly against non-nuclear-weapon States, continue to exist and are being updated. Today, the international community is more concerned than ever by the continued existence of thousands of nuclear warheads in the stockpiles of certain countries and by military doctrines based on the possible use of nuclear weapons. Tons of highly enriched uranium and separated plutonium are available in stocks that could easily be turned into weapons.

The international community cannot wait forever to witness the total elimination of nuclear weapons. There exists an urgent need to commence nuclear disarmament. The Conference cannot stand indifferent to this serious and legitimate concern on the part of the international community. At the 2010 NPT Review Conference, which took place very recently in New York, my delegation, together with the members of the non-aligned movement, proposed to adopt a legal framework with a specified timeline for the full implementation of article VI of the NPT and the total elimination of nuclear weapons, to include the conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention by 2025. However, it is a matter of regret that the outcomes of the NPT Review Conference, particularly in the field of nuclear disarmament commitments, are falling short of the expectations of the international community. We will resolutely pursue the cause of nuclear disarmament, particularly in the framework of the Conference. We request that a programme of work be prepared in a manner that enables the Conference to commence negotiations on nuclear disarmament.

As has been stated on numerous occasions, my delegation believes that, in addition to nuclear disarmament, the Conference should be able to commence negotiations on the other three core issues on its agenda. On the matter of a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT), I should reiterate our position that such a treaty should be a clear and meaningful step towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects. An FMCT should be a comprehensive, non-discriminatory, internationally and effectively verifiable treaty. Past production and existing stocks, as well as the future production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, must be covered by the treaty.

The Islamic Republic of Iran considers the total elimination of nuclear weapons to be the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons should not imply political clout and the capability to shape and influence world events or change the decisions of sovereign States. Pending the total elimination of these inhumane weapons, efforts to conclude a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States should be pursued as a matter of priority by the international community. Therefore, we call on the Conference on Disarmament to establish an ad hoc committee to negotiate a legally binding instrument on negative security assurances within a specified framework of time in order to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

My country has always supported the prevention of an arms race in outer space and is of the strong view that every effort should be made to keep outer space out of any weaponization process or any arms race. In the view of my delegation, outer space is a common heritage of mankind and must be used, explored and utilized for peaceful purposes in a spirit of cooperation. My delegation is fully prepared to work through the Conference on Disarmament on possible ways to secure the use of outer space solely for peaceful purposes and to prevent an arms race in outer space.

I hope the Conference on Disarmament, through your efforts, will be able to agree on a balanced and comprehensive programme of work that will enjoy the consensus approval of the Conference's members. My delegation will spare no effort in supporting you in that regard.

The President: I thank Ambassador Seyed Mohammed Reza Sajjadi of the Islamic Republic of Iran for his statement and kind words addressed to the presidency.

(The President *continues in Spanish*)

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): For a number of decades now I have had the pleasure of working together with my colleague from Chile, Pedro Oyarce Yuraszeck. I am delighted to welcome him, on your behalf, to this Conference on Disarmament as the representative and Ambassador of Chile. I give the floor to Ambassador Pedro Oyarce Yuraszeck.

Mr. Oyarce Yuraszeck (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): Chile associates itself with the statement made by the Ambassador of Colombia.

I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on assuming your duties. We are aware of your skills, and I have had the personal privilege of working with you in other multilateral forums and on complex negotiations. Your commitment to the multilateral system is one and the same as that of Brazil, which has made important contributions to the development of the regional and global political and legal system. We would also like to extend our appreciation to the Ambassador of Belgium and his predecessors.

Reflection leads us to consider the scope and, in particular, the political responsibility of this forum in a diverse world; in a diverse world with changes and new demands at both governmental and civil society level. That is the underlying political theme. The main task is to review multilateral efforts on disarmament and ask what this Conference can do, as Chancellor Amorim underscored, to prevent it from becoming increasingly weakened. This is a political fact; the Conference must resume its role as a negotiating body.

I have four very general ideas. I was not sufficiently prepared to talk about technical matters, but I would like very briefly, if you will allow me, to discuss four general ideas. The first, which I consider to be essential, is to reaffirm Chile's commitment to disarmament and non-proliferation, but in a very special context. In the context of the crucial interdependence between the three pillars of a multilateral system: security, development and human rights. This is a trilogy. What takes place in this forum is no different from what takes place metres from here or in New York. So, that is the first idea, which is related to what I would call a holistic view of international security, with general and complete disarmament as the focal point.

The second idea is the need to seek mechanisms to strengthen the multilateral machinery for disarmament and non-proliferation, and to halt the growing trend of frustration. Numerous steps have been taken — too many to mention here — and instruments established that have been associated with this hall. Yet, since I took over as secretary here 20 years ago, there has been little progress. I believe that we must revitalize the multilateral machinery for disarmament and non-proliferation and take action to ensure that it makes an effective contribution to the regional and global system.

The third idea is the quest for consensus. What does consensus mean? Multilateral efforts and culture. I agree that the balance between disarmament, proliferation and cooperation should be reaffirmed in a realistic and effective way, because the multilateral system is a system of cooperation; it is not a political system, but a system of cooperation.

The fourth idea, which we deem to be necessary, is to continue to contribute to the prohibition and elimination of inhuman weapons. Along these lines, we recently held an international convention on the Oslo Convention on Cluster Munitions in Santiago de Chile, in preparation for the first meeting of States parties in the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Our main challenge is to adopt a programme of work in 2010 and to ensure that the Conference makes an effective start on all of its agenda items, including, of course, negotiating a treaty on fissile materials. It is regrettable that, since we do not have a programme of work for 2010, we find ourselves obliged to work on agenda items through a schedule of informal meetings. While not disagreeing with that, we feel it is incumbent upon us to express our concern that a precedent has been set which is leading to a lack of more substantive work by the Conference on Disarmament.

On the other hand, we would also like to advocate for the increased and more effective involvement of civil society in our work, which has already made a significant contribution to other multilateral forums. That is the norm in modern multilateralism, and the Conference cannot ignore the *modus operandi* in the multilateral world.

As you have indicated, Mr. President, you will spare no effort in trying to ensure that the Conference gets down to work. In this spirit, you can count on our full support, input and votes, so that this Conference will start work as soon as possible, preferably under your presidency, and make an effective contribution to international peace and security. The multilateral system is at stake here; that is our concern. Let us hope that we can somehow maintain the momentum that in general characterized the recent NPT Review Conference, despite many limitations.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank you, Ambassador Pedro Oyarce Yuraszeck of Chile, for submitting such important ideas and for your kind words.

(The President *continues in English*)

I now give the floor to Ambassador Hisham Badr of Egypt.

Mr. Badr (Egypt): Mr. President, I take the floor to express five messages: (1) to congratulate you warmly on your presidency; (2) to salute the Brazilian leadership of this Conference, in particular, and in disarmament affairs, in general, as exemplified by Minister Amorim's presence here today and his eloquent message; (3) to express our full confidence in your able leadership; (4) to assure you of Egypt's full cooperation and full support in achieving the goals of this Conference, to which Egypt is stalwartly committed; and (5) to welcome the Ambassadors of Iraq, Iran and Chile to this Conference.

The President: I thank Ambassador Hisham Badr of Egypt for his kind words, which are very encouraging.

I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Mexico.

Mr. Hernández Basave (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): First of all, Mr. President, I would like, on behalf of the delegation of Mexico, to offer you my sincere congratulations today, as you begin your term as President of this Conference on Disarmament, and also to say how pleased we are and how important your presidency is to us. We welcome the presence of Minister Celso Amorim in this forum, which, without a doubt, reaffirms the importance that his country and the region attaches to the Conference on Disarmament. My delegation, of course, also endorses the statement that the distinguished Ambassador of Colombia made on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean group of States.

I would simply like, at this juncture, to reiterate the full support of the delegation of Mexico and myself for the steps currently being taken to release the Conference on Disarmament from the grip of paralysis that, regrettably, it has been in for some time. It is

very important for us to make every effort to fulfil our mandate. We know that you have a personal commitment and deep concern about the paralysis within the Conference, and so we trust that your consultations will give us the impetus to begin substantive work and fulfil our mandate, which, as you have already said here, is always a mandate for negotiating, and not solely for discussing, disarmament issues.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): Thank you, Ambassador Arturo Hernández Basave of Mexico, for your kind words.

(The President *continues in English*)

It seems that we do not have any other delegation wishing to take the floor at this time. This meeting stands adjourned.

The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.