

# CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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## FINAL RECORD OF THE NINE HUNDRED AND NINETIETH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Thursday, 14 July 2005, at 10.20 a.m.

President:                      Mr. Masood KHAN                      (Pakistan)

The PRESIDENT: I declare open the 990th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

Let me begin by expressing, on behalf of all the delegations of the Conference on Disarmament, our profound shock and indignation at the terrorist attacks in London last Thursday that cost human lives and caused injuries and immense human suffering. We strongly condemn this horrendous terrorist act. On behalf of the Conference on Disarmament, we offer our deepest condolences and profound sympathy to the Government and people of the United Kingdom and to the families of the victims.

I will now invite you to observe a minute of silence for the victims of the terrorist attacks.

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The PRESIDENT: I have the following speakers on my list for today's plenary meeting: Ambassador Dimitar Tzantchev of Bulgaria, Ambassador Elizabeth Astete Rodríguez of Peru, Ambassador Tibor Tóth of Hungary, Mr. Anton Vasiliev of the Russian Federation, Ambassador Carlos da Rocha Paranhos of Brazil and Ambassador Hu Xiaodi of China.

Before giving the floor to the speakers on my list, I would like to make some opening remarks as Pakistan assumes the presidency of the Conference.

Pakistan assumes the presidency at a time when the CD is standing still, going through the motions. An oxymoron, but true all the same. Our movement is like static walking, but not on a treadmill. Nothing significant has happened here in the past eight years.

I will begin this opening statement with a bit of nostalgia. Pakistan is assuming the CD presidency for the third time. On 10 April 1990, when we first assumed the presidency, we said that the talks between the two super-Powers and the two major alliances would not be a substitute for multilateral negotiations under the aegis of the United Nations, where the vital security interests of smaller countries would also be taken into account and protected. Sounds familiar?

In 1996, during Pakistan's presidency, the CD was expanded with the addition of 23 new members. At that time, the CD was working at full speed to conclude the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). The engines were revved up. There was hope.

We are living in different times. The terrorist threat is stalking the globe. The goals of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation have become more important, more urgent. Issues relating to weapons-usable fissile materials ought to be addressed. It is our shared responsibility to work towards security in outer space and codify negative security assurances. The agenda is clear.

I want to thank my illustrious predecessors, starting with Ambassadors Chris Sanders and Tim Caughley, who tried hard to seek agreement on the programme of work. Ambassador Joseph Ayalogu held wide-ranging consultations to find common ground. And finally, my immediate predecessor, Ambassador Wegger Strømme, organized vigorous debates

(The President)

on the four core issues on which we should be negotiating. The purpose of these debates, which witnessed keen interest and wide participation, was to get us closer to a programme of work. Ambassador Strømme pointed to the gap between real threats and the active pursuit of solutions.

Despite all the initiatives taken this year, an agreement on a programme of work remains as elusive as ever. It continues to present itself as the single most important achievement that the CD can make. Yet a programme of work will be the beginning of our work, not its end. It can only provide us with a platform for a higher, more intense level of engagement. In that sense, we are twice removed from reality, to use an Aristotelian expression. The CD has developed what one may call a writer's block.

To break the deadlock, the following methods can be used: the CD Presidents can take initiatives; regional groups can make suggestions; and individual countries can come up with proposals reflecting the will of their capitals to be flexible. All these methods have been tried at different times. All sorts of derivations and distillations have been prepared and presented.

Is it that the current difficulties stem from relations between members, their priorities, and their proffered linkages? Is it probable that the problems are essentially political, reflecting the prevalent security situation?

Is it useful to initiate debates in the pre-negotiation phases? But then should that not be a deliberate decision, with an end in mind? Or are we expecting that a bolt from the blue will jolt the CD into action?

These are lots of questions for reflection. Surprisingly, the diagnosis of the malady, across the political spectrum, is clinically accurate, namely, the impasse in the CD is political, not procedural. The proposed prescription is not what it should be. How can we fix political divisions, blocking forward movement, through ingenious procedural manoeuvres? Concerns about security interests cannot be addressed by means of imaginative work programmes. If there is a will to work, the CD can function on the basis of the proposals already on the table.

The role of consensus in the CD is meant to promote universality. It is not a tool to veto a programme of work.

Delegates to the CD have ritualistically expressed dissatisfaction over the current state of affairs. Some have suggested the CD's suspension. They contend, like Ambassador Chris Sanders, that the CD is not a "protected hunting ground" for making treaties on multilateral issues. The UNDC has already fallen into disrepair. People ask why we need the CD and UNDC at all. Others caution against such radicalism. They cite three reasons for the continuity of the CD: one, the CD has gone through and survived such periods of paralysis in the past; two, even in the absence of active negotiations, it provides a platform for an exchange of views on security issues; and, three, it is difficult to revive a forum after it has been suspended.

(The President)

Other forums, notably the United Nations Security Council, have faced prolonged periods of inaction in the 1960s, in the 1970s and in the 1990s. With the change in the security architecture, the Council became vibrant and functional, presiding over peacemaking, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding efforts worldwide. One does not demolish an institution in order to re-energize it.

That said, multilateralism, as the ultimate custodian of our collective security interests, that we are trying to promote through the CD, can suffer grievously from a vacuum. Inaction and non-occupancy induce encroachments. The CD cannot be turned into a debating or deliberative forum. Some say that the CD cannot hold town-hall meetings. Debates can at best be a prelude. They can help create an enabling environment for negotiations. But this forum is designed to make laws and treaties, not to pass resolutions.

The creation of the United Nations predates the machinery and the Decalogue fashioned by the first special session on disarmament of the United Nations General Assembly (SSOD-1). If the United Nations is being reformed, the CD can also be renewed. The CD cannot be called a relic of the past. Its agenda is not anachronistic, but contemporary, which effectively germinated and gelled in the post-cold-war periods and awaits completion of the unfinished business.

In sum, the CD is not able to deliver on its mandate. This is, of course, a source of frustration and disappointment for all of us, but we must try to break this logjam. The current impasse should not deter us from exploring ideas and initiatives which would create political good will to revitalize the Conference. The process of exploration and endeavour must continue.

My predecessors pursued this path, and rightly so. I will build on their efforts and, with support and guidance from all of you, I will work to bridge the gap between perceptions and priorities of the member States. This is a daunting challenge, but one which we must face upfront. We must acknowledge each other's concerns, recognize each other's national priorities, and respect each other's security compulsions. Our security is linked to one another regardless of the size and location of the countries. It is our collective responsibility to preserve this multilateral forum and rededicate ourselves to the task of negotiating disarmament instruments.

The only way to move forward is to reach an agreement on a comprehensive and balanced programme of work. This is one cross-cutting priority for us that we should not neglect at any cost. The programme will establish the parameters and scope of the work of the Conference and determine its speed.

The debate initiated by Ambassador Strømme on the four issues has brought forth, once again, convergent and divergent views on nuclear disarmament, an FMT, PAROS and NSAs. This debate has provided us with an opportunity to state our national and group positions and understand each other's perspectives. The next logical step is to strengthen commonalities and manage differences. This is possible only through political will and consensus on the proposed programme of work.

(The President)

As for the work during this presidency, I have the following plans. Firstly, I invite you to give your inputs on the programme of work. Let us reflect on this during today's plenary, if possible. The coming recess can also be the time for further reflection on the future scenario. We can continue the open debate on the programme of work at our next meeting on 11 August. Secondly, I intend to invite representatives of regional groups and China to hold consultations on the programme of work. This group can give its feedback in the light of the recent debate. I'll share their inputs and feedback with the members of the CD. Thirdly, I will hold bilateral consultations with as many delegations as possible. I would also encourage you to approach the presidency to share new ideas or initiatives. My predecessor told me that during his presidency only one delegation sought a meeting with him. Fourthly, I will continue to consult the past four Presidents and my successor, Peru, on how to proceed on the programme of work.

I have also received a proposal from one CD delegation suggesting that, while avoiding a duplication of the useful exchange on the four issues we had during the past presidency, we could hold a second round of structured discussions under the same topics that would allow delegations to comment on each other's statements and thus provide them with an opportunity for interactivity.

I have consulted regional groups and China on this matter. While there is appreciation for the general debate we had, at the moment there is no agreement on holding further structured discussion in the near future either on the main topics or subtopics. But let's not close the door on this idea. I would encourage delegations to consider this matter further and give me their feedback before our next formal meeting on 11 August. I'll go by your comfort level. I would also like to point out that any member State can take the floor on any subject. Therefore, even if we do not have a structured discussion, you are welcome to make as many statements as you want to.

Finally, I will appeal to all members to help break the deadlock and unwind this tangled web in the Conference on Disarmament in order to breathe new life into this forum.

One last word. The strength of the presidency cannot solely emanate from the ingenuity of the incumbent individual. The traction and resilience of this office, despite its built-in discontinuities, depend on the political will of members. The onus for finding agreement on a programme of work is a collective obligation.

I thank Mr. Enrique Román-Morey, Deputy Secretary-General, and his associates for helping me with the preparations for the presidency. And I thank Secretary-General Sergei Ordzhonikidze for his wise counsel.

Today we are going to bid farewell to our distinguished colleagues Ambassador Dimitar Tzantchev, Ambassador Elizabeth Astete Rodríguez of Peru and Ambassador Tibor Tóth of Hungary who will soon leave Geneva to assume new, important duties.

Ambassador Tzantchev has served as Permanent Representative of the Republic of Bulgaria to the United Nations Office at Geneva since 12 February 2002. During his tenure he represented his Government with authority and diplomatic skills. Immediately after his

(The President)

appointment, he actively engaged in CD activities. In particular, during 2002, he served as Special Coordinator on the expansion of the Conference on Disarmament and worked with dedication to find ways to democratize the membership of this forum. In 2003 he also presided over the first annual Conference of the States Parties to the Amended Mine Protocol to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. His dedication to the successful outcome of this Conference has been appreciated by all States parties.

Ambassador Astete Rodríguez joined the Conference in October 2004. She has represented her Government with elegance, authority, distinction and diplomatic skills. We all remember her commitment to the revitalization of the Conference on Disarmament, a cause she eloquently championed during the later series of plenary meetings devoted to the four subjects on the agenda of the Conference. Her efforts to ensure the participation of the Foreign Minister of Peru in the high-level segment of the Conference on Disarmament is among the successful achievements during her tenure as the Permanent Representative of her country.

In a few days, Ambassador Tibor Tóth will conclude his second term as the Permanent Representative of Hungary to the Conference on Disarmament, and as in the 1990s, he will leave Geneva for Vienna, this time to assume the post of the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO. He has represented his Government in the Conference with remarkable authority, diplomatic skills and truly Hungarian thoughtfulness. However, no name, perhaps, is more intimately associated with the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention than that of Ambassador Tibor Tóth. He has devoted many years of his life to this Convention, steering it through much of its turbulent history. From 1992 to 1993 he chaired the VEREX group of governmental experts charged with examining verification options for the BWC. In 1994 he chaired the Special Conference which established the Ad Hoc Group. He then chaired the Ad Hoc Group itself as it attempted from 1995 to 2001 to negotiate a protocol to strengthen the BTWC. When the negotiations failed, far from giving up, Ambassador Tóth presided over the very difficult Fifth Review Conference, eventually steering it to a delicate compromise and to the establishment of a new process. He then chaired the first meetings of the new process, before finally handing over the reins in 2004, so that he could once again devote his diplomatic skills to the Conference on Disarmament.

On behalf of the Conference on Disarmament and on my own behalf, I wish Ambassador Tzantchev, Ambassador Astete Rodríguez and Ambassador Tóth success in their future careers and happiness to their families.

I will now proceed to give the floor to these distinguished Ambassadors who are leaving us. I now give the floor to Ambassador Dimitar Tzantchev of Bulgaria.

Mr. TZANTCHEV (Bulgaria): Mr. President, first of all, let me take this opportunity to congratulate you on your assumption of this high office. I wish you every success in your endeavours, and I would like to assure you that you can count on the full support and cooperation of my delegation.

(Mr. Tzantchev, Bulgaria)

As I am leaving Geneva and Switzerland tomorrow for another assignment, this is the last time in my present term to attend a plenary of this Conference. I would therefore like to put on the record once again my country's position on the programme of work of the CD: Bulgaria would support any initiative that might become a basis for consensus within the CD on its programme of work.

My delegation has worked accordingly over the years, having the sincere desire to bring this Conference back to its substantive work. I can assure you that these efforts will be continued by the new ambassador who will replace me and by all my colleagues. It is our hope that, being an important forum for negotiating multilateral agreements related to international peace and security, the CD will find its way out of the present situation.

During my stay in Geneva, I have had the privilege of meeting and making friends with many colleagues who have remarkable professional skills and personal qualities. I hope to see them again and I wish every success to those remaining with the Conference for the time being.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the Secretary-General of the CD, Mr. Sergei Ordzhonikidze, as well as the Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Enrique Román-Morey, for their assistance, kindness and devotion.

I would also like to thank the secretariat for the efficiency of all their services, and the interpreters for their excellent performance. Finally, Mr. President, I would like to thank you for the kind words you addressed to me at the beginning of this meeting.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you so much, and I thank you for the kind words addressed to the Chair and your expression of support. I now give the floor to Ambassador Elizabeth Astete Rodríguez.

Ms. ASTETE RODRÍGUEZ (Peru) (translated from Spanish): Mr. President, I would like to begin by expressing thanks for your very kind words of farewell and the many tokens of friendship I have received from you and your colleagues. Allow me also to congratulate you on taking the Chair of the Conference and promise my delegation's support for all the efforts you may make to try to find the path leading to the adoption of a programme of work which is satisfactory to all the members, and thus facilitate the resumption of substantive work by the Conference. I would also like to congratulate your predecessor, Ambassador Strømme, on securing a high level of participation by members in the last four formal sessions, which addressed the four priority elements on the agenda approved by the members. The information accumulated should be properly processed and available for use in the future.

Despite the fact that my time in the Conference on Disarmament has been very brief and sometimes frustrating, I have been able to perceive clearly over the last year the great importance of the role which this Conference has played in the past and the enormous potential it retains to negotiate on issues of genuine importance for international peace and security. I have also seen the deep and broad knowledge you all possess of disarmament issues and the bold efforts made

(Ms. Astete Rodríguez, Peru)

by the various Presidents of the Conference, exploring many possibilities and taking advantage of all the resources of the imagination available to them to try to achieve real progress in our work.

At the end of August Peru will take the Chair of this important multilateral negotiating forum for disarmament affairs. It is possible that, despite the efforts made in the next two months, we will have to face up to the fact that, when it comes to adopting the final report of the Conference in September, nine sessions will have gone by in which it has proved impossible to adopt a programme of work. In this way we continue to disregard the appeal of the international community to step up our efforts so that the Conference on Disarmament can resume its substantive work and contribute to global security. The statements made in recent weeks have enabled me to observe the significant divergences which exist with respect to the priorities of the various member States and the way in which they can be addressed. The formula ultimately should necessarily take into account the different approaches to the various issues. I am more convinced than ever that the central element in promoting substantive work in the Conference on Disarmament is genuine political will on the part of all the members, which I hope can be displayed in the near future. We are well aware that any negotiation requires goodwill and flexibility on the part of all those involved. We continue to believe that the collective and individual contributions of recent years, such as the five Ambassadors' proposal or the informal "food for thought" paper submitted by Ambassador Sanders, are important contributions towards securing a programme of work which will enable us to fulfil the objectives of the Conference. However, we are open to exploring other alternatives if these prove feasible.

We note with concern that some recent developments in multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament are not very encouraging. The Review Conference on the Non-Proliferation Treaty failed to achieve the necessary consensus to adopt a final declaration, and it is clear that the continued existence of nuclear arsenals and the possibility of proliferation of nuclear weapons to other States and terrorist groups is a growing threat. A combination of inertia, resentment and obstructionist strategies blocking multilateral agreements are placing all the inhabitants of the planet at risk. We hope that we will not come to regret this situation, because the burden of responsibility would be enormous. At the same time it is disturbing to observe that according to the most recent estimates, the growth of military expenditure over the last three years has been running at 6 per cent a year, reaching a total of more than \$1 trillion, a figure which takes on its true dimensions when it is compared with others. For example, the OECD countries spent \$69 billion on Official Development Assistance in 2003, while some \$40 billion a year would be necessary over the next 10 years for the entire planet to have access to basic social services.

I do not want to speak at undue length, and I will confine myself to emphasizing that the international system, and particularly the security framework, have changed significantly over recent years. The three fundamental pillars of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, that is, nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy, remain on the agenda for the entire international community. In the view of my country, the traditional items on the agenda of the Conference remain valid, and we cannot agree to their being set aside or postponed in favour of other topics. Nevertheless, it is clear that the Conference on Disarmament cannot



(Ms. Astete Rodríguez, Peru)

shirk consideration of other items relative to international peace and security if these arise and are of priority interest and of urgent concern to the international community. We also feel that the Conference should commence as soon as possible a process which will make it possible to improve its methods of work in order to be able to regain its importance in the sphere of disarmament and international security. Among the topics to be considered are efforts to strengthen the leadership of the Conference by extending the term of office of its Presidents, which would permit greater continuity and greater effectiveness.

I would like to conclude by expressing sincere thanks to all of you, to the Secretary-General, to the Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference, to the secretariat staff and interpreters for all the support which you have extended to me. I am sure that you will do likewise for my successor. I hope that the Conference can resume its substantive work in the near future and will prove able to strike a balance in consideration of all the topics in order to address the security concerns of its members and the entire international community.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you, Ambassador Astete Rodríguez, for the substantive statement. I also thank you for your kind words that you have addressed to the President, and you have conveyed your confidence in how we shall handle this presidency. We wish you success in your future career. Now I give the floor to Ambassador Tibor Tóth.

Mr. TÓTH (Hungary): Mr. President, first of all let me congratulate you on your high office. I wish you all the best and success. Of course, success by now is a scarce commodity in the Conference on Disarmament. I would like to thank you for your very nice words as well.

My contribution is defined in the list of speakers as a “farewell statement”. A farewell statement might be misleading in two respects: one is, I am not pronouncing a statement in a true sense, but I would like to say a few personal words, and number two, I am reluctant to bid farewell to colleagues. There are two reasons I feel uneasy with “wishing you all the best” statements. It is the inherent nature of those “wishing you all the best” statements that it is much easier and nicer to pronounce them than to be at the receiving end. The other reason, which might be even more compelling, is that I am not leaving the arms control and disarmament forums in the true sense. Colleagues might find it unfair, after all the nice gestures of waving me goodbye, to bump into me in autumn this year in New York. I will be leaving Geneva but not the scene of arms control and disarmament, and I would like to thank all colleagues and friends, the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General, all the staff of the secretariat and all those who are serving us for what I learned and benefited from during my stay here in Geneva in the arms control community during these recent years.

So, let me not bid farewell, but say, see you later.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you so much. Success is a rare commodity in the Conference on Disarmament, but let us persist, and thank you so much for your felicitations to the President all the same. I wish you success and a very fulfilling future, and let us hope that you will continue to remain part of the disarmament and security issues family. The next speaker on my list is Mr. Anton Vasiliev of the Russian Federation.

Mr. VASILIEV (Russian Federation) (translated from Russian): Mr. President, first of all we would like to welcome you as you take the Chair, wish you success and assure you of support and cooperation from the Russian delegation. We echo your words of condolence to the Government and people of Great Britain in connection with the barbaric terrorist acts in London. This is yet another tragic reminder that we need to combine our efforts to combat the common threat to our lives and security. I would also like to thank our distinguished colleagues and old friends, Ambassador Dimiter Tzantchev, Ambassador Elizabeth Astete Rodríguez and Ambassador Tibor Tóth, and wish them success in their new posts, happiness and good luck.

The prevention of an arms race in outer space, and particularly the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space, as was shown yet again by the discussion in the formal plenary which we held on 30 June here in the CD, constitute for many States, including Russia, an extremely important and integral part of the agenda and programme of work of the Conference on Disarmament. We would like to thank the delegations which welcomed the proposals in document CD/1679 put forward by Russia and China, on the possible content of a new legally binding agreement on the prevention of the deployment of weapons in outer space, the threat or use of force against outer space objects. As you know, in preparing that document we also prepared three special thematic reports on gaps in contemporary international space law and on the problems of verification and definitions in the proposed new treaty.

Our ideas are being extensively discussed. This can be seen in the summary of the March international conference on the problem of PAROS which is being distributed today. And as we promised earlier, the delegation of the Russian Federation intends to hold another open-ended meeting to discuss document CD/1679 and the three thematic papers relating to it which I referred to. If they need to, delegations can pick up additional copies of these documents, which are in the room. They can also be found on the website of the Russian Permanent Mission in Geneva at the following address: [www.geneva.mid.ru](http://www.geneva.mid.ru). The meeting is going to be held on Tuesday, 16 August at 3.15 p.m. in this room. We invite all delegations of member States of the Conference on Disarmament and observer States to take part in this meeting. There are no restrictions on the number of participants or experts from each delegation. We are also inviting representatives of the Conference on Disarmament secretariat and UNIDIR to participate in the meeting. The working language of the meeting will be English.

The main purpose of the meeting is to hold an in-depth exchange of views on the three topics covered by the three Russian-Chinese thematic papers: a review of current international space law, the gaps in that law from the point of view of preventing deployment of weapons in outer space, the grounds underpinning the need for a new legally binding instrument in this field; verification issues in the proposed new treaty; issues related to key terms and definitions. This list does not of course rule out the possibility of raising any other aspects of a possible agreement on the prevention of the weaponization of space. In other words, we hope that at the forthcoming meeting we will manage to probe to the heart of this subject.

One possible practical outcome of the meeting, we think, could be the preparation of a revised version of the "Compilation of comments and suggestions to the working paper CD/1679", the first version of which we distributed on 31 July 2003. Copies of that document will also be available in the room as necessary. Considering how important the topic

(Mr. Vasiliev, Russian Federation)

is, and the need for appropriate expert and inter-agency preparations, we would be pleased if, apart from oral statements, delegations could also prepare written proposals or position papers. Of course, the status of such documents would be determined by delegations themselves. This would make it possible not just to have a better understanding of delegations' positions, but also to give a clearer reflection of them in the new version of the "Compilation" and to obtain a greater degree of interactivity.

Distinguished colleagues, we invite you all to the meeting. We look forward to your presence and active participation.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the Russian Federation for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I look forward to monitoring and observing the event that you are organizing. The next speaker on my list is Ambassador Carlos da Rocha Paranhos of Brazil.

Mr. de CARVALHO NETO (Brazil): I will read this statement on behalf of Ambassador Paranhos.

First of all, Mr. President, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption as President of the Conference on Disarmament. Brazil, a long-standing member of this forum and of the G-21, like Pakistan, sees the pursuit of nuclear disarmament as a fundamental priority of this negotiating body. We hope that during your presidency we can concentrate our efforts towards the achievement of a consensus formula capable of providing us with a balanced programme of work. Be assured of having the fullest cooperation of the Brazilian delegation in your endeavours.

Let me also take this opportunity to reiterate what has already been manifested by my Government and by yourself: Brazil strongly condemns the terrorist attacks that occurred last week in London and expresses its deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims of these explosions and their families, as well as to the people and Government of the United Kingdom.

As we all know, Ambassador Sergio Duarte, a senior and very experienced Brazilian diplomat, held the chairmanship of the 2005 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which took place in New York last May. In this context, I would like, if you allow me, to read a letter that the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan, addressed to Ambassador Duarte:

"Excellency,

"I would like to express my appreciation for your outstanding commitment in presiding over the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and for your tireless efforts towards its conclusion.

(Mr. de Carvalho Neto, Brazil)

“I am aware of the extensive consultations you undertook around the globe leading up to the Conference and have followed the difficulties you experienced in trying to balance the many divergent positions during the Conference. I would like to commend your extraordinary diplomatic skill and determination in overcoming the procedural deadlock and managing to move the Conference to its substantive consideration of the agenda.

“I also share your disappointment that States parties have missed this opportunity to strengthen the Treaty and to address the serious challenges facing the nuclear non-proliferation regime. I am confident that at the September Summit States parties will reaffirm their commitment to non-proliferation and advance the cause of disarmament.

“Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

“Kofi A. Annan.”

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Brazil for his statement on behalf of Ambassador Paranhos, and I thank you for the kind words addressed to the President. I also thank you for sharing the communication from the United Nations Secretary-General addressed to Ambassador Duarte. It was very useful. The next speaker on my list is Ambassador Hu Xiaodi of China.

Mr. HU (China) (translated from Chinese): Mr. President, the Chinese delegation congratulates you on your assumption of the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. It is my belief that with your rich diplomatic experience and outstanding ability you will inject vitality into the work of the CD. The Chinese delegation will cooperate fully with you. We would also like to take this opportunity to express our good wishes to the three Ambassadors who are going to leave us.

In Moscow on 1 July this year the Presidents of the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation issued a joint statement on the international order up to the twenty-first century, in which the two sides called for the peaceful use of outer space and the prevention of the deployment of weapons and an arms race in outer space, and for the drawing up of international legal instruments for this purpose.

On 21 and 22 March this year, the Government of the People's Republic of China, together with the Government of the Russian Federation, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and the Simons Foundation of Canada, jointly hosted an international conference on “Safeguarding space security: prevention of an arms race in outer space” in the Council Chamber of the Palais des Nations. This was the first time since joining the CD in 1980 that China had hosted an international conference on the issue of outer space with the relevant parties at the United Nations Office at Geneva. Well over 100 people - His Excellency Mr. Sergei Ordzhonikidze, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, representatives from CD member and observer States and experts from the United States of America, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, France, Canada and other

(Mr. Hu, China)

countries - attended. Thanks to hard work by UNIDIR, the conference report is now ready. It reflects the discussions on such issues as “the new space age: weapons, developments and challenges to space security”; “the relevance and urgency of preventing the weaponization of and an arms race in outer space”; “elements of political, legal or legislative instruments to regulate weapons in space”; and “practical steps to advance the prevention of an arms race in outer space”, together with the key points from the opening and closing remarks by the relevant representatives. I believe that this report will help deepen our understanding of the issue of preventing an arms race in outer space, enhance our awareness of political and legal means of preserving outer space security and preventing an arms race in outer space, and facilitate our consideration of how to make progress on preventing an arms race in outer space.

Today, on behalf of the organizers of the Conference, I have the honour to circulate this report to the members of the CD. The delegations of China and the Russian Federation have requested the secretariat to issue the report as an official document of the CD.

Mr. President, it is our hope that under your leadership, the CD can arrive at a comprehensive and balanced programme of work based on the A-5 proposal, so as to enable the CD to re-establish the ad hoc committee on prevention of an arms race in and the weaponization of outer space, and to start substantive work on all other important items in accordance with the mandates set forth in the A-5 proposal.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you, Ambassador Hu. You have asked me to inject vitality into the Conference on Disarmament. I'll try my best to come up to your expectations. I thank you so much for your confidence in my ability. I also thank you for sharing this report with us, which I am sure all of us will read very carefully, and we look forward to the events which have been organized as a follow-up to this report. The last speaker on my list is Ms. Fiona Paterson of the United Kingdom.

Ms. PATERSON (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland): Mr. President, on behalf of the United Kingdom delegation, may I congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the CD and assure you of our fullest cooperation? May I also wish the three Ambassadors who are leaving us every success and happiness in their new appointments?

Last week, leaders of the G-8 countries met at Gleneagles to address some of the most urgent and difficult international problems, including the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery means which, with international terrorism, are the pre-eminent threats to international peace and security.

The barbaric terrorist attack on London on 7 July, which was denounced afterwards by the G-8 leaders as “an attack on all nations and on civilized people everywhere”, coincided with the opening of the G-8 summit. It didn't stop the work of the G-8 leaders - rather it focused and sharpened their resolve in tackling global threats during their two days of deliberation and discussion.

(Ms. Paterson, United Kingdom)

The G-8 leaders made a joint statement on non-proliferation, which acknowledged the role which all States must play in upholding the international arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation norms, and it underlined the need to meet and ensure effective implementation of obligations in full. The G-8 leaders reaffirmed their commitments in this regard and emphasized their determination to meet proliferation challenges decisively, through both national efforts and effective multilateralism. They also acknowledged the role of this Conference in advancing both non-proliferation and disarmament objectives and they called upon us to resume substantive work.

Whilst regretting that the NPT was unable to achieve consensus at the 2005 Review Conference, the G-8 leaders welcomed the fact that all States parties had nevertheless reaffirmed the Treaty's validity and the G-8 leaders reaffirmed their full commitment to all three pillars of the NPT, the cornerstone of nuclear non-proliferation. They pledged to redouble their efforts to uphold and strengthen the Treaty.

The G-8 leaders also reaffirmed commitment to PSI, CWC, BTWC, the Global Partnership against proliferation of weapons and materials of mass destruction, and support for IAEA, including continuing cooperation in the area of nuclear and radiological safety and security.

Mr. President, you and our colleagues in this Conference recognized this morning the tragic events which took place in London last week, and on behalf of my Government, the United Kingdom delegation in Geneva and the victims and families, may I take this opportunity to thank you and to thank all of our colleagues who have expressed their condolences personally or in writing? Your support and solidarity at a difficult time has been much appreciated.

And finally, Mr. President, may I, on behalf of my delegation, express our deepest condolences over the tragic multiple train crash which occurred yesterday in your own country, and which caused so many fatalities?

The PRESIDENT: Thank you, Ms. Paterson, I am really touched. Yes, it was a massive tragedy and a massive accident, and it has caused injuries and casualties, and I appreciate your message. I also thank you for sharing this important message from the G-8, which impinges on the business that we have here in the Conference on Disarmament. This merits careful consideration.

With the statement by Ms. Paterson I have no other statements. This concludes my list of speakers. Does any other delegation at this point wish to take the floor? I don't think that's the case. This concludes our business for today.

The next plenary meeting of the Conference will be held on Thursday, 11 August 2005 at 10 a.m. in this conference room.

The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.