

# CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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ENGLISH

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## FINAL RECORD OF THE ONE THOUSAND AND SEVENTY-FIRST PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Thursday, 14 June 2007, at 10.10 a.m.

President: Ms. Elisabet BORSIIN BONNIER (Sweden)

The PRESIDENT: I declare open the 1071st plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

We have received a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon. I will now give the floor to the Secretary-General of our Conference and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to convey that message.

Mr. ORDZHONIKIDZE (Secretary-General of the Conference and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations): Indeed, it is a great honour and pleasure to me, and I think it is an event for our Conference, to have an urgent message from the Secretary-General to the Conference on Disarmament, which I will now read out to you.

“Excellencies and colleagues,

“I have been following with close interest developments in the Conference on Disarmament this year. As your work has intensified, it has brought with it high hopes of a turning point in multilateral disarmament diplomacy. I have been encouraged by the concerted efforts of this year’s Presidents to resolve the long-standing disagreement over your priorities.

“I cannot emphasize enough just how important it is that you overcome your differences. This is a matter that transcends concerns about the effectiveness and utility of the Conference. It goes to the very heart of the current international security environment, and for that reason, member States of the Conference bear a heavy responsibility.

“Adoption of the draft Presidential decision before you, supplemented if necessary in such a way as to overcome any reservations, would have a positive impact on the international security atmosphere. It would demonstrate to the international community at large that the security challenges before us are not overwhelming, but can be addressed collectively. If, on the other hand, you do not move forward, it would have a devastating impact on multilateral and bilateral disarmament efforts.

“Compromise is never an easy reflex. Yet finding a fair accommodation now would deprive no member of the ability to assert its national position in the phases of the Conference’s work to follow the adoption of the Presidential decision.

“The time has come for a decision. I call on you to reflect deeply on the historic opportunity that beckons you and the international community, and to consider the future of the Conference and of multilateral disarmament itself, if you do not take this opportunity. I urge you to take forward the vital work of the Conference in a spirit of compromise and accommodation.”

This was the message of the Secretary-General to the Conference that he asked me to convey to you as a matter of urgency.

The PRESIDENT: I thank you very much. I would like to put forward two requests: the first is to convey to the Secretary-General that we appreciate that he closely follows and cares what we are doing here in the Conference. And my second request is if we could have this document distributed as an official document, please.

I have convened this plenary meeting in order to come back to you on the issues of trying to find a way forward by the use of a Presidential statement.

We have now spent some time in informal open-ended Presidential consultations to explore whether we will be able to find a way to move forward towards a programme of work for the remaining part of this session on the basis of the Presidential draft decision contained in document CD/2007/L.1 - or not.

As a result of these consultations, I am now submitting to you a complementary Presidential statement, document CD/2007/CRP.5, entitled "Complementary Presidential statement reflecting an understanding of the Conference on the implementation of CD/2007/L.1". It serves to add clarity to questions raised by delegations as regards L.1.

To my mind, each of the two documents is very clear in its respective message. Nevertheless, some of you have repeatedly stressed that you wish to establish even further clarity by an explicit expression of the relationship between the two documents. For others it is equally important that this be done without modification of the documents themselves. To square this circle, I am today suggesting a very short third document. It brings the two documents together in a very simple draft decision by the Conference. If accepted, it would mark the end of a decade-long stalemate and the beginning of the kind of work this Conference was established to pursue.

CRP.5 and this draft decision are annexed to my statement, which is being distributed now.

I do not expect your immediate reactions today. But I do ask you to seriously consider what you now have before you. We all know that it does not fully meet all the wishes of any delegation. But it does represent where we stand after a long process of collective efforts and compromises. The remaining part of the current session is getting shorter and shorter by the day. But we still have a chance to begin our work. I, for my part, can now only hope that you are ready to do what is do-able at this point in time: to begin with no doors to the future closed. And I ask you to keep the message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations also in mind.

I have at this stage no other speakers for today's plenary meeting, unless I see someone asking for the floor. Egypt has the floor.

Mr. SHOUKRY (Egypt) (spoke in Arabic): Madam President, since this is the first time that I have taken the floor at this formal session, I should like to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Conference. We are fully confident that your extensive diplomatic experience will contribute positively to the advancement of our work.

(Mr. Shoukry, Egypt)

Madam President, I should like to express my deep appreciation for the efforts that you have made since assuming the presidency to find an appropriate way to end the stalemate in the work of the Conference over the past decade. Discussion of the Presidential decision contained in document L.1, in the context of transparent and comprehensive bilateral or multilateral negotiations, is the best way to arrive at a consensus among the members of the Conference and to allow the Conference to begin its work on a firm footing, taking equal account of the interests of all the members and finding the best formula to enable our Conference to proceed on a clear basis and in keeping with the procedures that regulate our work.

The delegation of Egypt also appreciates the draft statement complementing document L.1, which is the result of your consultations, and the amended version that was produced through the collective efforts of many delegations, including my own. My delegation showed considerable flexibility in order to facilitate the adoption of the present text. We can see that the text of the amended statement complementing document L.1 provides a good basis, in addition to document L.1, for the resumption of the Conference's substantive work and paves the way for a consensus which my delegation should like to join when it is reached.

The complementary statement takes into consideration a number of the concerns that we expressed, and I take this opportunity to thank you for your understanding of those concerns. At the same time, we hoped and continue to hope for the incorporation into paragraphs 2 and 3 of some simple amendments to ensure greater clarity and precision during the discussion of subjects of such great importance for us all.

Madam President, I should like to thank you and I look forward to the continuation of these consultations until we reach complete consensus among all the members, taking into account all concerns, so that we can resume our work in a manner that serves the interests of all and achieves greater progress in the field of disarmament.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the distinguished representative of Egypt, and I recognize now the distinguished representative of Pakistan.

Ms. JANJUA (Pakistan): Madam President, we would once again like to thank you for your efforts in trying to move the work regarding the programme of work of the Conference on Disarmament forward.

You have presented new documents today. We will take a close look at them, seek instructions from the capital and revert to you in this regard, and we note the comment where you say that you do not expect our immediate reactions today.

We would just like to make one point. We would like to thank the Secretary-General for his message as well. In this document that has been circulated as the Secretary-General's message, at the end there are two words: compromise and accommodation.

(Ms. Janjua, Pakistan)

While there is a great deal of effort being made by all of us to compromise, there appears to be a lesser degree of emphasis on accommodation. We need to have the greatest amount of accommodation in this Conference in order to ensure that we can all work together - as the Ambassador of Egypt said, to take on board the concerns of all delegations to move forward.

I am sure the Secretary-General would appreciate the fact that there are some very critical and crucial concerns that have been expressed here in the Conference on Disarmament by member States of the Conference on Disarmament regarding specific issues on L.1 which are of direct relevance to their national security.

That being said, we will revert back to you with our specific comments on your proposal.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the distinguished representative of Pakistan for her remarks. This concludes my list of speakers for today. I would then conclude our business for today.

Our next formal plenary meeting will be held next Tuesday, 19 June, at 10 a.m., also in this room.

The plenary meeting stands adjourned.

The meeting rose at 10.30 a.m.