FIRST COMMITTEE 60TH. SESSION
INTRODUCTION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION L.59 Rev.1
"REPORT OF THE DISARMAMENT COMMISSION"
by
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Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to introduce draft resolution L.59 Rev.1, "Report of the UN Disarmament Commission" (UNDIC). It contains a new paragraph 5, replacing the previous paragraphs 5, and 5 bis, and all the square brackets in the original draft. The new 5F. reads: "welcomes the efforts the Commission has made during its ongoing work to draft a final document on the text and the adoption of a final document by the Conference on Disarmament in 2009. In my statement during the interactive debate on disarmament machinery, I recalled an observation I made last July. Namely, that the Disarmament Commission having agreed on the texts of two agenda items and an issue for consideration next year, was reluctant to endorse those agreements. Regrettably, that reluctance manifested itself in the process of drafting a resolution on the report of the Commission for adoption by the First Committee.

Mr. Chairman, as we are all aware, I conducted intensive consultations over the past four weeks, at the level of the bureau of the Commission, with representatives of the various regional groups and individually with a number of interested delegations who were kind enough to lend support to my efforts. I also held two open-ended consultations. It was a tedious exercise. I must say.

Numerous delegations have expressed disappointment that the Outcome Document of the 2005 Summit failed to address the important issue of disarmament and non-proliferation. However, we recall that that document, its omissions and weaknesses notwithstanding, was adopted without a vote. In our statements in the General Assembly and the First Committee a large number of delegations moaned over the pitiful performance of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) in Geneva. Yet, last week in this very
room we adopted a resolution on the Report of the Conference without a vote.

Mr. Chairman, that draft resolution, L.20, inter alia, took note of what is described as "significant contributions made during the 2005 session to promote substantive discussions on issues on the agenda of the Conference..." also took note of active discussions held on the programme of work during the 2005 session of the Conference, as duly reflected in the report and records of the plenary meetings; stressed the urgent need for the Conference to commence its substantive work at the beginning of its 2006 session; and called upon the Conference to intensify consultations and explore possibilities with a view to reaching an agreement on a programme of work; and welcomed the decision of the Conference to request its current President and the incoming President to conduct consultations during the intersessional period.

Mr. Chairman, those were some of the provisions of L.20 which we adopted last week without a vote.

It is relevant to ask whether the performance of the Conference on Disarmament was better than that of the Disarmament Commission in 2005. One wonders why it was so difficult for us to come up with a similar draft resolution at least three weeks ago, one that contains the facts as duly reflected in the report and records of the Commission at its July 2005 organizational meeting.

Mr. Chairman, L.59 Rev. 1 is, unfortunately the least the First Committee can recommend to the General Assembly. It should be read in conjunction with the report of the Commission. At the same time I would like to suggest that when we take action on it, we should focus attention not so much on the letter or words, but on the spirit and content of the draft.

All L. 59 Rev. 1, especially operative paragraph 5 is saying is this: some groundwork was laid in the Commission’s meeting in July 2005; so let’s build on it, let’s work harder during the next few months so that next year we would be in a better position to come up with specific, concrete and meaningful recommendations on problems of disarmament and non-proliferation. That is all, nothing more, nothing less.
Mr. Chairman, since L.59 Rev. 1 is not a call to legislate nor to enforce, but to intensify deliberations and make recommendations, and since its objective is also to reaffirm the mandate and underscore the visibility of the Disarmament Commission, I have no doubt whatsoever that the draft will be adopted without a vote.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.