



**Statement by HE Ambassador Carlo Trezza,
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament.**

Geneva, February 5 , 2004

Madame President,

let me first express my satisfaction for the early agreement on this year's agenda and for the fact that you were able to reach a consensual additional language in the presidential statement of January 27. In this way we can take into account the views of those who believe that issues reflecting the current world situation and new threats should be discussed at the CD. We have made a step forward by introducing these issues in our discussions. We would have been ready to incorporate them in our agenda. By spirit of compromise, but especially because we believe that the real priority is now an agreement on the program of work, we joined the consensus on the presidency's approach. As you know, the statements and initiatives taken by the European Union last year, starting with the Thessaloniki Declaration, are a response to the new threats and challenges faced by the international community. We hope that it will be possible during the coming sessions to address both formally and informally those issues and in particular "out of the box" items that can affect our program of work. Having this in mind, on January 20 I made a statement regarding the question of the destruction of WMDs through the so-called "Cooperative Threat Reduction" initiative. This question is relevant to various disarmament issues including nuclear disarmament.

Madame President,

The new issues should not be a diversion from our program of work which remains our first priority. On the contrary they should be conducive to an overall understanding on the work to be done this year. Some countries have in fact indicated that the possibility of addressing new issues in the CD would facilitate their acceptance of a program of work.

The “Five Ambassadors” proposal should in our view remain the basis for our deliberations. In this respect we took good note of the statement made by the distinguished representative of Belgium on January 20 saying that Document CD 1693 Rev 1 is still alive, that it has an evolutionary character and that it is not carved into marble. Other colleagues representing the original authors of the “Five Ambassadors” proposal made statements which go -at least this is my understanding- in the same direction. This coincides with one of the conclusions I had drawn during Italy’s Presidency of the CD: namely that this proposal was not a “take it or leave” it package. In fact the significant adjustment which was made to that text, thanks to the flexibility shown on August 7 last year by China and Russia, are a demonstration of the evolutionary nature of the proposal. Some of the items contained in that document are, in our view, more ripe than others for discussion or negotiation. In this connection I wish to recall the statement made on December 19 at the CD open-ended consultations by my successor as President of the CD, Ambassador Inoguchi, and her remarks on the four “core issues” to be addressed at the CD. The four “core issues” were FMCT, PAROS, Nuclear Disarmament, and Negative security assurances. But the degree of support that these issues command in the CD varies. We should take this fact into account when making the inevitable selection on the subsidiary bodies and on our schedules. We shall also have to keep in mind, when establishing our priorities, that not every delegation is comfortable with some of the suggested mandates. Finally, in our deliberations on this year’s program of work, we shall also have to consider the main developments outside the CD. I refer in particular to the NPT review process which is entering its final stage. Our program of work should be consistent with that process while avoiding duplications and contradictions.