

Myanmar

Permanent Mission of the Union of Myanmar

47, Avenue Blanc, 1202 Geneva, (022) 906 98 80 - 906 98 81

Check against delivery

Closing Statement

by

**His Excellency U Mya Than,
Permanent Representative of the Union of Myanmar and
President of the Conference on Disarmament**

at the 968th Plenary Meeting

Geneva, 7 September 2004

**Closing Statement by His Excellency U Mya Than,
Permanent Representative of the Union of Myanmar and
President of the Conference on Disarmament
at the 968th Plenary Meeting
7 September 2004**

Excellencies,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Distinguished representatives,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Today, the Conference on Disarmament concludes its 2004 session.

Despite all our efforts, a programme of work that will launch negotiations on FMCT and substantive work on other issues still remains elusive.

Nevertheless, there have been significant developments at this year's session. There was a decision by the Conference under the presidency of Ambassador Amina Mohamed of Kenya on the enhancement of the engagement of the civil society in the work of the CD; and there were informal plenary meetings under the presidencies of Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco and Myanmar on the issues on the agenda and "new and additional issues related to the agenda of the CD". These structured informal plenary meetings were new developments at this year's session.

A total of 12 structured informal plenary meetings were held at this year's session. From 13 May to 24 June 2004, structured informal plenary meetings were held on substantive items on the agenda of the CD. On 5 August, one structured informal plenary was held on "New and additional issues related to the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament". On 10 and 12 August, two structured informal plenary meetings were held on "Methodology of programme of work". On 24 August, one structured informal plenary meeting was held on "How to move forward on substantive issues/programme of work". On 31

August, one structured informal plenary meeting was held on "Assessment and stock-taking of informal plenary meetings".

Excellencies,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Distinguished representatives,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Our priority is to reach an agreement on a programme of work or the establishment of Ad Hoc Committees. During the intersessional period, I will continue my consultations on a possible programme of work and on other issues. In so doing, I shall work closely with the previous Presidents and the incoming President, and shall consult delegations.

I believe that there is a general feeling among the Member States of the CD that no efforts should be spared to overcome the current impasse in the CD and to reach an agreement on a program of work.

To this end, I once again appeal to all the Member States and to all the delegations to display their maximum flexibility. We all know too well that important political decisions are made in the capitals. Nevertheless, the need to have an appropriate outlook and balanced view cannot be overemphasized.

Excellencies,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Distinguished representatives,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to illustrate this with a folk tale.

Once upon a time, two warriors were travelling on different routes of a large territory. Two knights, coming from different directions, came to a crossroads. There was a big mirror, hung on a tall post at the crossing of the two roads. The

mirror was reflecting the sunlight, as it was dawn and the sun was rising on the horizon.

The knight, coming from the road on the right hand side, said that he saw the gold colour in the mirror. The knight, coming from the road on the left hand side, said that he saw the silver colour in the mirror.

The two knights quarrelled on the issue of whether the mirror was reflecting the gold colour or the silver colour. They fought against each other. Both of them were badly injured. They were completely exhausted. It was not long before the first knight, coming from the road on the right hand side, got up from the ground, and took a careful look at the mirror from the left hand side of the crossing. He realized that the second knight was correct in saying that the mirror, viewed from the left hand side of the crossing, was reflecting the silver colour. The second knight also took a long stare at the mirror, from the right hand side. He realized his mistake. The mirror, viewed from the right hand side of the crossing, was reflecting the gold colour. Consequently, the two knights had a reconciliation. They became good friends.

We should do likewise. We should take into account the positions of the other parties, and have a balanced view. In this way, we may be able to facilitate the process of finding a common ground, leading to reaching consensus on a programme of work.

Excellencies,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Distinguished representatives,
Ladies and gentlemen,

There is also one more factor that we must not overlook. It also very much depends on the Permanent Representatives and the delegations. Positive thinking, diplomatic skills, rich experience and high professionalism and expertise of the representative concerned also count a lot.

That is why a representative of a country may be active or less active, depending on this factor, although the policy of a particular government may remain basically the same. Human factor is so important. I sincerely believe that the Conference on Disarmament --- the Best Club in Town --- has the best brains, representing the finest traditions of multilateral diplomacy. I count on your most valuable contributions in terms of new ideas and innovative solutions.

Once again, I should like to express my profound thanks to all the delegations for their support and cooperation as well as for their important contributions. I also wish to convey my deep appreciation to Mr. Sergei Ordzhonikidze, Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament, for his valuable support not only by providing conference facilities and services but also by assisting in my consultations on substantive matters. My most sincere thanks also go to Mr. Enrique Roman-Morey, Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Jerzy Zaleski and other members of the Secretariat. Without their support and assistance, it would have been impossible to complete these difficult tasks, including report writing. I also thank interpreters who have worked long hours to provide interpretation service at formal and informal meetings, held during this period.

I thank you very much.