

**Concluding Statement by the President of the Conference  
On Disarmament Ambassador Joseph U. Ayalogu (Nigeria)  
On Thursday 9th June, 2005**

Distinguished Delegates,

Today is the last plenary session of my Presidency of the CD. Last week, I gave a comprehensive report on the outcome of my consultations, in the search for consensus on our programme of work. I informed you of the various suggestions made and committed myself to continue with the consultations, with a view to identifying any window of opportunity we can use to turn the outcome of the NPT Review Conference into positive and dynamic steps for the CD.

I met with the Regional Coordinators yesterday and wish to report that there has been no change in the position of the groups on the various issues and suggestions including that on scheduling the core issues.

While the positions of delegations still remain divergent on how to address the four core issues, it is clear that our inflexibility mean the failure of all. Delegations have different perceptions of what constitute threat to their national security and which of the core issues should take precedence. We must however, realize and accept the reality that threats in today's globalized world recognize no boundaries. We must in the search for efficient and effective collective security understand that threat to one, is threat to all of us. I therefore, appeal to delegations to recommend to their capitals to accommodate the concern of others, so that we can agree on a comprehensive and balanced approach to our work. Although my Presidency has come to an end, I am making this appeal with a view to assisting the efforts of my successor, H.E. Wegger Chr. Strommen the distinguished Ambassador of Norway, who I have full confidence will continue with the search for consensus. I wish to assure him of my full support in all the actions he would take as our President.

Distinguished Colleagues,

I must say that I enjoyed working with all of you during my tenure. In my assessment all delegations want the CD to get back to work and would do anything to help achieve consensus. I am convinced that all delegations would have been flexible and long agreed on a programme of work, if it were within their powers. The solution to the problems in the CD does not lie in Geneva but in the capitals, where the political will is formed. I do not often agree as often said that there is no political will. What I feel is lacking is the type of political will that favours the thriving of multilateralism in the current global environment. Historically, we used to have this type of political will. We need to get this back into the work of the CD

To conclude, I wish to take this opportunity to thank all delegations for the support, cooperation, understanding and in particular the sensitivity shown during my Presidency. I want to specially thank the Coordinators of the Regional Groups, my predecessors, Ambassadors of the Netherlands and New Zealand; and my successor the Ambassador of Norway for their continuous support during my tenure. I also want to seize this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General of the Conference, the Deputy, the staff of DDA and the Secretariat for their support to my Presidency. Finally, the interpreters have been doing a wonderful job that deserve my appreciation and commendation.

I thank you all.