

Mr. President,

Thank you for the draft report of the Conference on Disarmament.

The draft properly reflects the work of the Conference during this important year, in which we worked on the basis of the so-called "P6-initiative". This joint proposal on the Conference's activities has made a marked difference. General debates were held on all agenda items and focused structured debates took place with the participation of experts, while on the other hand any Member State of the Conference could raise any subject which it considered to merit attention. This was a significant change to the good compared to other years.

Also the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan, noted in his statement of June this year in respect to this year's activities of the Conference that, and I quote:

One can sense that a new momentum is gathering

End of quote.

As the draft report notes, the "P-6 initiative" was appreciated by all Member States of the Conference. Indeed, we had more meetings, more interventions, more written contributions, and more experts present than in other years of the last decade. Now is the time to translate all this activity into a concrete follow-up.

Mr. President,

This brings me to conclusions and decisions which should be contained in the draft report according to Rule 45 of the Rules of Procedure.

Looking at the final chapter of the draft report, no *conclusions* are drawn as yet from the positive developments of this year. To begin with the most obvious, it is for instance clear that this new coordination between the six Presidencies should be continued. At the same time, simply repeating this year's exercise in 2007 would not be a meaningful follow-up.

We should at least be able to conclude that as for the 2007 session of the Conference on Disarmament an arrangement has to be sought which on the one hand reflects the spectrum of issues with which the Conference should deal, and on the other hand giving each of them its relative weight in the political environment of today.

Mr. President,

I have some concrete suggestions. The Netherlands would like to include a reference to the "P6-initiative" in paragraph 56, including the observation that this initiative has crystallised in the acknowledgement that issues discussed are important by themselves and carry a relative weight as well.

Moreover, the "relevant proposals", which are mentioned in paragraph 56, should ~~be~~ made more concrete by referring to the NPT Review and Extension Conferences.

I thank you Mr. President.

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