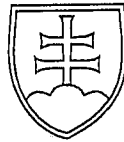


PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC TO
THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
IN GENEVA



MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA
REPUBLIQUE SLOVAQUE AUPRES
DE L'OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES
A GENEVE

Please, check against delivery.

General Statement
by Ambassador Anton Pinter
Permanent Representative of Slovakia
to the Conference on Disarmament
Geneva, 22 January 2007

Madam President,

Let me begin by congratulating you on assuming the post of the President of the Conference on Disarmament and assuring you of the support and cooperation of my delegation during your Presidency. May I as well express my gratitude for your tireless efforts during the bilateral consultations conducted with all member States of the Conference which has brought about very innovative and promising ideas that have good chances to become a follow up to the last years activities aimed at bringing the CD back to negotiations.

Madam President,

Slovakia shares the view of those delegations that see the membership of their country in the CD as a membership in conference that is engaged in real business and thus negotiates important global disarmament and security norms. Therefore we hope that the words of encouragement, support and understanding which you have often listened to these last days will be translated into constructive approach of each and every delegation aimed at overcoming the long period of absence of negotiations. I make the parallel between the words and deeds quite intentionally since we still remember the similar positive atmosphere and readiness to contribute to the successful outcome of the last session which ended up, as we all know, with a result short of expectations of the vast majority of the Member States.

Therefore I wish you, Madame President and to all your successors and indeed to the whole membership of CD that we jointly not only sustain this optimism but translate it into a concrete productive action. Another lesson learned with regard to last year is that we should have a forward-looking approach in relation to the deals and bargains agreed at the beginning and during the 2007 so that at the end of this year's session we have no doubts which facts and how should be reflected in the CD annual report. Therefore it is important that we try to achieve common understanding

and interpretation of all elements of the arrangements and agreements that apply during the whole year and do not question them at later stages.

This approach stems also from the prerequisite that the agenda of the CD is inclusive enough to cover all security questions that member states may have. In this respect, we join those voices that strongly discourage against any attempts to change the agenda agreed last year. This approach will save us from bogging down into unproductive debates what should be the main focus of the CD.

Madame President,

The issue of FMCT ranks among the core issues of the CD and as such it has a special position within the agenda as it was outlined in the schedule of the CD's activities in 2006. Based on these aspects and having in mind two concrete proposals on FMCT submitted in May 2006 we consider appropriate that this year the CD upgrades the level of its engagement vis-à-vis this issue.

Let me conclude by expressing my hope that the last year's momentum gathered in the Conference and the atmosphere of growing confidence will be developed into a new era of the CD productivity. It is our genuine hope that 2007 will bring, owing to the engagement of the S6 formation, a real breakthrough embarking the Conference on the track of performing its long overdue negotiations.

Thank you for your attention.