

Rok, 24 Jan 07

Madam President,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the first Presidency of the 2007 Conference on Disarmament. I am confident that your wisdom and leadership will guide our deliberations to a successful beginning of this year's work. I take this opportunity to assure you of the full cooperation of my delegation during the course of our discussions.

Madam President,

Our work this year has a particular importance as it will set the tone for the future viability of the CD. Building upon the progress we made last year, we should intensify and deepen our understanding with a view to reaching a consensual decision on the program of work. We should strive diligently not to lose the momentum created by last year's discussions.

In this regard, my delegation welcomes the concerted efforts by this year's six Presidents to come up with the common initiative outlined by you on 15 January. We believe that the common approach, which includes holding intensified discussions on all agenda items aimed at elaborating priority issues for further discussion and the appointment of Coordinators for each agenda item, will serve as a solid basis for advancing our work.

To make the most of your initiative, it would be desirable for a more detailed organizational framework with a specific timetable for each session to be circulated as early as possible. Doing so would allow sufficient time for the full preparation by the Members. We also believe that the introduction of an indicative list of sub-topics for key agenda items would help our deliberations be more interactive and focused. In addition, such a list would help Members to decide on the timing of inviting experts from capitals.

It is our earnest hope that at the end of the first ten weeks we will be able to evaluate the level of evolution of each agenda item and then make a

decision about how to move forward. As emphasized on many previous occasions, my delegation believes that a FMCT is the only issue ripe for negotiations in the CD. However, we are ready to actively participate in the discussions on the other agenda items as well without prejudice to the result of such deliberations.

Madam President,

As for the 2007 CD agenda, we fully support the draft agenda contained in CD/WP.545. My delegation believes that the current agenda is broad and inclusive enough for any Member to raise any issue of its concern related to international peace and security. Having said that, I urge all delegations to exercise maximum flexibility to allow us to swiftly adopt the agenda and to begin substantive work as soon as possible and in a positive frame of mind.

In conclusion, I once again would like to express my delegation's gratitude for the collective and concerted efforts that this year's six Presidents have shown in the preparation of the work of the CD and we sincerely hope that through our deliberations this year we will be able to finally put the CD back to work.

Thank you, Madam President.