

**Conference on Disarmament
Plenary Meeting**

Geneva, 19 June 2007

**Remarks by Ambassador Jayant Prasad
Permanent Representative of India to the Conference on Disarmament**

Madam President,

Since we have a couple of days prior to the next plenary scheduled on Thursday, 21 June to reflect on your question, I would like to say a few words at this stage on the propositions you have placed on the table. Before I do so, let me first compliment you on your able leadership of the Conference and for the clarity and patience with which you are leading us in our collective endeavour of reaching an agreement on a programme of work. I should also like to thank Ambassadors of South Africa, Spain and Sri Lanka for their sustained efforts towards exploring the best way forward to arrive at a consensus on a programme of work, which has eluded this Conference for almost a decade now.

2. In your statements on 14 June and today, you have shared with us your assessment of where we stand on the draft presidential decision contained in document L.1. My delegation would like to thank you for engaging in an open-ended informal consultative process on L.1 "in a spirit of compromise and accommodation", to which the UN Secretary General referred in his message to this Conference read out on 14 June, and which, indeed, is the basis for any multilateral negotiation project. My delegation has participated constructively and will continue to do so in our collective efforts to reach a consensus on a programme of work, taking into account the priorities of the constituents of this Conference.

3. During your presidency, you have made sincere efforts in accommodating the views of Member States on the presidential draft decision through a complementary presidential statement on its implementation, contained in CRP.5, as a possible way forward. This, together with an additional draft decision "to establish even further clarity by an explicit expression of the relationship" between L.1 and CRP.5, addresses some of the concerns about the process raised by several delegations. We appreciate the clarifications concerning the work of the coordinators, reporting process and applicability of rules of procedure of the Conference. We also note the stipulation that L.1, taken together with a schedule of activities, will indeed constitute a programme of work.

4. The creative way of linking the two documents suggested by you, however, falls somewhat short of integrating them. My delegation's preference would be for a unitary decision consisting of three textual components, which are on the table: first, the draft decision as contained in L. 1; second, the draft complementary statement as contained in L. 1; and third, the understanding of the Conference on the implementation of the decision. They can be arranged logically and sequentially in a simple, neat, coherent and integrated text, articulating a unitary and unified understanding. It has the additional merit of avoiding multiplicity of documentation and unnecessary speculation regarding the comparative import of the three elements.

5. We had earlier emphasised the need for a clear understanding on fundamentals so as to ensure the smooth conduct of discussions on negotiations once the CD has adopted its decision. In this regard we had sought clarifications on the mandates being assigned to various coordinators. In particular with regard to FMCT, we had very clearly indicated the importance we attach to a universal, non-discriminatory and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty prohibiting the future production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other explosive devices. My delegation would urge you to continue with your consultations so that we are able to arrive at a sufficient common understanding on this fundamental issue. A common understanding on this subject among the constituents of the Conference would only help in the conduct of FMCT negotiations and its successful outcome.

6. Having said that, let me conclude by assuring you that for India, establishing a programme of work remains the utmost priority and we share with you a sense of forward movement prevailing in the Conference this year, beginning, as you recalled, with the substantive discussions held in the first part of CD's annual session. My delegation will continue to participate constructively in your ongoing efforts to reach a consensus on CD's programme of work.
