



Geneva

**Remarks by H.E. Elisabet Borslin Bonnier
Ambassador of Sweden in her capacity of
President of the Conference on Disarmament
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Following a process throughout the first part of this session of substantive discussions chaired by the Co-ordinators and very thorough presidential consultations with each and every delegation a presidential draft decision for further work was tabled, Document CD/2007/L.1. That was three months ago. Already then most delegations ready to proceed along the lines proposed.

But some of you were asking for clarity, more clarity and again more clarity. Answers were given by my predecessors-in-office. On the record. But this appeared not to be enough.

When I assumed the Presidency I initiated a process of open-ended informal presidential consultations to establish whether a complementary presidential statement would help bring us forward. When such a statement emerged the relationship between L.1 and the complementary presidential statement became an issue.

At our last plenary I put before you two documents, the Complementary presidential statement, CD/2007/CRP.5, as well as a Draft Decision by the Conference by which the relationship between L.1 and CRP 5 is unambiguously spelled out.

My assessment is that we have now come as far as we are about to come as regards the documents before us. The basis for a decision is in place. Decision-time is upon us. We all know that time is running out. There are not many working-weeks left this session.

My reading of the situation as of today is that almost all delegations are eager to move ahead on this basis. A few of you have, however, indicated to me that you are still not in a position to take such a decision today. Out of respect for those of you who still need instructions from capitals I will schedule another extra plenary meeting on Thursday, 21 June. And out of respect to all those of you who are eager to move forward I will on Thursday pose the question if there are any objections to the establishment of a programme of work for the Conference on the basis of the three documents before us. That meeting will also be my last meeting as President of the CD. I have spared no efforts to give you the clarity you have asked for. I now ask you to give me, and your fellow delegations, the clarity I am asking. Are you, or are you not ready to join in consensus on the basis of the three documents before you?

I also ask you to seriously ponder the urgent message we received last week from the Secretary-General of the United Nations. He was utterly clear. There is a world outside the walls of this chamber. The security challenges are many. And Member States of this Conference bear a heavy responsibility for the future of not only this Conference but also of multilateral disarmament itself.