



PERMANENT MISSION OF SWEDEN

**Statement by H.E. Elisabet Borsiin Bonnier
Ambassador of Sweden
in her capacity of
President of the Conference on Disarmament
21 June, 2007**

Distinguished Colleagues,

You have before you three documents:

- CD/2007/L.1, submitted three months ago in conclusion of the work done during the first part of this session;
- CD/2007/CRP.5, worked out in open-ended presidential consultations during the second part of this session, and
- a Draft Decision by the Conference, establishing the interrelationship of L.1 and CRP.5.

It is my assessment that these three documents, taken together, constitute a realistic basis for a programme of work. Delegations have worked in a positive spirit and important compromises have been made on all sides. Furthermore, the three documents leave the door open for all delegations to pursue their respective interests and priorities in the course of the substantive work to follow. It is also my assessment that we are now closer than we have been for many years to breaking the decade-long deadlock of this Conference.

My own Presidency of this Conference is now coming to a close. Before I hand over to my successor-in-office I wish to establish whether we have now reached the point in time when all delegations are prepared to join a consensus to base a programme of work on the three documents before us.

I therefore now ask the question:

Is there any delegation which is NOT, at this point in time, in a position to go along with a consensus to begin substantive work on the basis of the three

Postal Address:
Case Postale 150
CH-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Visitors' address:
82, rue de Lausanne
1202 Geneva

Telephone:
00 41-22-908 08 00

Fax:
00 41-22-908 08 10

E-mail:
mission.sweden@bluewin.ch

Website:
<http://www.swedenabroad.com/geneva>

documents, taken together (i.e. L.1, CRP.5 and the Draft Decision by the Conference) ???

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The situation is clear.
Some capitals need more time. It should be given.
The three documents remain on the table.

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It now remains for me to express some heartfelt thanks.

- I first wish to turn to the delegations. You have worked seriously and patiently in what has been a strenuous process. I thank you for your trust and co-operative spirit. Please, keep it up, until we have reached our common goal, to put this body back to work.

- And I want to thank you, Mr Secretary-General, for your personal firm support throughout, and your wisdom when I have sought your advice. Through you I also wish to convey my appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for sharing with us his concerns and for urging us forward. My thanks also go to all members of the Secretariat for standing ready at all times to support our work. I specifically wish to mention our interpreters.

- I also want to direct my thanks to my fellow P6 colleagues. Whatever we have achieved so far is our collective endeavor. I will continue working with you in the same spirit of collegial solidarity and support that you have extended to me. In particular I wish to assure the incoming President, my Swiss colleague, of my full support, when he now takes over.

- Likewise I wish to thank the seven Coordinators. We wouldn't have reached a point of near-consensus were it not for your work during the first part of the session. Unfortunately you have been kept in waiting during the second part of the session. But I wish it to be known that throughout this process you have been standing ready to begin work immediately upon any decision to do so. You remain a part of our team, and I know you remain prepared and ready.

- And last but not least. At every plenary meeting the outside world have eagerly followed our attempts from the balcony. To you, representatives from the civil

society who so conscientiously work to uphold the link between the Conference itself and the societies we are meant to serve, I wish to extend my sincere appreciation. Your sense of optimism and pessimism has fluctuated with that of the delegations in the room. I have felt your support and I thank you for that. As we, the delegations need to continue our quest for consensus in a positive spirit, so do you need to continue your work in a positive spirit to support us in this quest.

In conclusion:

Last week the Secretary-General of the United Nations reminded all decision-makers of the importance of the opportunity before us. We have come a long way. We have an almost-consensus. But "almost" is not enough. We need to cross the last hurdles. I believe we can do it. And that is what we now need to do. All of us. Together.