

Remarks by the President of the Conference on Disarmament, 5 June 2007

On Thursday last week, as I assumed the Presidency I pledged to explore whatever possibilities there might be to find a way out of the delicate situation in which we find ourselves, so as to establish a work program for the remaining part of the session which all delegations could live with.

It has been suggested that a way forward might be to work out a Presidential Statement complementary to the L.1 in which clarifications sought could be addressed and concerns alleviated. Whether such an approach would realistically open up a way out, or not, depends on the real nature of our problems. If there is a genuine readiness to begin serious work along the lines proposed in L.1, then a clarifying complementary Presidential Statement might very well be helpful. If, however, the heart of the problem lies in serious political or military reluctance to embark on the kind of work outlined in L.1, then no Presidential Statement, however cleverly crafted, will take us out of our present dead-lock. I for my part believe that we should approach the situation in good faith and that it would be worthwhile to make a serious attempt to address the issues involved through a complementary Presidential Statement.

Therefore I intend to pursue the following activities for the coming week:

- This afternoon, between 15.00 – 16.00 hrs I will be available to delegations in the President's Office.

- On Wednesday, between 15.00 – 16.00 hrs I will likewise be available in the President's Office.

On Wednesday I will also discuss possible elements for a complementary Presidential Statement with my P6 Colleagues, and by Thursday morning I hope to be able to put together such a draft text.

- On Thursday afternoon, at 16.00 hrs in the Council Chamber, all delegations are invited to open-ended informal consultations by the President. I will then present you with a draft complementary Presidential Statement, and hope to have your initial reactions to it.

- On Friday, at 11.00 hrs in Room IX, after you have had some more time to reflect on the draft complementary Presidential Statement, all delegations are invited to continued open-ended informal consultations by the President.

- On Monday morning I plan to have the usual weekly meetings with the P6, the Coordinators and the Regional Groups' Coordinators.

- On Tuesday, at our next Plenary Meeting at 10.00, I will put the result of our endeavors before the Conference. If the process has been fruitful I hope that delegations will then also be ready to proceed towards a decision on a program of work for the remaining weeks of the session.