

## CD täysistunto 9.9. - elementtejä esittäytymispuheenvuoroon

- In today's world, peace and security must be addressed from a global perspective. We need a multilateral security system that is based on cooperation. For that simple reason Finland is a strong supporter and advocate of effective multilateralism.
- I should start by pledging Finland's full and continuous support to the Conference of Disarmament, which serves the world's single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum.
- The Conference on Disarmament can justifiably be proud of having managed to create international norms on disarmament. The Chemical Weapons Convention, the first international legal instrument to ban an entire category of weapons of mass destruction in a verifiable manner, was successfully negotiated by the CD. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty was also finalised at this conference. The adherence of all states to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is vital. Finland continues to urge all those states that have not yet ratified the CTBT to do so as soon as possible.
- The CWC and the CTBT are indeed laudable achievements. Unfortunately, for the past decade the

Conference has done little but rested on its laurels. This immobility is a source of growing concern and frustration for countries such as Finland that believe in multilateral disarmament negotiations.

- We must avoid the danger that this conference sink into irrelevance. It would prompt states increasingly to turn to other ways of negotiating international disarmament commitments. That is not, we believe, in anyone's true interest.
- We are, fortunately, encouraged by the draft proposal for a Programme of Work presented by the P6 and contained in document CD/1840. It is a balanced and well crafted compromise that would allow this Conference to resume productive work and serious negotiations.
- In substance, we are <sup>encouraged</sup> heartened (~~EU-käyttää~~ ~~encouraged~~) by the interactive informal thematic debates during the 2008 Annual Session.
- We believe that the time is ripe for the Conference to redeem itself by engaging, finally and in earnest, in the delayed FMCT negotiations, for which the CD is the most natural forum thanks to its composition and expertise. The proposed Programme of Work would also allow us to start substantive discussions on three other issues – nuclear disarmament, prevention of an

arms race in outer space and negative security assurances – which are of no lesser importance.

- Let me conclude by urging all CD members to join the emerging consensus on the Programme of Work and move forward in a spirit of constructive engagement. This would also set the scene for restoring the Conference's role in the multilateral disarmament architecture.