



Conference of Disarmament
2009 session

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Statement of Ambassador Gancho Ganev
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Bulgaria to the Conference of
Disarmament

Mr. President,

May I start by extending my warmest congratulations to you for the dedication and commitment with which you have been presiding over the last weeks of 2009 session of the Conference of Disarmament. I assure you in the full support of my delegation in the accomplishment of this important and challenging task. I also express deep appreciation to your fellow colleagues from the P6, the Ambassadors of Vietnam, Zimbabwe, Algeria, Argentina and Australia for their professionalism and devotion.

I would like to extend my greetings to the Secretary General of the Conference of Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary General Mr. Sergey Ordzhonikidze, to whom I presented my credentials couple of days ago. I look forward to cherish from his wisdom and experience during my tenure. I join you, Mr. Chair, in welcoming Mr. Jarmo Sareva Deputy Secretary General of the Conference of Disarmament and wishing him much success in his new assignment.

I thank you for the kind words of welcome addressed to me. It is an honor and privilege to represent Bulgaria in this unique multilateral forum. I am assuming my duty with a clear understanding of the crucial juncture at which this body stands. Although my experience in disarmament up to now is only peripheral, disarmament will be an important part of my Ambassador's duty in Geneva and I ensure you of my full pledged commitment to the work of this forum. I look forward to successfully working with all of you.

Mr. President,

Prior to my nomination as Permanent representative of Bulgaria to the UN Geneva I was following the proceedings in the Conference of Disarmament and should admit we were very much enthusiastic when the Work Program of this Conference was adopted

in May this year. For us, as I believe for the majority of countries even beyond the membership of the Conference, this was a significant breakthrough and after all an encouraging signal that times are changing for the better. When preparing for my current post I assumed that an important share of my Ambassador's activities will be centered on a working and result producing Conference of Disarmament. It is for that reason that at the end of this annual session we share the sense of dissatisfaction of seeing the work of this Conference still held hostage of procedural differences.

Mr. President,

Aware of the difficulties of political and security nature, which have been accompanying the work of the Conference of Disarmament in the last decade, Bulgaria continues to attach great importance to the work of this body. It has always been our belief that successful disarmament instruments can only be based on consensus as they would impose obligations upon all member states. The Conference of Disarmament has an essential role to play in this regard since it is the sole disarmament negotiating forum of that kind and hence is a clear expression of the multilateralism as a tool to promote a rule-based international system.

Given the current international situation deemed favorable to make progress in the field of the nuclear disarmament, we think that the Conference of Disarmament should take this chance to prove able to live up the expectations of the outside world. Committed to the ultimate goal of safer world free of nuclear weapons, Bulgaria shares the view that it is of the interest of all countries to overcome their differences and engage in this endeavor.

This understanding has guided us in supporting the well balanced compromise incorporated in the decision CD /1864 for the establishment of a program of work for the Conference's 2009 session, providing among others for the commencement of negotiations on a treaty on the fissile materials. Similarly, we supported the draft decision CD/1870 (and subsequent revisions) for the implementation of the decision CD 1864 for the 2009 Program of Work. It is of paramount importance to successfully conclude this year session of the Conference of disarmament as it will build a bridge of mutual trust to the next year 1010, which we all hope to be a better one for the Conference of Disarmament.

Mr. President,

My delegation cannot but applaud the utmost efforts you and your colleagues from P6 have deployed all through this annual session to make a difference in the work of Conference of Disarmament. In the end of the day it is clear that we are not the big decision makers in this chamber. Nevertheless, as incoming member of the collective presidency in 2010 I wish to emphasize the importance of the way you and your colleagues have paved with the collective spirit of your endeavor.

I thank you!