

The Delegation of Brazil wishes to express its high appreciation for the manner in which you have been conducting the Conference on Disarmament in the course of these last weeks.

The achievement of concrete results by means of the adoption of decisions or agreements is not the only way to attest the success of a presidency. The action of a high office bearer may also be gauged from the firmness of direction combined with the observance of the agreed rules which are meant to protect the rights of each one of the States members. With intelligence, knowledge, perseverance and graciousness, you fulfilled these requirements and we thank you for that.

There remains the fact that we could not adopt a decision allowing the implementation of the program of work contained in document CD/1864, adopted by consensus on March 29th.

My interpretation of that fact is that not all member states are ready to accept a decision on the implementation unless it includes a number of precautions that, in the view of many, could put the CD in a straightjacket and severely limit the prospects of it making progress.

I use the word "progress" to indicate the possibility of the Conference to achieve its objective, that is to say, to negotiate legal instruments on disarmament.

The program of work was adopted as a result not only of great effort but also of a spirit of compromise. Moreover, that decision reflected a change in international relations, otherwise exertion and good will alone would not suffice.

This change in international relations stems from a complex combination of events and of actions and statements by political leaders. The Conference on Disarmament has to correspond to the overall political atmosphere since it deals with problems that are critical for all States and for every person.

We have a collective responsibility and by this I mean that we cannot simply acknowledge that one or more States have difficulties, relax and put the blame on them. Collective responsibility means that we all, including primarily those that have difficulties, must work to understand and equate those problems.

It is not a question of safeguarding the relevance of the Conference on Disarmament since it is - and unless a different decision is taken in a higher level will remain - the multilateral organ invested with competence in this field.

The purpose of my intervening, besides praising your performance, is to remind us that we are entrusted with a task which, in spite of a long delay, remains urgent and of vital seriousness.