

**Statement by Canada
25 August, 2009**

Mr. President,

1 I am pleased to take the floor on the occasion of Austria's assumption of the CD Presidency, and I would wish also to acknowledge the tremendous work, individually and collectively, of the P-6 Presidents this year. As was the case with your predecessors, Canada is dedicated to working with you, Mr. Ambassador, to find a way forward that serves the work of this Conference and the interests of its members. Our collective work and interests would, in Canada's view, most appropriately employ CD/1864 as the cornerstone to guide our deliberations on the subsequent document which sets our Program of Work into action.

2 Mr. President, to assert that the CD's agreed Program of Work, CD/1864, should closely guide our hand on the implementation decision is to say that Canada believes the Conference should remain faithful to the text of CD/1864 - which was itself a compromise, consensus decision. Many delegates might have wished that CD/1864 contained other elements. But all members of this Conference agreed to it on May 29, and it now stands as our collective reference document. Let us recall that CD/1864 set out the work that we agreed should be accomplished. The Program of Work did not, however, characterise how much progress should be achieved, or how the outcomes among the four core issue areas should be balanced. CD/1864 did not address such things because progress and outcomes on different issues are by their very nature, unpredictable. In a similar manner, our implementation decision should also not seek to tie our hands to any specific outcomes. Outcomes are up to all of us. Just as progress cannot be preordained, neither can outcomes. And the 'balance' among issues depends on where you stand and how you approach them.

3 Mr. President, in deciding to adopt CD/1864 the Conference also opted not to use the word 'principle' anywhere in the text - the Program of Work simply refers to the Rules of Procedure of the Conference. Matters of 'principle' and their possible interpretations may be different among the many delegations that sit in this chamber. All these qualifying words -- outcomes, progress, balance, principle -- do not serve the Conference well when found in a procedural, implementation document. Canada was therefore very pleased to support CD/1870 Rev.1 as our implementation document for the Program of Work because it too does not condition the conduct of our work to words with varying interpretations. Nonetheless, in the spirit of flexibility and consensus, Canada could also support the subsequent revisions proposed by your predecessor as President.

4 Mr. President, Canada urges the Conference to be mindful of our agreed text, CD/1864, and that we base our efforts on it in order to implement our work. In our view, those that cannot live with CD/1870 Rev.1, or the President's subsequent

circulated drafts, are calling into question their commitment to the Program of Work to which they themselves agreed. If we cannot now agree to implement the Program of Work, then the Report of the CD to First Committee will certainly reflect that, and the world will draw the appropriate conclusions about the ability of this Conference to undertake substantive work. There is still time, however, to implement CD/1864 in a meaningful way - especially if we decide now to limit our deliberations on the CD's final report to two weeks only, instead of three. Let us put our limited time remaining this year in the CD to our practical work, and not to setting time aside to report on the little substantive work we have accomplished so far.

Thank you Mr. President.

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