

Note to Members of the United Nations Disarmament Commission

1. In the next few days the General Assembly is expected to take action on the reports of the First Committee, including draft resolution L.59 Rev.1 "Report of the United Nations Disarmament Commission." The Commission would be asked "to intensify the efforts it had made in July 2005 towards achieving its objectives, with a view to reaching definitive agreements before the start of its substantive session in 2006."

2. As I stated in my introduction of L 59 Rev.1 on 31 October, the draft resolution was not a call to legislate or enforce, but to intensify deliberations and make specific recommendations. Its objective is also to reaffirm the mandate of the Commission and underscore its efficacy.

3. At a time when Member States have been stressing the need to strengthen the role and authority of the General Assembly on matters of global concern to the international community, as well as the need to demonstrate political will to ensure the effective implementation of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly,¹ it is incumbent on the Commission to reassume its responsibilities as a specialized deliberative body of the Organization on disarmament issues. The Committee cannot fulfill its mandate nor address the issue of improvement of its working methods if it does not hold substantive sessions. The Commission cannot hold substantive sessions if it cannot reach definitive agreements on its agenda.

4. Accordingly, it is my intention, and on the understanding that the General Assembly will endorse the recommendations contained in L.59 Rev.1 which were adopted by the First Committee without a vote, to commence and conclude without any delay an open-ended and transparent process of resolving the problem over the item on nuclear weapons. The item in question read as follows

"Recommendations for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects, in particular for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament".

5. It will be recalled that one delegation introduced an amendment which read as follows:

"Recommendations for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons".

6. In my capacity as Chairman, I propose that the Commission at its next organizational meeting tentatively scheduled for Monday 12 December 2005, consider adopting the following draft in a spirit of compromise, so that the Commission can get

¹ See for instance Resolution 59/313 of 12 September 2005

down to the business of engaging in substantive discussions on specific disarmament issues in 2006:

“Recommendations for achieving the objectives of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.”

7. At the same meeting on 12 December, I would like members of the Commission to advise me on the question of the bureau for the 2006 substantive session. In this regard it should be noted that during 2005 there was no substantive session and the bureau was not even fully constituted.

8. I hope I can continue to count on the cooperation of all members of the Commission and on the assurance many of them had given me during the July negotiations, namely that their delegations would be “flexible”.

New York, 1 December 2005
