

# **NEW ZEALAND MISSION to the UNITED NATIONS**



## **Te Māngai o Aotearoa**

ONE UNITED NATIONS PLAZA 25<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10017-3515, USA  
TELEPHONE (212) 826 1960 FACSIMILE (212) 758 0827 HOMEPAGE: [www.nzmissionny.org](http://www.nzmissionny.org)

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### **UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SIXTIETH SESSION**

#### **PLENARY**

#### **UNITED NATIONS DISARMAMENT COMMISSION**

#### **STATEMENT BY**

**H.E. ROSEMARY BANKS  
NEW ZEALAND REPRESENTATIVE**

**10 APRIL 2006**

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

Mr Chairman

Agreement on an agenda in the UNDC at the end of last year was a welcome development, but we need to be mindful that this does not constitute an end in itself. Rather, it provides us with a valuable opportunity to make progress towards substantive outcomes, of which there have been all too few in recent years of disarmament work. Although the focus of this body is deliberative, rather than on negotiation, our discussions here should aim to reinforce and enhance the work of other disarmament fora in which we are pursuing similar objectives. In this context, we should position our discussions in the UNDC to contribute to the current processes underway in the Conference on Disarmament and wider multilateral arms control treaty structures.

As you will be aware, my delegation attaches primary importance to the issue of nuclear disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. We are keen to see the debate move beyond a clinical restating of countries' positions to active engagement on possible ways forward. In order to make maximum use of the time available during this session, we suggest that this Commission should look to build upon the material produced during the recent focused thematic debate on nuclear disarmament within the Conference on Disarmament. Several key themes emerged as commonly-held priorities for action: the need for greater transparency, the role of nuclear weapons in military/security doctrines, the principle of irreversibility, and the need for immediate commencement of negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT). A useful outcome of our deliberations here would be further agreement on ways to achieve concrete progress on these key issues in the wider nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation debate. We remain convinced that positive progress on nuclear disarmament would improve global security with respect to proliferation.

With regard to the work proposed on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons, my delegation believes that there is scope for outcomes from this Commission to contribute to the two conventional weapon review cycles taking place this year: the Small Arms and Light Weapons Review Conference in June and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons Review Conference in November. The Working Group II Chairman's consolidated paper on "Practical Confidence-Building Measures in the Field of Conventional Arms" from 2003 produced some useful findings on confidence building measures in general terms, but we believe there would also be value in trying to agree on further specific measures for action. Our deliberations in this forum should incorporate consideration of work done in the intervening years, particularly in the context of the First Committee, on issues such as transparency in armaments, national legislation on transfers, illicit trafficking, surplus ammunition, and marking and tracing.

We are keen to explore ways in which the working methods of this Commission might be improved. It is time to move from a process-orientated approach to a result-oriented one. We look forward to the Chair's working paper as a basis for further discussions on this issue.