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**Commission du désarmement  
Session annuelle 2006**

**DECLARATION**

**prononcée par M. Roman Hunger  
Conseiller  
Mission permanente de la Suisse auprès des  
Nations-Unies à New York**

**(Débat général)**

**New York, le 10 avril 2006**

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**Disarmament Commission  
2006 annual session**

**STATEMENT**

**delivered by Mr. Roman Hunger  
Counsellor  
Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations in New York**

**(General debate)**

**New York, 10 April 2006**

Mr President,

Please allow me first of all to express on behalf of my delegation the satisfaction we take in seeing the Disarmament Commission convened again. Following the difficult times the Commission has experienced in recent years, the holding of this first session – and the fact that we have an agenda -- is an encouraging sign that we sincerely hope will bear fruit during the three-year cycle of negotiations ahead of us.

My delegation would also like to express its pleasure to see you chair the Disarmament Commission and also to assure you of its full co-operation in the exercise of your functions.

Mr President,

The agenda of this cycle of negotiations comprises two items to be addressed in two working groups and one question to be debated in the plenary.

Mr President,

Concerning the first item on the agenda - "Recommendations for achieving the objectives of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons." My delegation first wishes to recall that we have always supported the idea that nuclear disarmament and the fight against nuclear proliferation go hand in hand. Since the failure of the 2005 Review Conference, the major challenges facing the NPT not only remain unresolved they have become more complex, in particular, the issue of the Iranian nuclear programme, over which there is still much uncertainty, as well as that of the recent project between the United States and India on co-operation in the field of civilian nuclear energy.

Switzerland believes that the NPT continues to be a fundamental tool of international stability. Consequently, my country considers the preservation of the achievements of earlier review conferences, in particular those of 1995 and 2000, to be essential. In this context, Switzerland welcomes Vietnam's recent ratification of the CTBT, a state where ratification is required to allow the Treaty to enter into force.

At the same time, my country hopes that the structured debate on the FMCT (Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty), which will resume in May at the Conference on Disarmament, will also be characterised by hope, thus constituting an encouraging indicator for the first session of the Preparatory Committee of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, scheduled for 2007.

Mr President,

Concerning the second item of the agenda - "Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons." Switzerland is particularly pleased to see this issue reappear on the Commission's agenda.

Switzerland welcomes the proposal to support the 4th revised version of the summary of the President's working document of the previous cycle of discussions (annexed to the 2003 report of the Commission - A/58/42). However, this document must be updated if it is to facilitate our work in the future, in particular on the following issues:

- some subjects addressed in this document remain topical such as filling out the Register on Conventional Weapons. Currently, a group of governmental experts, of which Switzerland is a member, is studying this question with a view to reporting to the Secretary-General by this summer.
- other subjects are on the point of becoming reality, such as the proposal to create a system of archives to provide an exhaustive list of confidence-building measures through the adoption of a resolution within the First Commission entitled *Information on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons* (A/RES/60/82).
- by contrast, this document does not take into account a number of recent developments which ought to be fully integrated in the work of the Commission. One can think of the ATT (Access to Technologies) initiative, of developments concerning the HCOC (Hague Code of Conduct), or of intervening in the ALPC (Army Logistics Policy Council).

- It seems to us that this document does not give enough consideration to a series of issues which were dealt with at greater depth in 2002 and 2003, in particular, the confidence-building measures based on the principles of good governance in the field of security.

Mr President,

Concerning the question to discuss in the plenary - "Measures for improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the Commission." My delegation welcomes the opportunity to continue the discussion on revitalising the UN System also within this area of its activities. Switzerland hopes that we could take advantage of the purely deliberative character of this Commission to give it more flexibility on the substance and the format of our discussions. My delegation is willing to join in the efforts to this effect.

Mr President, thank you for your attention.