



BELARUS

United Nations Disarmament Commission
General Debate
8 April 2008

KEY POINTS OF A STATEMENT

○ Multilateral approach to disarmament and international security agenda should be further supported. UNDC is an important part of the existing multilateral disarmament machinery

Nuclear Disarmament and Nonproliferation

○ Nuclear disarmament should remain the issue of highest priority and practical steps in this field are highly needed.

○ As a State party to Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which voluntarily renounced an opportunity to continue to possess nuclear weapons before joining it, Belarus believes that it is important to maintain the integrity of the Treaty both in terms of promoting a balance between the obligations and responsibilities of Member-States and in terms of attaching equal importance to all key elements of the Treaty.

○ In order to strengthen the NPT and to maintain the trust and commitments of Member-States it is necessary to implement not only the Treaty itself but also the package of agreements that made possible its indefinite extension in 1995 as well as agreements reached at 2000 NPT Review Conference.

CBMs in the field of conventional weapons

○ CBMs may provide a good basis for preventing armed conflicts and strengthening national, regional and international security. CBMs are by definition voluntarily and should only be based on openness and true cooperation. On its part the Republic of Belarus:

- remains committed to the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty and calls upon CFE partners to step up their efforts to ratify and bring into force the CFE Adaptation Agreement;
- attaches great importance to the elaboration of additional bilateral confidence-building measures on the basis of 1999 Vienna Document. Political arrangements on additional CBMs were reached with neighboring countries;
- supports universalisation and further development of UN the Register on conventional arms as well as of the UN military expenditures reporting mechanism;
- supports greater transparency and development of CBMs in the space activity. It is necessary to continue work to further develop legally-binding norms aimed at prevention of the deployment of arms in outer space;
- supports further discussion on the issue of prevention of illicit SALW proliferation (including MANPADS) under the UN Programme of Action;
- supports universalisation and development of international treaties dealing with conventional weapons, such as Ottawa Convention and CCW. Belarus has recently accepted an amendment to the Article 1 of the CCW.