

# CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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## FINAL RECORD OF THE ONE THOUSAND AND FOURTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Thursday, 16 February 2006, at 10.15 a.m.

President: Mr. Zdzisław RAPACKI (Poland)

The PRESIDENT: I declare open the 1004th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

At the outset, I would like to extend a cordial welcome to Ali Reza Moaiyeri of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Ambassador Mohammed Loulichki of Morocco, who have recently assumed their responsibilities as the representatives of their respective countries to the Conference on Disarmament. I wish to take this opportunity to assure them of our cooperation and support in their new assignments. Welcome.

I should now like to draw your attention to the requests made by Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates to participate in the work of the Conference during this session, which are contained in document CD/WP.541/Add. 3, which is before you. In accordance with established practice, I invite you to take a decision on these requests without having first considered them in an informal plenary.

May I take it that the Conference decides to invite Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates to participate in our work in accordance with the rules of procedure?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Before we proceed to our next business for today, I would like to draw your attention to the survey questionnaires before you. This survey is being conducted by the United Nations Office in Geneva and is aimed at the monitoring and improvement of the conference services provided to Member States. Your comments will provide useful feedback to the UNOG administration on the quality of these services. The completed questionnaires will be collected by the conference officer at the conclusion of the meeting. I thank you for your cooperation.

Today the Conference will continue a general debate on any subject related to the Conference on Disarmament. I have the following speakers for today's plenary meeting: Morocco, Russian Federation, China, Ireland and the Republic of Korea. I will also make a statement as the presidency of Poland comes to an end.

I now give the floor to the representative of Morocco, Ambassador Mohammed Loulichki.

Mr. LOULICHKI (Morocco) (translated from French): Mr. President, first of all, I would like to thank you for your kind words of welcome and express our appreciation for the way you are guiding our work, while assuring you, of course, of our full cooperation. Let me also pay tribute to your predecessor, the Ambassador of Peru, for the efforts he undertook throughout his term of office last autumn. It is a commonplace to emphasize the vital importance for the international community and for the future of present and future generations of the vital and decisive nature of our work. Lastly, I cannot fail to commend the Secretary-General of our Conference, Mr. Sergei Ordzhonikidze, and the members of the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament on their great professionalism and their valuable contribution to our deliberations.

(Mr. Loulichki, Morocco)

Last year, our Conference ended its eighth consecutive session without a programme of work. This situation of deadlock is unfortunately far from being an exception as disarmament issues currently stand. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has still not entered into force over 10 years after it was opened for signature, the seventh NPT Review Conference dashed our expectations and the World Summit in 2005, which was supposed to offer the countries of the world an exceptional opportunity to counter the serious threats facing mankind, was incapable of taking a decision on disarmament issues. Should we yield to pessimism and resignation? Can we allow this situation of deadlock to continue, to become further bogged down to the extent of imperilling security, stability and peace in the world, indeed the trust that international public opinion places in multilateralism? The Secretary-General of the United Nations, in his statement addressed to the Conference this year, called on us to learn the lessons of past disappointments, to think very carefully about the political sources of the crisis and to adopt specific pragmatic and realistic measures and then to put them into effect. We are all called on - I would even say we are challenged - to strive to live up to the responsibility that the international community has entrusted us with in this Conference and to demonstrate that the Conference is capable of performing the functions assigned to it, those of the sole multilateral negotiating body in the field of disarmament.

Bearing in mind that multilateralism is the fundamental principle which must govern negotiations conducted in all fields of interest to the international community, and particularly in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, with a view to maintaining and strengthening universal standards and extending their scope, Morocco has always played an enthusiastic part in all multilateral negotiations on arms control and fulfilled its commitments under agreements in force. Thus, it has signed and ratified all multilateral instruments concerning weapons of mass destruction, and remains committed to general and complete disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament. Allow me, as is customary, to list our principal commitments.

Firstly, as a contracting party to the NPT, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Morocco has consistently worked for the total elimination of nuclear weapons and their non-proliferation, and has supported decisions aimed at strengthening the Treaty review process. Thus, my country fully subscribes to the positive conclusions of the 1995 and 2000 Review Conferences, and reaffirms the importance of their implementation by States parties in a transparent, balanced and irreversible manner.

Secondly, in pursuance of its commitment under the NPT, Morocco has signed the comprehensive safeguards agreement and the additional protocol with the International Atomic Energy Agency. My country has furthermore notified the Director General of the Agency that it accepts the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, and I would add that before leaving Rabat, in my capacity as Chairman of the Permanent Commission on Nuclear Issues, we drew up draft legislation and plans for the establishment and institutionalization of a nuclear safety agency.

Thirdly, in this context, Morocco has continually encouraged accession to the NPT and the conclusion of comprehensive safeguards agreements with the IAEA by all States in the Middle East region, including Israel, as an important step towards establishing a climate of trust and a preliminary to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

(Mr. Loulichki, Morocco)

Pending the establishment of such a zone, my country repeats its appeal to all parties concerned to formally declare their intention to refrain, on a basis of reciprocity, from manufacturing, acquiring or possessing nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices and not to authorize the deployment of such weapons on their territory by any third party.

Fourthly, Morocco has ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. My country deplores the fact that the CTBT, which was opened for signature on 24 September 1996, has still not entered into force, and in this respect reiterates its call to all States which have not yet done so to accede to it without delay and until that time to respect the moratoria on nuclear testing.

Fifthly, Morocco, which is firmly convinced that the international struggle against terrorism must cover all the aspects of this complex phenomenon, and which, as you know, Mr. President, has suffered the consequences of this new scourge of the twenty-first century, played an active role in its capacity as Chairman of the Legal Committee of the General Assembly in ensuring the adoption of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. Moreover, on 26 October 2004 it submitted its national report in accordance with paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 1540 with a view to an exhaustive evaluation of the international community's capacity to prevent the use of weapons of mass destruction by terrorists.

Lastly, Morocco has continually supported the opening of negotiations within the Conference on Disarmament for the development of a treaty on fissile material, a legal instrument on negative security assurances and of a convention on nuclear disarmament. My country fully subscribes to efforts aimed at securing the necessary consensus on a programme of work for the Conference on Disarmament.

Since 1979, when it joined the Conference on Disarmament, my country has been actively involved in the debate on the priorities of this unique multilateral negotiating body, taking the Decalogue as its point of departure. The Decalogue, which is the fruit of a consensus achieved in 1978, has facilitated real and substantial progress towards the ultimate objective of general and complete disarmament, in particular through the adoption of the Convention for the prohibition of chemical weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. However, the CD now needs to adapt to the new reality of the threats facing the international community. We believe that, far from meeting the expectations of its member States, the Conference has remained on the sidelines of multilateral efforts designed to define our current vulnerabilities and to forge a new consensus as to the response to be provided.

Given this situation, Morocco cannot but encourage the members of this Conference to go beyond a dogmatic reading of the Decalogue and prevent the Conference, as the body which acts as a catalyst for disarmament, from being sidetracked by excessively limited security-related imperatives. By devoting an informal meeting to new and additional issues related to the agenda when it was in the Chair of the Conference, Morocco responded to the overall concerns of member States while reaffirming its commitment to the relevance and topicality of the agenda. My delegation can therefore only welcome your initiative to appoint a group of Friends of the

(Mr. Loulichki, Morocco)

President, who, while seeking consensus on a work programme, must among other things look at the relationship between the programme of work and the Conference's agenda. I reiterate our willingness to join this group formally, even if, as other colleagues have put it so well before me, all the member States of the Conference on Disarmament are your friends, and cannot fail to support your efforts, beginning with Morocco, to help this body overcome its lethargy. The Moroccan delegation also fully supports your initiative to hold formal thematic meetings on all the items on the Conference's agenda, and we are prepared to display the required flexibility with respect to the discussion in this context of various issues related to international security.

In conclusion, allow me to express the hope that this year we shall succeed in displaying the vision, the political will and the necessary patience to take advantage of the unique composition and experience of our Conference and restore the confidence of the international community in the Conference on Disarmament's ability to meet the disarmament challenges of the twenty-first century for a world of greater security and a world of greater solidarity.

The PRESIDENT: I thank Ambassador Loulichki of Morocco for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the Chair. I now give the floor to Ambassador Valery Loshchinin of the Russian Federation.

Mr. LOSHCHININ (Russian Federation) (translated from Russian): First of all, Mr. President, I would like to emphasize that thanks to your efforts we have made significant progress in our work. The Russian delegation extends its gratitude to you and your team for your efforts.

I would now like to draw your attention to another subject. Back in June 2002, the delegations of Russia and China, together with a group of co-sponsoring States, submitted to the Conference working paper CD/1679, "Possible elements for a future international legal agreement on the prevention of the deployment of weapons in outer space, the threat or use of force against outer space objects". That document was the subject of broad and committed discussion, and it was initially developed as an invitation to a dialogue. Since the time it was issued, document CD/1679 has been substantially enriched by various ideas and views. Important proposals were made by delegations at formal and informal plenary sessions of the Conference, at thematic discussions in the First Committee of the General Assembly and during bilateral consultations. In a word, we may note tangible progress in elaborating on the elements contained in CD/1679.

We have carefully tried to note all this down, and now the delegations of Russia and China have asked the secretariat to distribute a document we have prepared containing a second revised and updated version of the compilation of comments and suggestions on working paper CD/1679. This document is to be distributed as an official Conference document.

I would like to remind you that the first version of the compilation was distributed by us informally in the Conference on 31 July 2003. This, the second version, is based on the first and in fact reflects movement on the subject over the last two years - two and a half years in fact. The purpose of the compilation is to supplement and enrich document CD/1679, to promote

(Mr. Loshchinin, Russian Federation)

further in-depth discussion, to identify clusters of issues where views are similar or identical, as well as those where views differ. It is a kind of reflection of the current state of understanding of the Russian-Chinese initiative and offers additional food for thought.

We hope that the compilation will prove useful in shaping and fine-tuning the positions adopted by member States. It should help to make our work in the Conference this year on the subject of preventing an arms race in outer space more streamlined and more focused.

In its structure the compilation is a calque of document CD/1679, and their thematic divisions coincide. We have tried to cite the proposals delegations have made on the text word for word, whereas oral comments have been set down in compressed form. We hope delegations will recognize their views and their thoughts in the compilation, and we hope that everything has been put down properly.

The compilation testifies to the importance of the issue and its close relationship with the fundamental security interests of States, the great amount of attention paid by member States to the problem of preventing an arms race in outer space and the non-deployment of weapons in space, the committed and productive work being conducted on the subject insofar as the current situation in the Conference permits, the need to find a compromise on the programme of work of the CD soon in order for an ad hoc committee on PAROS to be re-established after a distinctly protracted break. The compilation also shows that there are good prospects for developing a new international legal agreement on prevention of the deployment of weapons in outer space and the use of force or the threat of force against outer space objects.

Of course there are still a number of questions which require further work. We intend to continue to be active in that direction. We count on the compilation receiving careful scrutiny by delegations and in capitals and helping to find common views and approaches to this subject.

The PRESIDENT: I thank Ambassador Valery Loshchinin of the Russian Federation for his statement, and I now give the floor to the Ambassador of China, Mr. Cheng Jingye.

Mr. CHENG (China) (translated from Chinese): Mr. President, today's is the last CD plenary under your presidency. We appreciate the unremitting efforts and diplomatic abilities you have put into promoting the work of the CD.

Recently the delegations of China and the Russian Federation together submitted to the secretariat a second version of the compilation of comments and suggestions on the PAROS working paper (CD/1679). It was based on the latest views to emerge from various forums, including the seminar on outer space held last year, and from open-ended consultations on this matter. These views are frank and constructive, although they are not entirely homogeneous, in some cases even divergent. As with the first version, in compiling the second version we attached importance to objectivity and openness in an effort to reflect views and suggestions objectively. We hope this will facilitate further discussion on the issue and help shape common views on substantive matters such as definitions and verification.

(Mr. Cheng, China)

As science and technology develop, more and more countries are participating in the peaceful use and development of outer space. As discussions on outer space continue, more and more countries are realizing the importance of avoiding the weaponization of outer space. These extensive, in-depth discussions and our compilation will surely help to create a good basis for negotiating and concluding a new legal instrument on outer space. We hope and believe the new compilation will receive attention and careful study. We also hope that the CD will soon re-establish the ad hoc committee on outer space to negotiate legal instruments that will stop an arms race in and the weaponization of outer space.

The PRESIDENT: I thank Ambassador Cheng of China for his statement and I now give the floor to Ambassador Mary Whelan of Ireland.

Ms. WHELAN (Ireland): Mr. President, in taking the floor during your last day presiding at the CD let me congratulate you on your efforts which have contributed to a much livelier start to our work in 2006. I hope that the collective efforts of the A6 will bear fruit. This will not happen without a commitment for all members of the Conference to a process of open, frank and interactive dialogue.

On this occasion I wish to revert to an issue which I raised in my statement to the CD on 7 February. At that time I expressed the wish that the annual statement to honour International Women's Day conveyed to the CD by representatives of civil society should be delivered by its authors.

I would like to recall the background to this issue. For many years a statement drafted by NGOs to honour International Women's Day has been read out to the Conference by a member of the secretariat. To many of us it is inexplicable, and indeed highly offensive, that those women's NGOs who draft the statement have not been permitted to deliver it themselves. At the same time I note I have never heard any statement or any comment in this chamber supporting the current practice.

For too long we have approached our work in this body from the perspective of what we cannot do. We fail to utilize even the limited discretion which we have in conducting our work. I have carefully read the rules of procedure of the CD and find no rule which would prohibit a statement being made by NGOs on International Women's Day. I would therefore request the incoming President of the Conference, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, to take appropriate steps to facilitate any request from NGOs in this regard, and I understand that the NGOs in question have made contact with the Ambassador.

The PRESIDENT: I thank Ambassador Mary Whelan of Ireland for her statement, and I now give the floor to Ambassador Park In-kook of the Republic of Korea, the incoming President.

Mr. PARK (Republic of Korea): Mr. President, at the outset, as the immediate incoming president of the CD, I would like to express my special appreciation to you for the successful execution of your presidency, namely the adoption of the agenda and the timetable of activities for the 2006 session, as well as the appointment of Friends of Presidents.

(Mr. Park, Republic of Korea)

We are of the opinion that your able guidance during this session will set a favourable tone for putting the CD again on the right track through the active operation of the CD throughout the whole year.

Given the lethargic state of the CD, along with the unprecedented failures of disarmament and non-proliferation events in 2005, the announcement of the timetable of activities for 2006 at the last CD plenary session should be remembered as a remarkable milestone which has given the CD a glimmer of hope.

To maintain this precious momentum and to make our debate more organized and output-oriented, I would like to suggest to you and all our colleagues the following basic principles to guide our deliberations.

First, during the general debate session, I expect every member State will have a chance to clarify its national position in an updated formula. Also the member States are strongly encouraged to present their observations and views and ideas or any proposal which could serve as a basis for constructive dialogue. At the same time, I would like to suggest that the interventions of all delegations be centred on agenda items 1 and 2 to make them more structured, without prejudice to the right of member States to raise any issue which they may consider to merit attention in accordance with rule 30 of the rules of procedure of the CD.

Second, for the focused discussion session on nuclear disarmament, I suggest that delegations make their interventions under the relevant sub-items, if applicable. I also encourage delegations to invite experts from capitals and submit their positions, ideas or proposals in written form for the benefit of interactive discussions.

With these principles in mind, I would like to suggest the following timetable during my presidency:

23 February (Thursday):	Opening session/general debate
28 February (Tuesday)*:	Focused debate on nuclear disarmament
2 March (Thursday)*:	Focused debate on nuclear disarmament
7 March (Tuesday):	General debate
9 March (Thursday):	General debate
14 March (Tuesday):	General debate/high-level segment (if applicable)
16 March (Thursday):	General debate/high-level segment (if applicable)/closing session

\* Subject to adjustment.



(Mr. Park, Republic of Korea)

This timetable is only indicative and is flexible. The number of sessions for focused structured debates on nuclear disarmament and whether to introduce sub-items will be adjusted reflecting the views and intentions of member States. In this regard, I encourage all colleagues to contact me as soon as possible if they have any intention to make contributions or suggestions on how to make our debates more interactive and meaningful. I will be totally at your disposal.

Last but not least, I should like to impress upon member States the importance of the high-level segment. The new initiative of the CD, with an unprecedented year-long-timetable approach, deserves the blessings and encouragement of high-level officials. The dates for the two sessions of the last week assigned to the high-level segment might be adjusted to synchronize them with the high-level segment session of the sixty-second Commission on Human Rights.

I hope today's advance notice on the timetable during my presidency will enable us all to start business right away from the very first session without wasting precious time for discussion on what to discuss and to be prepared for constructive participation.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the incoming President, Ambassador Park of the Republic of Korea, for his statement, and I myself will refer to his words in my statement as well. I now recognize the representative of Sri Lanka, Ambassador Serala Fernando, who would like to take the floor.

Ms. FERNANDO (Sri Lanka): I had not intended to take the floor, but the statement made by the Ambassador of Ireland has compelled me to add my voice of support and to say that for my delegation, it is incomprehensible that in this year of United Nations reform, a group women's NGOs, who have dedicated many years to the cause of peace, should not be allowed to make their annual statement in the CD on International Women's Day.

As we all know, in the outcome document of the World Summit, special mention has been made of the contribution by women on all three pillars - security, development and human rights - and therefore I would urge Ambassador Park, who will be CD President in March, and the P6 to give attention to resolving this issue during this year and to enable the women's NGOs to deliver their annual statement in their own voice in the CD on 8 March.

The PRESIDENT: I thank Ambassador Fernando of Sri Lanka for her statement, and I now give the floor to Mr. Magnus Hellgren, the representative of Sweden.

Mr. HELLGREN (Sweden): Mr. President, I did not intend to take the floor either, but I feel a need to react on a few comments that have been made. First of all, though, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the impressive efforts you have made during your presidency and in giving us guidance hopefully for a fruitful year in the CD and in bringing the P6 together.

I would like to add our delegation's voice to those of Ireland and Sri Lanka on the issue of NGOs being allowed to deliver their message by the authors themselves. We also have studied the rules of procedure very carefully and we think that there is nothing preventing the

(Mr. Hellgren, Sweden)

CD from inviting that message to be presented by its authors. I strongly urge members to view the opening of the curtains behind you, Mr. President, not only as a symbolic gesture, but as a sign of a new era in the CD.

Secondly, I would like to thank the two delegations of the Russian Federation and China for their timely introduction of their document with compilations and comments on their previous working paper on the issue of PAROS. At a glance, I quickly recognize that the views expressed by my delegation have been incorporated, but we will also study this document very, very carefully at the expert level. But the introduction of it, more than three months in advance of the sessions that will take place under the Russian presidency of the CD, is an example of how to help delegations prepare properly at the expert level for these focused debates, and I thank those delegations very much for that.

The PRESIDENT: I thank Mr. Hellgren of Sweden for his statement, and I now give the floor to Ambassador Johannes Landman of the Netherlands.

Mr. LANDMAN (Netherlands): Mr. President, we have just had two interventions by Ireland and Sri Lanka and I would, without having asked for instructions from my authorities, like to support, on behalf of the Netherlands, the appeal. And I would even like to broaden it: that we indeed have the possibility to look a little bit more closely at the important roles of NGOs and how they are kept outside our doors.

The main reason I am taking the floor is that I would really sincerely like to compliment and commend you on your efforts, and in particular what has come out of them, because one can put out a lot of effort and then nothing comes out of it. But you have managed, perhaps for the first time in a long time, to produce something on behalf of the six Presidents of this year, and that is that we now have an idea of the different time slots for the different issues which are of gravest concern to all of us here. And now we have to make the best of it and to make optimum use of it. I think that the P6 have delivered. It is now for every single succeeding presidency to capitalize on it. It is with that aim that the Netherlands requested the secretariat at the beginning of this week to submit a two-page document. I am happy to see that finally it has been able to at least distribute one part of it, which is the timetable of activities, the schedule you have just received. The piece of paper is just meant as a working tool, as a help, to visualize at a glance which presidency is in charge, and secondly, it gives very clearly in black the different clusters and the subjects on which these clusters are focused.

The Netherlands really sincerely hopes that this will indeed allow for a structured debate. We have just had an interesting intervention by the Russian and Chinese representatives. It cannot be that we have just five days of discussion on PAROS. It cannot be that we have just five days of discussion on the important matter of disarmament. It cannot be that we have just five days of discussion on FMCT. These clusters have to be carefully prepared. If we want to involve our capitals, if we want to have an intensive session - because it should be seen as that - of five days with experts, it has to be prepared. So I do hope indeed that every presidency takes its responsibility and focuses on the preparation of the cluster or clusters it has during its presidency. It doesn't make sense, frankly, to discuss where we are to focus in the coming

(Mr. Landman, Netherlands)

weeks under the able chairmanship of Ambassador Park on agenda points 1 and 2, that we are going to discuss an agenda item that was maybe foreseen in June or July. So I do hope indeed that we all work and respond to the appeal of Ambassador Park - and I think his presidency is of particular significance because it will be the trend-setter - that we will indeed be able, on the basis of items submitted and proposals for sub-items, that we are having this focused debate and prepare, to the best of our ability, these clusters which are foreseen.

It is our credibility that is at stake. We cannot continue as we have done in the past. We have to change, and we also have to have clearly in mind that the aim is that out of this exercise come clear decisions as regards material to negotiate.

This approach of ours is not a precedent. It should be a one-time exercise to help us out of the doldrums.

The PRESIDENT: I thank Ambassador Landman of the Netherlands for his statement, and I now give the floor to the representative of South Africa, Ambassador Glaudine Mtshali.

Ms. MTSHALI (South Africa): Mr. President, firstly I would also like to lend our support to the statement that was made by Ireland and supported by Sri Lanka, Sweden and the Netherlands. It is a matter long overdue.

As we come to end of your term as the President of the Conference on Disarmament, I wish to express my delegation's appreciation for your tireless and innovative efforts to guide the work of the Conference. As I pointed out during the first plenary of this year, South Africa has considerable sympathy for your difficult task as the first President of the CD in 2006, as we will find ourselves in a similar position at the beginning of next year. It is for this reason that my delegation has followed your initiatives with keen interest, particularly the establishment of the Friends of the Presidents, as well as the introduction of the P6 concept that is aimed at creating greater continuity amongst the six Presidents during a given year.

My delegation will continue to monitor closely and evaluate the success of these and other initiatives during the course of this year, in order to ascertain whether they have contributed to moving the Conference closer to the adoption of a programme of work. If this should prove to be the case, such methods could also be of assistance in the search for a consensus on a programme of work during South Africa's presidency at the beginning of 2007.

In this regard, I wish to place on record my appreciation for your hard work and dedication to our shared objective: of rousing the Conference on Disarmament from its slumber and getting it back to work as it should be.

The PRESIDENT: I thank Ambassador Mtshali of South Africa, the first President of the Conference on Disarmament in the 2007 session. Later on I will reply to your words. I now give the floor to Ambassador Sameh Hassan Shoukry of Egypt.

Mr. SHOUKRY (Egypt): Mr. President, since this is the first time I am taking the floor, I would like to express our gratitude for the excellent manner in which you have undertaken your responsibilities.

It is not my intention to make a substantive intervention at this time, but I would like to take this opportunity to indicate my delegation's support for the proposal of Ambassador Mary Whelan concerning the delivery of the statement of the NGOs of women working for peace by its representative. We believe that this can only promote the work of the CD and is a sign of inclusiveness that is long overdue.

The PRESIDENT: I thank Ambassador Shoukry of Egypt for his statement, and I now give the floor to Ambassador Carlos Antonio da Rocha Paranhos of Brazil.

Mr. da ROCHA PARANHOS (Brazil): I did not have the intention of taking the floor this morning, but I decided to do so in order to indicate clearly our full support for the proposal that has just been presented by Ambassador Mary Whelan of Ireland. I would hope that the incoming President of the CD could explore all possibilities of allowing representatives of the women's NGOs to deliver their statement on International Women's Day on 8 March.

And since I have the floor, I would also like to thank the distinguished representatives of the Russian Federation and China for their presentation on PAROS and their presentation of the compilation of comments and suggestions, because I think that being done with such an anticipation of time for the foreseen discussions on PAROS, that will give us material and an indication that we can progress in our work. I think that as Ambassador Landman from the Netherlands was saying, we have a clear indication of the timetable of activities. I think that we should devote ourselves to serious work, present ideas, proposals, because it would be, let us say, really a pity if we wasted this time. I think that the CD has to engage in serious work, with a view to finding ground for negotiations, and this is the time to do it.

I want once again to praise your efforts in engaging all the incoming Presidents in this exercise and finding a way of having us all discussing serious issues, with a view to moving forward. We cannot just repeat rhetoric and a repetition of national statements. We must find a way to move forward to the benefit of the credibility of the CD.

The PRESIDENT: I thank Ambassador da Rocha Paranhos of Brazil for his statement, and I now give the floor to the representative of Pakistan, Ms. Tehmina Janjua.

Ms. JANJUA (Pakistan): Mr. President, we would like to thank the delegations of China and Russia for the second revised and amended version of the compilation of comments and suggestions on CD working paper CD/1679 on PAROS. We appreciate this effort to update documentation relating to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, following conferences held over the past few years. Also, the latest paper outlines clearly the rationale for proposals made by China and Russia, as well as the response to specific comments received in the course of discussions on CD/1679. This will keep us on track on PAROS, in line with the G21 proposal for the programme of work of the CD, contained in document CD/1570, that calls for the establishment of an ad hoc committee to negotiate specific and concrete measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

(Ms. Janjua, Pakistan)

From the discussions held in the CD and informal conferences on this issue, it is clear that the concerns expressed on the weaponization of outer space are shared across the board in the CD. We extend our full support to this initiative and to a start on work on PAROS on the basis of this working paper.

We would also like to support Ambassador Mary Whelan's proposal to have an NGO statement on International Women's Day in the CD.

Finally, Mr. President, at the end of your presidency, we would like to place on record our appreciation for your work and the tireless energy and efforts you have put in to kick-start the CD.

The PRESIDENT: I thank Ms. Janjua for her statement, and I now give the floor to the representative of Norway, Mr. Kjetil Paulsen.

Mr. PAULSEN (Norway): Mr. President, my delegation has been on record for many years as advocating that the NGO statement in relation to International Women's Day be delivered by the NGO, that is, by the author herself, and not by an intermediary. We continue to hold this view, not because so much of significance, for NGOs or for anyone else, is taking in this chamber for the time being, but because it is a matter of principle. I would also encourage the incoming President to use his prerogatives and settle this issue once and for all.

The PRESIDENT: I thank Mr. Paulsen of Norway for his statement, and now I recognize Canada, Ambassador Paul Meyer.

Mr. MEYER (Canada): I had not intended to take the floor either this morning, but I did want to associate myself very much with the proposition that Ambassador Mary Whelan has put forward. We hope that we can start off on a new track this year in the CD, and this is one very modest way in which we can demonstrate a change in our attitude and practice.

Secondly, I wanted to commend my Russian and Chinese colleagues for the work that they have done in the compilation on reactions to their working paper on PAROS. I would draw attention to the fact that it also has a structure in it and sub-items - I count 13 headings - and I think that in reviewing the paper, we would all note the utility of moving from the general to the specific and also to begin to synthesize and summarize not only the original proposition, but various views and observations and new ideas relating to it. I think this is an effort that clearly we would like to see extended to the other priority issues before us, and I hope we can do so.

Thirdly, and really in extrapolation of this, I welcome Ambassador Park's pre-notice of the approach he intends to take. I particularly endorse the idea of sub-items being used to structure our future discussions. As I observed in the last plenary, we've had enough of general debate in this forum. Of course, for those delegations that have not had an opportunity to give a general statement, I would very much welcome hearing from them. Participation in this body should have some obligations as well as rights, and I see that as at least ensuring that a national

(Mr. Meyer, Canada)

view on the subject matter of this Conference is at least put forward at some point in the tenure or membership. So I would encourage those who have not. At the same time I would encourage colleagues who have already made a general statement not to repeat themselves, but to move into the more specific mode as soon as we can. And it is for our President to guide us through this in terms of a coherent fashion. Obviously, there is more utility when one group's commentary on the same subject at the same time than a cacophony of opinion across a whole spectrum of ideas.

And we've made some suggestions to the incoming President on that score, and we would hope others could encourage him indeed and design their own future participation in a way that is as substantive as possible and allows us to get down to the level of work that I think we all aspire to.

The PRESIDENT: I thank Ambassador Meyer of Canada for his statement, and I now give the floor to the Ambassador of New Zealand, Mr. Tim Caughley.

Mr. CAUGHLEY (New Zealand): Mr. President, I wanted to speak in part and particularly at the beginning to thank you for your efforts throughout your presidency. I feel, having sat in this chamber for a number of years, that the start we have made this year and the kind of debates that we have begun to have, including the interventions made today, have helped us to deepen our level of engagement, and I think a lot of the credit for that goes to your efforts and energy, and I welcome also your successor's statement, his own efforts, and indeed the efforts of all the Presidents this coming year, and there is also I think a note of some pleasure to my delegation that already the first President for next year is focusing on efforts to move us to where we so desperately want to get. So I thank you for your leadership, Mr. President.

I also feel that we need to move beyond the general debate, as representatives of the Netherlands and Canada and others have referred to this morning, and in this regard I welcome the efforts of China and Russia in helping us to intensify the level of examination of one of our core issues, PAROS.

Finally, as I did on 7 February, I join my delegation's voice to those of many others this morning in support of Ireland's initiative for the delivery, by the NGO authors, of their important message on Women's Day.

The PRESIDENT: I thank Ambassador Tim Caughley for his statement, and I now give the floor to the representative of Mexico, Mr. Enrique Ochoa.

Mr. OCHOA (Mexico) (translated from Spanish): Mr. President, first of all allow me also to congratulate you on your initiative in holding structured debates during the different Presidential terms this year. We hope that these will not be useful only for having a more in-depth structured debate, but will also bring us closer to a consensus on our programme of work and in this same regard, we hope that the work to be done by your Friends will lead us along the same path.

(Mr. Ochoa, Mexico)

I would also like to express thanks to the delegations of Russia and China for having presented us with an updated working document. We think that this practice is extremely wise and we hope that this will be repeated on other subjects; we consider this to be a joint responsibility of all the delegations in this room. Finally, I would like to add my voice to that of other delegations to support the proposal made by the delegation of Ireland.

The PRESIDENT: I thank Mr. Ochoa of Mexico for his statement, and I recognize the representative of Algeria, Mr. Hamza Khelif.

Mr. KHELIF (Algeria) (translated from Arabic): Mr. President, at the outset, I would like to thank you for all the efforts that you have made ever since the beginning of the 2006 session, and even before, to activate the work of our Conference. I also wish to thank the distinguished Ambassador of the Republic of Korea for his proposal on the organization of the work during his presidency. In addition, the Algerian delegation would like to thank the delegations of Russia and China for revised working paper 1679 concerning a ban on the weaponization of outer space

We are convinced that outer space must never be used in such a manner, and we are also convinced that this matter should be considered in the framework of a balanced and comprehensive programme of work of the CD, in accordance with the five Ambassadors' proposal.

I also wish to add my voice to that of the delegations which have spoken previously in favour of allowing civil society to address the CD directly.

The PRESIDENT: I thank Mr. Khelif of Algeria for his statement - Algeria, number 17 on my list of speakers and the last for today. Does any delegation wish to take the floor at this stage? If there are no more requests for the floor, I should like to make some concluding remarks as the term of the Polish presidency comes to an end.

We are about to end the last plenary meeting under the Polish presidency in the Conference on Disarmament. Traditionally, it is the time for the President to sum up and draw conclusions.

However, it is not my intention to draw conclusions today. The processes initiated by the Polish delegation in the course of its presidency will continue to develop, I hope, during the whole of the 2006 session. It is, therefore, no time to sum up the cooperation of the six CD Presidents (the P6), consultations conducted by the Friends of the Presidents, nor the activities envisaged in the timetable announced last week. It is up to the delegations to fill those frameworks with real substance. The work of the Friends of the Presidents or the focused, structured debates envisaged in the timetable will be empty without the involvement of the entire CD. We will be able to fully evaluate our endeavours together at the end of the 2006 session.

(The President)

When we began preparations for the Polish presidency - in the summer of last year - we knew that we were embarking on a long journey with an uncertain end. But, as the Chinese saying goes: even the longest journey starts with making the single first step. And we were greatly aided in making that first step. With great assistance and advice from the delegations presiding over the CD in 2006, we began preparing for this year's session. Here I would like to thank Ambassador Park of the Republic of Korea, Ambassador Costea of Romania, Mr. Vasiliev of the Russian Federation, Ambassador Camara of Senegal and Mr. Stefanek of Slovakia, as well as their advisers and collaborators. Their tireless efforts, hard work and our long discussions made our plans possible.

I would also like to thank our Friends of the Presidents: Ambassador Sarala Fernando of Sri Lanka, Ambassador Jazairy of Algeria, Ambassador Draganov of Bulgaria, Ambassador Martabit of Chile, Ambassador Trezza of Italy and Ambassador Mine of Japan. I wish to thank you, Excellencies, for your willingness to assist the P6 in fulfilling our tasks and helping us to seek consensus on the crucial problems facing the CD. In the nearest future we shall discuss in more detail the mandate of the Friends. My successor in this seat, Ambassador Park of Korea, will inform you of the results of those discussions.

Most importantly, I would like to thank everybody in this room, all delegations. Throughout the preparations for the Polish presidency, and during the presidency, I could always count on your support and advice. I want to underline "advice". And above all, I could always count on your friendship. For this, I thank you all. One of the United States Presidents once said: "Being a President is like riding a tiger. A man has to keep riding or be swallowed." Thanks to you, I managed not to be swallowed while being the CD President.

Our work would have been extremely difficult without the assistance of the CD secretariat. I wish to thank you, Mr. Sergei Ordzhonikidze, and your staff for their professionalism and devotion. I could always count on you, and let me assure you that you can always count on me. I would like to personally thank Mr. Jerzy Zaleski, the Secretary of the Conference. His expertise in the disarmament field and encyclopaedic knowledge of the Conference on Disarmament are well known in this room. Dear Jerzy, it is a real pleasure to have you by my side.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the interpreters. You facilitate communication and understanding between delegations. Thanks to you, we were able to better fulfil our plans. To that I say: *shukran, spasibo, gracias, xiexie, merci*.

Only a few hours away, in Turin, Italy, the Winter Olympic Games are taking place, once again fulfilling the great ideals of Baron Pierre de Coubertin embodied in the five rings joined together on the Olympic flag: unity, cooperation and peace. The five hands joined together above our heads represent the same ideals. Some people may say that those ideals are fading. But let me assure you, both in Geneva and in Turin, they are very much alive. And during the Polish presidency in the Conference on Disarmament, we tried our best to keep them alive.



(The President)

I wish all the best to the incoming Presidents of the 2006 CD session. I hope that together we can make this year different from the last nine.

Before concluding the meeting, I would like once again to invite all the heads of delegation and all members of the delegations of member States of the Conference, as well as the observers, as well as the secretariat, for the reception marking the conclusion of the Polish presidency of the Conference, which will be held today at 6 p.m. at the Permanent Mission of Poland to the United Nations Office in Geneva.

This concludes our business for today.

The next plenary meeting of the Conference will be held on Thursday, 23 February 2006 at 10 a.m., and the President of the Conference will be the Republic of Korea.

The meeting rose at 11.25 a.m.