

PRESIDENTIAL REPORT TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT ON PART I OF THE 2008 SESSION

1. On 23 January 2008 Ambassador Samir Labidi of Tunisia in his capacity as the President of the Conference on Disarmament opened the first plenary of the 2008 session of the Conference on Disarmament in the presence of UN Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia Mr. Abdelwaheb Abdallah. On 25 January 2008 following a debate at which the content of the draft agenda, presented by the President of the Conference, was reviewed, the Conference on Disarmament adopted its agenda for the 2008 Session.
2. On 5 February 2008 Ambassador Samir Labidi of Tunisia in his capacity as the President of the Conference on Disarmament announced that the 2008 Presidents of the Conference had appointed the following Co-ordinators:
 - (a) Ambassador Juan Martabit of Chile for agenda item 1 entitled "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament" and for agenda item 2 "Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters" with a general focus on nuclear disarmament;
 - (b) Ambassador Sumio Tarui of Japan for agenda item 1 entitled "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament" and for agenda item 2 "Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters" with a general focus on the prohibition of the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices;
 - (c) Ambassador Marius Grinius of Canada for agenda item 3 entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space";
 - (d) Ambassador Babacar Carlos Mbaye of Senegal for agenda item 4 entitled "Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons";

- (e) Ambassador Petko Draganov of Bulgaria for agenda item 5 entitled "New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons";
- (f) Ambassador Dayan Jayatilaka of Sri Lanka for agenda item 6 entitled "Comprehensive programme of disarmament";
- (g) Ambassador Wesaka Puja of Indonesia for agenda item 7 entitled "Transparency in Armaments".

The seven agenda item co-ordinators each chaired two informal meetings, during which the CD membership had the opportunity to discuss and to refresh their understanding of all agenda items. On 10 March 2008 the co-ordinators reported to the 2008 Presidents of the Conference under their personal responsibility.

3. The following High-level dignitaries addressed the Conference on Disarmament during Part I of the 2008 session: Mr. Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General; Mr. Abdelwaheb Abdallah, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia; Mr. Des Browne, Secretary of State for Defence of the United Kingdom; Mr. Thomas D'Agostino, Administrator of the US National Nuclear Security Administration; Mr. Sergey Lavrov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation; Mr. Jorge Taiana, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Argentina; Mr. Maxime Verhagen, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands; Mr. Marat Tazhin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan; Mr. Adrian Cioroianu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania; Mr. Manouchehr Mottaki, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Mr. Jan Kubis, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia; Dr. Francisco Santos Calderón, Vice President of Colombia; Mr. Jonas Gahr Støre, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway; Mr. Rafet Akgünay, Deputy Foreign Minister of Turkey; Mr. Yasuhide Nakayama, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan; Mr. Volodymyr Khandogiy, First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine; Mr. Frank Belfrage, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Sweden. The Conference also received a message from Mr. Yang Jiechi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

4. On 12 February 2008, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Mr. Sergey Lavrov presented on behalf of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China a draft text for a treaty on the "Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space, the threat or use of force against outer space objects" (PPWT).

5. The 2008 Presidents of the Conference interacted closely with the CD membership and the agenda item co-ordinators, in parallel with bilateral consultations and regular meetings with regional group co-ordinators. They also participated in the plenaries and informal meetings during Part I of the 2008 session. They assessed the inputs received and proposed a way forward for Part II of the session. The proposal of the 2008 Presidents of the Conference is based on consultations and interaction with the CD membership and strong signals of political commitment and represents a realistic way forward for the CD.

6. On 13 March 2008 Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü of Turkey in his capacity as the President of the Conference on Disarmament presented on behalf of the 2008 Presidents of the Conference a Draft Decision for consideration and adoption by the Conference. This Draft Decision is contained in document CD/1840.
7. On 18 March 2008 Ambassador Yevhen Bersheda of Ukraine in his capacity as the President of the Conference on Disarmament during his inaugural speech informed the membership that CD/1840 was an attempt to integrate the efforts of each and every CD-member to step up the work of the Conference and gain consensus on the way forward.
8. During Part I of the 2008 session a number of member states expressed their interest in the continuation of consultations on CD/1840. The 2008 Presidents of the Conference proceed from the understanding that these consultations will take place during the inter-sessional period and Part II of the 2008 session in the spirit of transparency, flexibility and compromise with an aim of an early commencement of the substantive work of the Conference and intensification of common endeavours towards achieving global security.
