

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

1. The presidential assessments of Part I and Part II of the 2008 CD session are contained in documents CD/1841 and CD/1845 respectively. This report covers the inter-sessional period between Part II and III of the 2008 session as well as the first five weeks of Part III.
2. During the inter-sessional period between Part II and III, the incumbent President, Ambassador Christina Rocca of the United States, conducted consultations with a view to bringing the Conference closer to a consensus on the document CD/1840.
3. At the beginning of Part III, the incumbent President announced that she would continue her consultations with a view to bringing the Conference closer to an agreement on taking up substantive work.
4. On 29 July, Ambassador Christina Rocca of the United States, proposed, on behalf of the 2008 Presidents, to begin one additional informal session on each of the seven agenda items, to be led by the agenda item Coordinators, for the purpose of refreshing the CD's understanding of the issues, and to advance the prospect of consensus on CD/1840. Subsequently, Mr. Alejandro Rogers, representing Ambassador Carlos Portales of Chile, held one informal meeting on 31 July 2008 on agenda item 1 entitled "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament" and agenda item 2 "Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters" with a general focus on nuclear disarmament; Ambassador Sumio Tarui of Japan held one informal meeting on 31 July 2008 on agenda item 1 entitled "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament" and 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; Ambassador Marius Grinius of Canada held one informal meeting on 5 August 2008 on agenda item 3 entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space"; Ambassador Babacar Carlos Mbaye of Senegal held one informal meeting on 7 August 2008 on agenda item 4 entitled "Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons"; Mr. Ivan Gospodinov, representing Ambassador Petko Draganov of Bulgaria held one informal meeting on 7 August 2008 on agenda item 5 entitled "New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such

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weapons; radiological weapons"; Ambassador Dayan Jayatilaka of Sri Lanka held one informal meeting on 12 August 2008 on agenda item 6 entitled "Comprehensive programme of disarmament"; and Ambassador Wesaka Puja of Indonesia held one informal meeting on 12 August on agenda item 7 entitled "Transparency in Armaments". On 13 August 2008, the Coordinators reported orally to the 2008 Presidents on this latest round of informal meetings.

5. The Presidential Proposal contained in document CD/1840 continued to generate support among a substantial number of delegations but did not achieve consensus. Some delegations, though they had some concerns about certain elements in the Proposal, said that they would not oppose consensus on it and other delegations stated they had concerns that the Proposal would not satisfy their expectations. Nonetheless, significant progress was achieved on further elaborating the agenda items and advancing the prospect for reaching agreement on a program of work.

6. During the Presidency of Venezuela (Bolivarian republic of), intensive consultations continued on document CD/1840. Furthermore, also under its Presidency, the Conference proceeded with the consideration of the Report of the 2008 session to the United Nations General Assembly.
