

# CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Thursday, 1 February 2007, at 10.10 a.m.

President:            Ms. Glaudine MTSHALI            South Africa

The PRESIDENT: I declare open the 1050th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

I have the following speaker for today's plenary meeting: Switzerland.

I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Switzerland, Ambassador Jürg Streuli.

Mr. STREULI (Switzerland) (spoke in French): Madam President, as I am taking the floor for the first time in a formal plenary meeting under your presidency, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you heartily on taking the Chair and assure you of my delegation's full support in performing your duties.

I will begin my review of the year 2006 with conventional weapons, the control of which is a disarmament priority for my country. The entry into force of Protocol V on explosive remnants of war during the Third Review Conference of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons is without doubt a major success. Switzerland will continue to strive for the effective implementation of this Protocol. This review conference also offered an opportunity for interesting developments in the discussion on submunitions, with the adoption of a revised mandate for 2007. My country also welcomes the joint statement issued by 26 States parties to the Convention calling in particular for the conclusion of a new international agreement to address the serious humanitarian problems caused by submunitions, and its impact on further discussion on submunitions.

On the subject of anti-vehicle mines, Switzerland bitterly regrets that it was not possible to arrive at an acceptable consensus on new standards of international humanitarian law.

The outcome of the Sixth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention may be regarded as a success in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, giving a positive and encouraging signal for work this year.

In the area of small arms and light weapons, 2006 saw the failure of the conference convened to review progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. The proceedings of the First Committee in autumn 2006 at least made it possible to ensure follow-up to the Programme of Action at the global level, which Switzerland welcomes. Despite the failure of the review conference, the Programme of Action remains the only United Nations instrument which contains a complete list of measures designed to stem the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. It is also the only one to have been accepted by all United Nations Member States. Switzerland will continue to implement it, as it has since its adoption, and will work to ensure that other States do likewise. In our view, this Programme of Action remains a key instrument for the coming years.

My country is also committed to ensuring greater awareness of the negative effects of armed violence on development. It took the initiative, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, of organizing a ministerial summit on this issue in Geneva on

(Mr. Streuli, Switzerland)

7 June 2006. At the end of the summit, the 42 States present signed the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, thus committing themselves to a series of measures to reduce armed violence throughout the world between now and 2015. Since then, the Geneva Declaration has received the support of many other States, highlighting the importance of this issue for many countries. Switzerland is following up this initiative, and has joined forces with a group of States to give concrete form to the commitments entered into. In coordination with other international initiatives which are already in existence or are under preparation, a plan of action is to be drawn up, and the signatory States to the Declaration will carry out a review of progress in 2008.

The events of the past 12 months have confirmed the importance and growing seriousness of the issue of space security. The first test of an anti-satellite weapon for over 20 years is the most notable example, while not the only cause for concern. For an ever growing number of countries, space applications play a critical role in the supply of essential services as well as in many aspects of everyday life. Ensuring stability in space and maintaining access to it must therefore be a common objective. Stationing arms in space and deploying arms targeted on space systems from earth would run counter to that objective. Such a development would only jeopardize security in space, including the security of those actively involved in such deployments. There can be only a single, indivisible space security. Other approaches to strengthening space security and responding to concerns about the vulnerability of space systems can and must be devised. The Conference on Disarmament has already outlined significant action in this direction. Switzerland considers it vital to pursue such action this year within the framework of a structured and substantive dialogue.

In my country's view, a treaty to ban fissile material is the issue which is most ripe for negotiation in the Conference at this stage. A number of delegations have expressed their fundamental support for such a treaty. This year we can build on the results achieved last year, which stemmed from intensive discussions between experts and from the working papers submitted. This process improved understanding of a wide variety of technical aspects of our endeavour. One delegation even submitted a draft treaty and a draft negotiating mandate. The main challenge for our forum at this point will be to find the path which leads to the opening of negotiations.

Switzerland, which will serve as one of the six Presidents during 2007, wishes to appeal to all the members of the Conference to spare no effort and to make good use of the positive momentum built up last year. The key aspects have been identified, and we are aware that there are several different approaches to these problems. In my delegation's view, a pragmatic approach to the crucial aspects of the treaty in question, including verification concerns, remains the only means of securing consensus. The year 2007 will be crucial in maintaining the existing momentum. Switzerland encourages all delegations to enter into the negotiations without preconditions.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Switzerland for his statement.

I have no more speakers on my list for today. Does any delegation wish to take the floor at this stage? That does not seem to be the case.

(The President)

I would now like to invite the Conference to take a decision on additional requests for participation in our work by States not members of the Conference. These requests are contained in CD/WP.544/Add.2, and were received from the following States: Brunei Darussalam, the Philippines and Zambia.

May I take it that the Conference decides to invite these States to participate in the work of the Conference according to its rules of procedure?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: With respect to the schedule of formal and informal meetings, following up on the request by Mr. Landman from the Netherlands, the secretariat will circulate a compilation of the arrangements proposed by the Coordinators by the end of this week, under document symbol CD/2007/CRP.3.

This concludes our business for today at this formal plenary meeting.

I would also like to inform you that our next formal plenary will be held on Tuesday, 6 February 2007, at 10 a.m. The first informal meeting on agenda item 1 will also be held on that day at 3 p.m. under the chairpersonship of Ambassador Strømme.

This plenary meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.