

# CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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ENGLISH

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## FINAL RECORD OF THE ONE THOUSAND AND TWENTY-THIRD PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Thursday, 1 June 2006, at 10.15 a.m.

President: Mr. Valery LOSHCHININ (Russian Federation)

The PRESIDENT (translated from Russian): I declare open the 1023rd plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

A destructive earthquake recently occurred in Indonesia which was accompanied by tremendous loss of life. On behalf of the Conference on Disarmament I would like to extend our deepest condolences to the Government of Indonesia and convey to the Government of Indonesia and the families of those who have been killed our sincere sympathy in connection with this tragedy.

In accordance with the practice established by my predecessors in the Chair of the Conference, this meeting will be devoted to a general debate on any subject relating to the Conference on Disarmament. After that I intend to convene an informal plenary meeting during which I will present to you the midterm report of the Friends of the Presidents. The list of speakers is open. However, before proceeding to the general debate, I should like to make a statement on behalf of the Russian Federation.

I have the honour to read out a message to the Conference from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Sergei Lavrov.

“Greetings to the delegations of member States of the Conference on Disarmament.

“The Conference on Disarmament is a unique and irreplaceable international forum with an unparalleled intellectual and professional potential. It has made a substantial contribution to strengthening peace, security and disarmament by drafting major international legal instruments that laid the foundation for the present-day global system of security and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

“Yet the past accomplishments of the Conference do not offer a comprehensive solution to the problems of arms control and disarmament. The annual agenda of the Conference clearly demonstrates that it continues to play a key role in resolving the most pressing issues of our times - nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States, prevention of an arms race in outer space, etc. Russia advocates the fullest possible involvement of the Conference in efforts to make the world more stable and secure.

“At the same time, the state of affairs in this forum, which impedes the resumption of substantive work, largely reflects the overall situation in the world. In his message to the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on 10 May 2006, the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, emphasized that against the background of the acute threat of international terrorism, the key disarmament issues have all but disappeared from the international agenda, and yet it is too early to speak of an end to the arms race. What is more, he said, the arms race has now entered a new spiral and is attaining new levels of technology, raising the danger of the emergence of a whole arsenal of so-called destabilizing weapons.

(The President)

“We also come across efforts to dilute the integrity of multilateral agreements and undermine their viability. Despite the recent radical changes in the world, prejudices and bloc-based stereotypes persist in many minds, seriously hampering efforts to find appropriate and agreed solutions to common problems. Russia is determined to overcome these trends.

“It is encouraging that the Conference shows no complacency, and in this complicated situation is searching for new approaches to the task of achieving consensus on its programme of work.

“Each member State of the Conference has its own priorities among the items on the agenda. We believe that they can be harmonized if we agree on a balanced programme of work. Constructive proposals in this regard do exist. A number of States, including Russia, have already taken practical steps to accommodate their partners with a view to reaching compromise. We urge other countries to do likewise.

“As it takes on the important responsibilities of the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament, Russia is committed to contributing in every way to progress in its activities aimed at strengthening peace and security.

“I wish you successful and fruitful work.

“Sergei Lavrov.

“Moscow, 29 May 2006.”

This message bears witness to Russia’s serious approach to the activities of the Conference on Disarmament, and it will be circulated as an official document of the Conference at our request.

I would like to express appreciation to my predecessors in the Chair of the Conference this year - Ambassador Zdzisław Rapacki of Poland, Ambassador Park In-kook and his successor Ambassador Chang Dong-hee of the Republic of Korea, Ambassador Doru-Romulus Costea of Romania - for their efforts to make the work of the Conference businesslike and constructive.

Russia welcomes the coordination of efforts by the six Presidents of the Conference on Disarmament for 2006. We participated in devising this initiative and will follow the agreements reached in this regard.

I believe that the reasons for the current state of affairs in the Conference on Disarmament are well known to all. We regret that for a long time we have been unable to resume the substantive activities of the Conference on Disarmament. In the words of the Russian popular saying, “the longer in bed, the deeper in debt”. In that sense the debt of the

(The President)

Conference is indeed growing. At the same time we are encouraged by the stepping up of CD activities this year as a result of the P6 initiative. We are hopeful that this will contribute towards progress in tackling the central task which is currently facing us - that of reaching a compromise on the CD's programme of work.

We intend to structure the work during Russia's term in as businesslike a manner as possible. We hope that our discussions in the coming weeks will be concrete and constructive.

As you know, on 29 March this year Russia circulated an outline of proposed activities during our term in the Chair. We hope that all delegations have taken full advantage of our openness, and we have also noted that no objections to this plan have been expressed. Moreover, there have been no changes in our intentions.

Let me once again remind you of the basic provisions of this programme. Acting in accordance with the P6 arrangement and without prejudice to the rights of delegations under rule 30 of the rules of procedure, we would like to invite delegations to focus on the following issues.

Today, immediately following the general debate in the formal plenary, we are planning to hold an informal plenary meeting to inform you of the midterm report of the Friends of the Presidents on the results of their work.

Next Thursday, 8 June, a formal plenary meeting on two issues. First, the importance of the PAROS problem, and second the scope and basic definitions of a future international legal agreement on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space, the threat or use of force against outer space objects. We suggest discussing the first issue first, and, after the list of speakers on the first issue is exhausted, embarking on a discussion of the second.

The next day, Friday, 9 June, an informal plenary meeting on the issue of the scope and basic definitions of a future international legal agreement on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space, the threat or use of force against outer space objects.

On Tuesday, 13 June, a formal plenary meeting on the issue of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space, including those in the context of document CD/1679.

On Thursday, 15 June, an informal plenary on the same issue. And the day before that, on Wednesday, 14 June, we would like to invite delegations of member and observer States and representatives of UNIDIR to an informal open-ended meeting to discuss the following issues: first, ways to assure the safety of outer space assets; second, the way ahead on the PAROS issue in the CD and other organizations; and third, any other business that we might wish to raise.

On Tuesday, 20 June, a formal plenary meeting on the issue of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons. This is agenda item 5. If necessary, we could hold an informal plenary on the same subject immediately after the formal plenary.

(The President)

On Thursday, 22 June, a formal plenary meeting on the same issue, and also a wrap-up of achievements during Russia's term in the Chair.

As you know, in order to raise the level of professionalism in our discussions, we have invited delegations to send experts from their capitals to Geneva. In order to facilitate contacts between experts and between delegations, we would request the secretariat to prepare and distribute a list of experts who will participate in the future work as members of their national delegations. We would request delegations to provide the secretariat with the appropriate information in advance.

I should like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the secretariat for the note it prepared on "Basic documents of the Conference on Disarmament related to the prevention of an arms race in outer space" for the period 1984-2006, which we circulated on 29 March through the regional group coordinators.

In connection with the meetings planned for Wednesday, 14 June, we would request delegations, with the help of the secretariat, to bring forward the time of the regional group meetings which are normally held on Wednesday mornings.

All the scheduled meetings will start at 10 a.m. If the morning meetings do not suffice, discussions will continue in the afternoon the same day. In addition, if we have a high-level segment, the start of our regular meetings may be postponed as appropriate. Please bear this in mind.

Of course, we understand that the main task of any President is to achieve a compromise on a programme of work for the Conference. Since we are implementing an agreed initiative by all the six CD Presidents for this year, it is not our intention to invite delegations to bilateral consultations. However, we are open to such contacts at the initiative of delegations at any time. Furthermore, we assume that appropriate consultations will be continued by the Friends of the Presidents.

In accordance with the rules of procedure, the President organizes the work of the Conference and represents it in the outside world. We shall perform these functions scrupulously. We also intend to take an active part in the forthcoming discussions on matters of substance. For your information, we expect that experts from Moscow will arrive in Geneva next week.

Does anyone wish to take the floor? No one does. And, as announced earlier, following the adjournment of this meeting, we will convene an informal plenary meeting in 10 minutes. As usual, the informal meeting will be open to the members of the Conference, observer States and experts who are members of delegations.

The next plenary meeting will be held on Thursday, 8 June 2006 at 10 a.m. in this conference room. This plenary meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 10.35 a.m.