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# Conference on Disarmament

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## United States of America

### Working paper

#### **The United States of America's views on the Secretary-General's High-Level Meeting on "Revitalizing the Work of the CD and Taking Forward Multilateral Disarmament Negotiations" to be held on 24 September 2010**

1. The United States of America welcomes exchanges of views on the upcoming High Level Meeting and, as previously stated, again thanks the Secretary General for his personal leadership on these vital issues.
2. The United States of America believes the Conference on Disarmament can be a valuable institution that can make an important difference in advancing broad disarmament goals. The CD's previous incarnations produced some of the international community's landmark treaties.
3. The CD's work covers the full range of topics and, in view of the role consensus plays in shaping its work, balanced work programs are the way to get it in motion.
4. The United States of America welcomed the spirit of compromise in CD/1864 that represented the best opportunity in many years for this group to get back to work and actively lead international multilateral disarmament initiatives, just as it and its predecessors have done so notably in the past.
5. The American government still considers CD/1864's Program of Work, so ably assembled by Algeria, to be the best way ahead. It covers negotiation on FMCT, along the lines of the carefully crafted Shannon Mandate, and substantive work to be undertaken across the range of the core areas, and in a balanced manner.
6. The United States of America is also highly conscious that there is a spot light from the international community on our work here in Geneva. The continuing stalemate here does not go unnoticed and does not reflect well on the credibility of this valuable institution. The United States of America presumes that none of the leaders go to New York with the intention of threatening or undermining the CD – that is certainly not the position of the American government - but one must not discount the possibility that without a concerted dose of political will, this institution will atrophy into irrelevance. Given the importance of effective, verifiable, step-by-step disarmament, the American government will actively explore promising avenues to make such progress.

7. As mentioned previously, one should have realistic expectations as to what a single meeting can achieve. That said, the High Level Meeting should be seen as an opportunity to reinvest in the CD and show the CD as a “can do” institution which can again realize its potential.

8. We have listened with great interest to all the interventions which have been made on this subject. Our initial reaction to the G-21 statement was disappointment. The statement referred to but one of our core areas and described nuclear disarmament in terms of a timebound nuclear weapons convention while making absolutely no reference to fissile material. How can one possibly get to a nuclear weapons convention without dealing with fissile material -- the essential ingredient to any nuclear warhead?

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