

*Unofficial transcript*

**Algeria, President CD**

**22 May 2009**

Ladies and Gentlemen. I declare open the 1136th session of the Conference on Disarmament. Last Tuesday we had a very full house for the resumption of our work after the recess. I would like to express my gratitude to all the member states present, who were represented at the highest level of the Ambassadors during this remarkable session; at which the CD was addressed by the Secretary General of the United Nations and by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland who came here for the first time to the CD to express her support and the support of her country to our deliberations, as also the Minister of Algeria. I would suggest if you agree that I send to these three dignitaries, a letter expressing our appreciation for their inspiring contributions to our deliberations.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, we are now moving to a new stage in our consultation process after a document, CD/1863 was submitted in the name of the P6 to this assembly. The way that we would be proceeding is to now hold meetings with regional groups to ascertain their response to this draft proposal. We have already started on this exercise. We have met with the Western Group and the G21. We are going to meet on Monday with the EEG Group and on Wednesday with China.

We feel that this rotation between informal meetings with regional group and formal meetings of the CD are useful in order to be able to take on board at informal meeting the positions expressed during the formal sessions. Thus, to progress progressively towards a consensus.

Now it is clear that at this stage it is still early days and we do not have a consensus. We do not expect on the first meeting after the presentation of a document like CD/1863, for anybody or any regional group to announce consensus. It would be useful for Member States who would like to give us some signals or suggestions to do so. Or they may do so of course on next Tuesday, or next Thursday, or on any time in the future. I do not anticipate that there is a time limit for the exercise – you know that we have been engaged in this exercise for twelve years, I hope that we don't go through another twelve years before we come to a close. The P-6 is a collegiate group and therefore what one president started, and the process started with Viet Nam this year, I would just be one of the actors