

Unofficial transcript

CD President, Argentina, Ambassador Roberto Garcia Moritan

25 June 2009

I call to order Plenary Meeting 1143 of the Conference on Disarmament.

On the list for this morning no delegation is registered to speak and I therefore wonder if there is any Delegation who would care to make a statement on our agenda items. That does not appear to be the case.

Distinguished colleagues,

The Conference on Disarmament is a body with a clear and a clearly defined purpose. We have all emphasized that on more than one occasion. In addition it has an ambition, the breath of it, enables all regions and sub regions to see their interests properly addressed. These two features amongst other mean that the Conference on Disarmament has the clear possibility of fulfilling its responsibilities and meeting the expectations held for it by the international community. The Conference on Disarmament has done that in the past and I am quite sure that it will very promptly bear this out again with very concrete deeds.

The Decision adopted by all of us one month ago now, with respect to the Programme of Work, spelled this out indeed. The intensive consultations which I have maintained in the month of June clearly convey to me the same sensation and conviction. I have seen that there is a clear and widespread determination and willingness to work, something which now needs to be urgently put into action. From those consultations has arisen a Draft calendar of activities to be found in document CD/1866, which will enable the Conference on Disarmament to immediately commence the substantive work up to the end of its sessions for 2009. Within the limited time remaining this schedule provides further possibility of addressing the tasks of each working group and the special coordinators in a serious and comprehensive way, in line with their respective mandates as spelled out in Document CD/1864. Likewise, each topic also has a time allotted to it in a balanced manner and I understand that it is satisfactory in that respect to all the Members of the Conference on Disarmament.

The Secretary General of the Conference has assured us of the availability of the Secretariat to fulfill all the necessities and requirements associated with the schedule; in terms of personnel, interpretation and other services is that to say. I think that I can convey our unanimous feeling in expressing our thanks for that support.

The consultations have likewise enabled me to establish the position of Distinguished Ambassadors and their willingness to contribute to steer our work, shouldering a range of responsibilities in the leadership of the subsidiary organs and in relation to the task of the Special Coordinators. I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to them all. On that basis I have proposed a list of possible candidates to chair the four Working Groups and the tasks of the Three Special Coordinators. These are to be found in Document CD/1867. You will find an appropriate geographical distribution for the leadership of our work.

Distinguished colleagues,

In practical terms, all the necessary elements are ready now for us to get into action and to begin substantive work, doing so straight away. Nonetheless, I have the feeling that the Conference on Disarmament is still not in a position to adopt those Decisions. I am sure that this will be possible in the days to come, or indeed in the next few hours. It will be possible to

accommodate the minor outstanding details to make possible the adoption of both relevant Draft Decisions and the Conference on Disarmament will be able to display by engaging negotiations and practical discussions in their respective subsidiary bodies.

Once we have commenced our work, it will also be important to begin giving thought to the importance of continuity and predictability as well as the organizational capacity to prepare for our work in the appropriate time in the case of negotiations and in terms of the mandates of the discussions. Predictability is quite vital and contributes to the best consideration of the various topics. I entertain the hope that in the weeks to come we will be able to find the formula to address this matter within the provision of our Conference rules and procedures.

I wonder whether any delegation would like to take the floor at this point. I recognize the Distinguished representative of the United Kingdom who has asked for the floor.