

**Algeria**  
**Ambassador Jazairy**  
**Conference on Disarmament**  
**07 June**

I should like to thank you for all of the efforts that you have made in order to enable us to start our informal consultations. The G-21 has suggested that your proposals be assembled in document form and submitted to the Council for adoption. You kindly noted that we would start the meeting this afternoon but you did not say when you thought that the CD could in plenary adopt the proposals that are designed to enable us to start our informal deliberations. Now I believe I understand, on the basis of my modest experience, that there are two types of informal consultations. There are those conducted by the President on a bilateral basis or with regional groups, to reach agreement on a programme of work: I do know something about this because when I was President I did use this kind of informal consultation very intensively in order to reach agreement on the programme of work. So it really is within the purview of the President to call consultations of this kind in order to determine the programme of work and take care of procedural matters, but if we are considering substantive issues, the meeting then turns into one that could also be informal but which needs to be approved by the Conference. We cannot really envisage things differently, since traditionally we have held such informal consultations, endorsed by the conference on Disarmament for a very good reason, because generally speaking these informal consultations or meetings ran through a number of different presidencies, and no president could commit his successor or successors on his own authority alone. But when a president submits a proposal that is adopted by the Conference as a whole, at that point<sup>5</sup> it becomes a decision by the Conference which is binding on his successors. So as to your suggestion that representatives be appointed on an equitable geographical basis, I think that it will be up to the various regional groups to submit to you the names of the persons representing them, but in order to do that, the Conference needs to decide at the outset or in parallel to launch these consultations or informal meetings on issue of substance. In parallel with that, there are also supposed to be presidential consultations on the programme of work, which as you have said, entail no other mandate than that contained in terms of reference inherent in the Office of the Presidency itself. I myself have made use of such consultations, as have all my successors and predecessors as well, so I wanted to draw this distinction between informal meetings on the seven issues of substance, on the one hand, and informal consultations aimed simply at agreeing on a programme of work, on the other. These are two completely different channels; and I think that we need to do now in order to tackle these topics is to retain the format for consultations that we had in the past. As a number of colleagues have observed, there is a general feeling that we really are very close to agreement on the approach you proposed-all that is needed is to formalize it in terms of a decision by the Conference and for you to provide the various groups with the opportunity to put forward their proposals, in the framework of our traditional geographic balance that has always been applied in the past for informal meetings.

Once again I would like to thank you, Mr. President, I know that we are asking you to do a lot of work and I hope that you will be able to preserve in a positive manner, making use of the contribution that I just made, which I offer in a constructive spirit and which reflects my delegation's confidence in you and sympathy for you.