



Permanent Mission of Italy to the
Conference on Disarmament

Closing Statement by the President of the Conference on Disarmament

Ambassador Leonardo Bencini,

Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament

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Dear colleagues,

I would like to use this opportunity to thank all of you for the cooperation and constructive engagement that you have shown over the past few weeks. Together we achieved what I believe is a positive result which is the adoption of Decision 2443. By this decision, we re-established the five subsidiary bodies, we re-appointed their respective coordinators, we agreed on a timetable for the SBs debates. We even had an informal session that allowed the coordinators to provide an indicative list of topics to discuss.

I would also like to thank the staff of the Secretariat for their precious support which was absolutely instrumental in helping us reach a deal. And of course many thanks also to the interpreters and the conference services.

This is the first time since 1996 that an agreement on a program of work for subsidiary bodies was reached in January. Considering the deadlock in which the CD has found itself for many years now, I think we should consider this a very positive result. The fact that in these difficult times we found consensus within the CD is a testament to the commitment and dedication of many of you. Agreeing on a program of work in January, in the second week of meetings, gives the SBs the time of the entire session to discuss and hopefully agree on a report.

Of course this result was possible because we were able to build upon the excellent work done by the six presidencies of 2024 that I again would like to thank. I would also like to thank the delegations of the P6+2. This is the second year in which Italy takes part in this very useful format. The P6+2 plays an important role in ensuring continuity between the different presidencies of a given session and between one session and the other. It is also a collective decision-making body, a sort of a bureau or steering committee if you will. The first and the last presidencies are the only two presidencies that are in the P6+2 for two years and for this reason they have a special responsibility in ensuring the continuity of the CD's work.

And as far as the principle of continuity is concerned, we have certainly made considerable progress and I think this is the main takeaway of the beginning of this session. Another takeaway is that we managed to bring some predictability and transparency and a more structured manner of conducting our work here. I hope that we would put together this year can become a template for future sessions.

Having said that, we have seen in the first two meetings of the subsidiary bodies (SB1 and SB2) that positions remain distant on fundamental questions. While we should strive for consensual reports for all of the SBs at the end of the session, we also have to be realistic in terms of what we aim to achieve. We have to take a long term view at the work we are conducting now. We have to bear in mind that our goal should be that of eventually restarting what we are mandated to do in this body, which is negotiate disarmament treaties. This won't probably happen overnight. But we have to prepare the groundwork for it so that when the time comes, we will be prepared. This is why we should take a long-term look. It is not going to be easy to bridge the gaps but we might inch closer to a solution a little step at a time.

Let me conclude with the famous quote by Samuel Beckett which I think could be a mantra for anyone involved in disarmament:

Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try Again. Fail again. Fail better.