



Permanent Mission of New Zealand to the United Nations
TE AKA AORERE

UNGA 70: First Committee
Cluster V Statement – Disarmament Machinery

H.E. Dell Higgin
Ambassador for Disarmament

28 October 2015

Mr. Chair,

I take the floor to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/70/L.14 entitled “Report of the Conference on Disarmament”, which New Zealand has submitted as outgoing President of the CD.

As part of yesterday’s panel on disarmament machinery I have already had the opportunity to address the Committee on the work of the CD in 2015. I shall therefore limit my comments in this statement to the resolution on the CD report.

The resolution was prepared in Geneva and was the subject of informal consultations there before being circulated in New York. The language in the resolution adheres closely to what has been agreed in previous years and, in keeping with tradition, it is New Zealand’s hope that the resolution on the Report of the CD will be adopted again this year without a vote.

Mr Chair,

In reaffirming the role of the CD as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community the resolution appreciates the strong support expressed for the Conference during 2015. The resolution recognises the significant efforts undertaken in 2015 to try and break the deadlock in the CD, appreciating in this regard the informal discussions held pursuant to the decision on a Schedule of Activities and welcoming the efforts of the Co-Chair of the Informal Working Group with a mandate to produce a Programme of Work.

At the same time, however, and bearing in mind that in 2015 the CD neither commenced negotiations nor achieved consensus on a Programme of Work, the resolution also reflects concern about the ongoing stalemate in the Conference and reiterates the

overwhelming call for greater flexibility so that substantive work can commence in the CD without further delay.

The resolution references the traditional request for the current and incoming Presidents of the Conference on Disarmament to conduct consultations during the intersessional period with a view to facilitating the early commencement of substantive work, including negotiations, in 2016. As elaborated in Geneva, both New Zealand (as current President) and Nigeria (as incoming President) will remain available to all CD members and observers that may have new proposals capable of breaking the impasse.

Finally, Mr Chair, the resolution touches on two other relevant issues. It emphasises the importance of engagement between civil society and the Conference on Disarmament and recognises also the value of the UN Institute for Disarmament Research as a stand-alone, autonomous institution and the contribution that its research makes. In this regard, the resolution notes with concern the current difficult financial and institutional situation confronting UNIDIR.

As I stated at the outset, Mr Chair, it is my hope that this Committee can adopt the draft resolution on the report of the Conference on Disarmament without a vote.

Thank you.