



БЕЛАРУСЬ

High-Level Meeting on Revitalizing the Conference on Disarmament and Taking Forward Multilateral Negotiations

Statement by H.E. Sergei Martynov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus

New York, September 24, 2010

Mr. Secretary General,
Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to thank the UN Secretary General for the initiative to organize the meeting on the activities of the Conference of Disarmament (CD).

Belarus comes from the understanding that the CD is a unique negotiation body that possesses the necessary expertise for conducting negotiations on the issues of disarmament and international security.

Nevertheless for various reasons during the past ten years the negotiation process has been paralyzed.

In its capacity as CD President Belarus submitted in March this year a proposal on a Programme of Work. We appreciate the support the delegations offered to this document and their active contributions to the discussions and process of improvement. We hope that in future the document can play positive role in the process of consensus building.

We count that Member States of the Conference to demonstrate political will and adopt the balanced Programme of Work, including inter alia negotiations on Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT). We believe that all disputable issues with regard to the content and scope of the Treaty can be settled down directly in the course of negotiations.

Other key issues of the CD Agenda items have been ripe since long ago and thus, adoption of the Programme of Work could become a particular catalyst for negotiations on the principal points of our disarmament forum.

In our opinion, the Conference can not exercise its negotiation functions due to misbalance of interests of the states and different visions of the ways to ensure security, both national and regional. The efforts of all the CD state parties and particularly the permanent members of the UN Security Council are needed to rectify this situation.

Legal capacity of the Conference and its machinery should be considered by the Fourth Special Session on Disarmament (SSOD). Taking stock of the growing positive momentum in multilateral diplomacy domain convening the SSOD IV is of higher importance than ever before.

We are thoroughly following the discussion on the issue of CD membership enlargement. I'm confident that the issue should be addressed and solved once the Conference resumes its substantive work.

Belarus supports the idea of a broader involvement of civil society into the CD activities, which could increase its efficiency.

We hope that in the course of the meeting a realistic road map will be elaborated to lead the Conference out of the crisis and resume the negotiation process.

Thank you.