

After the recess it is with renewed hope that we take up the last part of the 2009 session of the Conference on Disarmament. This feeling is enhanced by the fact that we have you, Madam President, with your wisdom and knowledge, at the helm of this body.

Two months have lapsed since all the CD Member States concurred to the adoption, in accordance with Rule 28 of our Rules of Procedure, of document CD/ 1864, which contains the Program of Work of the Conference. That decision was saluted throughout the world as a very significant event in international multilateral relations. The fact that it could be taken after so many years of stalemate showed that a new atmosphere begins to prevail in the international community in the central domain of peace and security.

The Conference on Disarmament is the pivotal point that will ensure that winds of change are indeed blowing. The disappearance of nuclear weapons is the ultimate condition to prevent the destruction of humankind. Notwithstanding the importance of bilateral negotiations, it is in this multilateral forum that negotiations are supposed to generate the wide political and legal basis to general and complete disarmament. If we hesitate in going forward it is because we are paralyzed by fear and that sentiment will continue to pervade international relations with widespread consequences.

Current international conditions are especially favorable to discussions on the question of nuclear disarmament. This climate provides a new impulse to the Conference and, on the same time, it can be reinforced by our discussions in this sole multilateral negotiating forum for disarmament.

If we do not succeed in taking decisions during the present session, there is a clear risk of losing momentum in the current process of revitalization of disarmament in the international agenda.

The practical bearing of the adopted Program of Work is that the Conference can start negotiations on one specific item of the Agenda and undertake substantive discussions on others. The result of the negotiations and how far the discussions will go will obviously depend on the political will of all Member States and on the ability and dedication of their agents. This is not under our entire control.

However, what is indeed in our hands is the commencement of implementation of the Program of Work. A few measures have to be agreed upon which may or not require some or even lengthy discussions.

In the view of the Delegation of Brazil the arrangements necessary for putting in practice the Program of Work should be completed in the course of the current month of August in order to be reflected in the CD's Report to the General Assembly. Failure to do so would be incomprehensible to the world at large and somewhat incongruous.

Hesitation concerning the contents of a Program of Work and the opportunity to adopt it was understandable. However, once States decided to cross that point, it would be impossible to perceive valid reasons for not proceeding to implementation.

I expect that these considerations are in fact unnecessary and that the normal scenario happen of going forward according to the decision taken last May.

My Delegation is well aware that, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, the Conference has to adopt every year, at the beginning of its session, an Agenda and a Program of Work. I am also sure that we shall not lose the great efforts deployed this year and will proceed to an early start in our actual substantive work.

Rules 27 and 28 of the Conference's Rules of Procedure determine that, at the beginning of each annual Session, the Conference shall adopt its agenda and, on the basis of it, establish its Program of Work. However, no one could deduct from those rules that, every year, the Conference goes back to square one, making "tabula rasa" of everything accomplished in the previous year. The work of the Conference on Disarmament is a continuous process and the closing of an annual Session does not extinguish or annul progress made, like the one we reached last May.

That is the reason why my Delegation thinks that, some way, we must have an understanding about the continuity of the achievements we made during 2009.

As far as the beginning of our substantive work during the remaining weeks of the present Session is concerned, Brazil commends your efforts in undertaking broad consultations in order to satisfy all concerns and sensibilities thus allowing us to take the decisions necessary to at last implement the Program of Work.