THEMATIC DEBATES: DISARMAMENT MACHINERY

Mr. Chairman,

- The situation surrounding multilateral disarmament diplomacy and machinery is depressing. The last NPT Review Conference failed to agree on any substantive recommendation. The UN Summit also failed to address the issue of disarmament and non-proliferation in its outcome document. The CD remained dead-locked without programme of work for almost 9 years.

- We know too well about the situation in Geneva and we see how the stalemate in the CD seems to have affected other disarmament machinery, including the UNDC. The failure of the CD to act on pertinent issues such as disarmament and non-proliferation is mainly attributed to the misinterpretation its rule of consensus. Therefore, we view that there is a need to initiate multilateral work to advance the priority issue of disarmament and non-proliferation.

- In this context, among others, the CD was called upon to establish an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament and “to commence negotiations on a phased program of nuclear disarmament within a specific framework of time, including a nuclear weapon convention. In 1995, by the so-called Shannon Mandate, the CD has been requested to start negotiations on a verifiable FMCT in the context of an Ad-Hoc Committee. But, since the CD programmed of work was taken hostage for almost nine years, those mandates can not be implemented.

- To overcome this impasse, a proposal initiated by Mexico and a group of countries to establish ad-hoc Committees to deal with the well-known four issues in the CD is worthy of our attention. This is a good initiative that will provide member states to contribute substantively to these important issues. It will also give opportunity to move forward with discussion and deliberations that can set the legal, technical and political framework for substantive action on the four issues by the CD once it agrees to do so.

- Therefore, we have to be open-minded and to be more constructive to any initiative that will bring us to move forward, particularly to revitalize our disarmament machinery. Skeptical and negative approach will not help our efforts to address nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

- As we have shown in the framework of the Seven Nations Ministerial Declaration initiated by Norway, Indonesia will continuously support any initiatives to move the CD to start working, including the one the initiated by Mexico. And we look forward to work together to further this initiative next year.
Mr. Chairman,

- Allow me also to touch upon the issue related to the Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-IV). For quite sometime now, an overwhelming majority of UN member states, if not all, have supported the GA resolution for the convening of SSOD IV.

- As we are aware, the only consensus document we have is the Final Document adopted by SSOD I in 1978. Since that time, numerous international conferences and GA special sessions on issues of global concern such as HIV/AIDS or Women, have been convened and took decisions which paved the way for multilateral solutions. Unfortunately, disarmament is yet to find its place in this on-going process. That is why, the Final Document of SSOD I has clearly stated that “nuclear disarmament and the elimination of other weapons of mass destruction remains the highest priority and the principal task of our time”.

- Sometime ago, the UN Secretary-General has warned us on a rust in disarmament diplomacy. New threats to international security have also accelerated the need for concerted efforts to bridge existing differences over key issues on the disarmament agenda under multilateral auspices.

- In our view, the convening of SSOD-IV is the only viable alternative to our collective efforts. It offers invaluable opportunities for multilateral deliberations, not only on agenda related to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, but also to review the disarmament machinery. At the end, it holds enormous potential to promote the achievement of our disarmament goals.

- In this regard, a road map has been provided by the consensus resolution 57/61 and 59/71 which mandated the establishment of the Open-Ended Working Group to focus its attention on objectives and agenda for SSOD IV. Although no consensus was reached in its 2003 session, these meetings have clarified the issues involved which will be useful for our future endeavors. Therefore, it is important to fully utilize the substantive session of the Working Group on SSOD-IV in spring 2006 to promote disarmament and non-proliferation back in the agenda of international community.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.