check against delivery

STATEMENT BY

AMBASSADOR PIET DE KLERK

DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

TO INTRODUCE ON BEHALF OF THE
EXTENDED BUREAU OF THE UNDC
DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/L. 48 ENTITLED
"REPORT OF THE DISARMAMENT COMMISSION"

AT

THE FIRST COMMITTEE
OF THE 63RD UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, 23 OCTOBER 2008
63\textsuperscript{rd} UNGA, FIRST COMMITTEE
Chairman of the UNDC
Deputy Permanent Representative Ambassador Piet de Klerk of the Netherlands

Mr Chairman,

I have the honour to introduce on behalf of the extended bureau of the UNDC the \textit{draft-resolution} contained in document A/C.1/L. 48 entitled \textit{"Report of the Disarmament Commission"}.

The Disarmament Commission held its organizational session for 2008 on 18 March 2008. During that meeting it considered questions related to the organization of work and substantive agenda items for its 2008 substantive session in accordance with the adopted “Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission” and in light with General Assembly resolution 62/54. The Commission approved its general programme of work for the session and decided to allocate four meetings to a general exchange of views. It also decided to establish Group I to deal with the first substantive item on the agenda, namely ‘Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons’ and Working Group II with the ‘Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons’.

The Commission held seven plenary meetings. Assisted by the Bureau I held informal consultations with the membership on the framework and organizational elements for the possible participation of experts in the work of the Commission. I presented an informal paper on this participation on 24 April to the Committee of the Whole.

Working Group I held 12 formal meetings between 9 and 24 April. Furthermore the Chairman of Working Group I conducted informal consultations with various delegations and regional groups. Two working papers were submitted by the Chairman and discussed in the Working Group.

Working Group II held 10 meetings between 9 and 22 April. Three conference room papers were submitted by the Chairman and discussed in the Working Group.

Unfortunately no consensus was achieved in either Working Group.

I would nevertheless like to take this opportunity to thank both the chairmen, Jean-Francis Zinsou and Carlos Perez, and the bureau for their relentless efforts to formulate agreed recommendations.

With the conclusion of its 2008 substantive session, the UNDC has come to the end of the current three-year cycle.

In accordance with resolution 61/67, draft resolution A/C.1/L. 48 recommends the Commission to include in its agenda for 2009 substantive session an item entitled “Elements of a draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade”.

It also recommends the Commission to intensify consultations with a view to reaching agreement on remaining agenda items before the start of its substantive session in 2009. These consultations might be conducted by the present Bureau or by the Bureau that is to be elected in the coming month.

The urgency of the issues before us is increasing and we should seize the opportunity of having fruitful, multilateral dialogue in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation in this deliberative body. Looking ahead, the Commission needs to engage in informal consultations and determine how we can go from deliberating to delivering. I believe we can do that if we focus our attention on particular areas where win-win situations can be created.

Let me conclude Mr. Chairman, by expressing my hope for constructive consultations in the next few months that will bring us an agreed agenda for the forthcoming session in 2009.

I hope that draft resolution A/C.1/L.48 will enjoy a consensus support as in the previous years.

Thank you, Mr Chairman