Panel VI

12 May

Intervention by Australia
Darren Hansen, First Secretary, Australian Mission to the United Nations, New York

Thank you chair and I would also like to join those who have thanked the panelists for their informative and thought provoking presentations this morning. They have certainly enriched our discussions at this open-ended working group.

I was hoping to benefit from the presence of the two very distinguished panelists presence this morning but regrettably may have missed that opportunity. My question might be somewhat similar to that posed by Canada earlier day and pick up some elements raised by Hungary.

The question I had hoped to ask might then be put more broadly to all as to whether it would be helpful in advancing our disarmament efforts to make concerted efforts to address the drivers of international instability and insecurity, including by reducing the tensions sparked by regional disputes?

We have also heard on several occasions that there is never a good time for disarmament and so it will be delayed eternally. That been said, I wondered whether there were any lessons to be learned by previous disarmament arrangements such as those between the US and Russia through Start I in 1991 and New Start in 2011. In particular, what were the circumstances that made the time right for these treaties which resulted in welcome and significant nuclear weapons reductions? And are there any lessons to be learned from the achievement of these treaties that could be applied more broadly?

I had hoped to seek the views of the panelists on whether it could also be considered helpful in pursuing our shared nuclear disarmament goals to build trust through confidence building measures? Will open this question to all too.

Finally, was very interested in the observation made by today’s panelists and several delegates that security threats and their responses can be perceived in different ways by different countries depending on their circumstances - a point very clearly made by the distinguished delegate of Poland.