

INFORMAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING – March 2nd, 2017

OPENING REMARKS BY HEIDI HULAN, CHAIR OF THE HIGH-LEVEL FMCT EXPERT PREPARATORY GROUP

- Good morning to you all.
- It is a real pleasure to welcome you to this first Informal Consultative Meeting in New York.
- Before getting started today, I would like to highlight the excellent ongoing collaboration of *UN Office of Disarmament Affairs* in organizing this meeting. It is in fact my pleasure to welcome to the podium Under Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs Kim Won-soo for a few remarks.

[Break for UNODA Statement]

- *Je profite de cette occasion pour souligner à quel point je suis fière de constater l'avancement d'un processus dans lequel nous sommes depuis longtemps impliqués: celui visant l'interdiction de la production de matières fissiles pour des armes nucléaires ou autres dispositifs explosifs nucléaires. Votre participation constitue une importante contribution aux efforts vers un monde plus sécuritaire.*
- *Reconnaissant la place importante qu'occupent les matières fissiles dans la fabrication d'armes nucléaires, la communauté internationale a longtemps cherché à négocier un traité qui interdirait une production à de telles fins.*
- *L'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies a continuellement manifesté sa conviction qu'un TIPMF demeure une priorité pour la communauté internationale. Cet engagement s'est traduit par des processus successifs et substantiels pour progresser vers la négociation de ce traité.*
- *Notamment le groupe d'experts gouvernementaux (GEG) qui s'est rencontré en 2014 et en 2015, et dont le rapport sera au cœur de nos discussions pour les deux prochains jours.*
- *Nous sommes réunis ici dans le cadre du plus récent processus créé à cet effet, et je ne peux qu'exprimer à quel point il s'agit d'un honneur pour le Canada de présider ce processus encore une fois.*
- *Chers collègues, quelques mots sur les objectifs du groupe de haut niveau.*
- *Nous savons tous que le GEG a rédigé avec succès un rapport de consensus formulant des recommandations de fonds qui représentent l'état actuel des*

connaissances sur un traité interdisant la production de matières fissiles pour les armes nucléaires.

- *Notamment, le rapport établit les points de convergence et de divergence des aspects essentiels d'un traité, et à quel niveau il serait utile de continuer des travaux techniques.*
- *Cependant, à mon avis, un des résultats les plus importants tient au fait que le groupe ait su démontrer que les perspectives variées et parfois même divergentes des États ne doivent pas constituer un obstacle au commencement des négociations d'un traité.*
- *C'est pourquoi il est d'autant plus regrettable que, depuis le GEG, la Conférence du désarmement ne s'est pas entendue sur un programme de travail comportant qui permettrait le déroulement des négociations.*

Colleagues,

- A few words about how Canada views this enterprise.
- This treaty is ready for negotiation. Although we have collectively not yet been successful in resolving the well-known political obstacles to doing so, we remain convinced that there is useful work that can be done.
- In fact, the ongoing impasse in the CD has reinforced our belief that continued preparatory work is both useful and necessary.
- Let me be clear that this process cannot and will not replace actual negotiations. Rather, as its name suggests, the Preparatory Group – in close consultation with the broader UN General Assembly – will prepare the terrain for these negotiations.
- It is my hope that this Group will succeed in turning the GGE's analysis on treaty aspects into a comprehensive outline of potential treaty elements.
- I firmly believe that with goodwill and constructive engagement, we can succeed in creating a useful framework that will serve to expedite the work of negotiations on this treaty when they do occur.
- In the interest of maximizing the time available to exchange views, I would like to conclude with just two points.
- First, I firmly believe in the value of providing the type of space for open and frank discussion that today's meeting represents.

- As the resolution establishes, the starting point for the Preparatory Group is the GGE's report. So it is appropriate that this process begins with an opportunity for the wider UN community to provide their views on that document.
- Notwithstanding previous opportunities for Member States to provide views on this treaty and the GGE report, we have not yet had an opportunity for the sort of focussed discussion we have planned for the next 2 days.
- My second point is that we need to make the most of this opportunity.
- In bringing this treaty to fruition, we need to make every effort to engage the broader UN community. While the subject matter may be technical, the negotiation of this Treaty cannot be a boutique operation: the full membership has an interest in seeing this Treaty negotiated on an urgent basis, and we should aim to hold the CD accountable for doing so.
- I look forward to your contributions.
- You will see that the agenda we have structured for this meeting includes a mix of general statements and interactive debate.
- For the interactive portions of our meeting, I propose dividing the available time between the four treaty aspects covered in the GGE report; that is: a the scope of a future treaty; definitions; verification requirements; and associated legal and institutional arrangements.
- To better inform our discussion of some of the substantive issues we will be looking at, I am very pleased to welcome a number of experts. First, this afternoon, Olli Heinonen from the Belfer Centre at Harvard has kindly agreed to outline the verification issues addressed by the GGE.
- Tomorrow, during the legal and institutional aspects segment of the meeting, I am also pleased to announce that Xiaodong Yang from the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty Office will share some views and best practices from the perspective of that Treaty organization.
- I am very much looking forward to these presentations, which will provide some additional background to our work.

- To get our discussion going, I am grateful to Germany and the Netherlands who co-sponsored Canada's FMCT resolution last fall, to introduce the resolution, and to provide an overview of key Treaty issues.
- I can't thank them enough for all their support and contributions to this process, and for their steadfast commitment over many years to the negotiation of this Treaty.
- It is an honour for me now to welcome Susanne Baumann from Germany to provide you with some context surrounding this resolution.

BREAK FOR GERMAN REMARKS

- Thank you very much, Susanne, for the excellent points you have made. I'd now like to offer my colleague Piet de Klerk the opportunity to provide his expert perspective on this treaty.

BREAK FOR NETHERLANDS' REMARKS

- Let me thank both of my colleagues for their thoughtful remarks.
- Piet has presented the Netherlands' perspectives on the main aspects of a future FMCT. I think his remarks demonstrate how complex this issue is, but also how evolved the thinking has become on the substance of this treaty.
- I hope you will have found, as I have, that Susanne's remarks help place this process in context.
- Last fall's FMCT resolution not only reiterated the international community's commitment to launching treaty negotiations in the CD, but also created a process to help make that happen.
- As Susanne mentioned, the resolution creates an interlinking process composed of a 25-member high-level FMCT expert preparatory group and a mechanism for open-ended consultations with the broader UN membership.
- The Preparatory Group will meet once this year and once next year in Geneva and is mandated to consider and make consensus based recommendations on substantial elements of a future FMCT, on the basis of CD/1299 also known as the Shannon mandate.

- The Informal Consultative Meetings will be open to all UN Member States and will be held here in New York prior to both meetings of the Preparatory Group.
- At the end of this process, the Preparatory Group's recommendations will be sent to the UN Secretary General for onward transmittal to the CD.
- Before I turn to the floor over to you, I would like to briefly outline my expectations for what comes next.
- In my capacity as Chair, I will convey what I hear during this first Informal Consultative Meeting to the High-Level FMCT Expert Preparatory Group at its first meeting this August.
- I think the best way to capture your views will be through a Chair's summary, which I will prepare at the end of this meeting.
- Ultimately, of course, I am in your hands. I can only report what I have heard in this room. I hope that we will succeed in making the most of this time together.
- In early 2018, following the Preparatory Group meeting, I will again return to New York to provide you – the Member States of the UN General Assembly – with a Chair's report on the work the Group has carried out so far.
- Now it is your turn. Let me remind you once more that the purpose of this meeting is to provide you with every opportunity to provide your views on the GGE report. I very much look forward to listening to what you have to say in the forthcoming discussion.
- I now open the floor to general statements.