

**United Nations General Assembly
60th Session
First Committee**

French intervention

Thematic debate: Disarmament machinery

New York, 18th October 2005

(only the French text is official)

Mr. Chairman,

Together with our EU partners, France has concerns over the difficulties which affect today the multilateral non-proliferation and disarmament machinery. We have witnessed them during the NPT Review Conference, as well as within the Conference on Disarmament, during the 60th Summit and also in the UNDC.

For more than 2 years now, France has been trying its best in order to stimulate the Conference on Disarmament and to increase its level of activity. We have suggested in particular that it would be good for the Conference on Disarmament to explore new approaches, that this forum could deal with not only the most traditional issues put on its agenda, such as FMCT, Paros, or NSA, but also to answer the challenges which did appear in a more recent past. That's why some try to sum up this new approach under the generic denomination of "new issues" or "out of the box".

Mr. Chairman,

We have developed this approach in cross-cutting way. Today, more than half of the Conference on Disarmament, coming on in a balanced manner from various horizons, has shown interest and support for this approach. I welcome hearing Indonesia claiming that the Conference on Disarmament should have a program of work which should deal with both disarmament and non-proliferation.

This new approach aims non only at identifying new issues, it seeks also new methods of work, which should be based on the idea that the Chair of the Conference on Disarmament should make full use of all the possibilities which are currently provided by the rules of procedure. We believe that this will enable us to limit in a constructive way the situation described improperly by some as an abuse of consensus which is in fact a situation resulting from the weakness of Chairs. Should I recall that, during many years, the Chair of the Conference on Disarmament did outline a program of work, and allocation of slots on each

important issue under his own authority. But he didn't venture into defining negotiating mandates, this being a matter, that is to be decided by consensus.

Mr. Chairman,

It is to be noted that this approach has taken place during the two last years within a movement that is yet very modest but nevertheless positive. Under the impulse of Kenya, then of Mexico, we have successfully launched last year informal discussions, with a view to negotiate on all issues of the agenda without forgetting to make room also for the "new issues". This year we have been able to go slightly beyond formal plenary sessions held on the basis of existing proposals, with a view to negotiate on the most important issues brought up in the Conference on Disarmament: "cut-off", Paros, NSA, nuclear disarmament, and room has also been made for new issues. This evolution has been reflected in the last Conference on Disarmament reports and in the resolutions brought forward to the First Committee on this issue.

Mr. Chairman,

For two years we have sown, we hope that 2006 will provide some harvest even modest. In this context, for 3 months now, France has been supporting the efforts of the future presidencies of the Conference on Disarmament in 2006, in particular of Poland who will have the honour of guiding our work, in January next year, in order to ensure progress in the Conference on Disarmament in a way which will not damage global interest of international community. I state again this support here. With our EU partners, with whom we are trying to define a common EU position in the Conference on Disarmament, France stands ready to work with all will try in good faith to do the same.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.