



Statement by H. E. Ambassador Vinicio Mati
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament
Geneva, 25 February 2014

Distinguished Colleagues, before opening the list of speaker for today's meeting, I would like to give you an update on the recent developments.

As you are already aware, I am continuing along the same path of the previous President towards the implementation of the so called dual track approach.

On the first track, we have intensified our efforts on the renewal of the mandate of the IWG.

As you know, the first non paper circulated by the previous President, based on the wording of the decision adopted by consensus last year, gave rise to a number of amendments, one of which was considered not acceptable by a Member State.

The controversial point was the reference to document CD/1864, which contains the programme of work adopted in 2009.

In order to try to accommodate these two different approaches, an informal meeting took place yesterday afternoon.

During the discussions clearly emerged the common will to have the IWG re-established and to bring the Conference back to work as soon as possible, also in order to meet the general expectations expressed so far by the UN Secretary General and the whole membership of the Conference.

Different views were expressed on the merit to have a reference to CD/1864 but finally an agreement was reached.

Consequently I am in the position to announce that, taking into consideration the time requested for processing documents by the Secretariat, a draft decision will be circulated by the end of this week for its adoption next week.

The exact timing will depend on the schedule of the High Level Segment meetings.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my warmest appreciation to all delegations involved in these consultations for the constructive spirit and the high degree of flexibility shown.

I consider the result of this exercise an encouraging signal for the prosecution of the current session.

As to the second track, we asked the Regional Groups for an invitation to illustrate the proposals to them.

In this view I would like to confirm my willingness to illustrate the proposals to the Regional Groups as soon as possible and ask the Regional Groups to indicate the name of the coordinators and their preferences on the topics to be attributed to the coordinators.

This presentation will be made under my responsibility as current President.

However I will be accompanied by the other members of the P6 in order to show the continuity among the rotating Presidencies.

I would like to clarify that the proposal on the table is nothing more than a set of options presented to the Regional Groups for their comments.

As soon as the names are made known, the P6 will meet with the coordinators in order to collectively make a decision on the attribution to each of them of a specific topic, taking into account the preferences expressed by the Regional Groups, and on the other details of the Schedule of Activities.

The entire process will be conducted by the Presidency with the P6 and by the coordinators in full transparency.

This is the current state of affairs.