

## **Opening Statement**

**by the Chairman of the First Committee during the 65th Session,**

**Ambassador Miloš Koterec of Slovakia**

New York, 4th October 2010

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Delegates,

Let me start by expressing my appreciation for the work of my predecessor, Ambassador Cancellia of Uruguay, who so successfully guided the work of this Committee during the 64th session. I also wish to commend Mr. Sergio Duarte, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and his team, as well as the Secretariat of the First Committee. I salute the members of the Bureau who so ably assist me in my work. Last but not least, I welcome all delegates attending the session.

It is my privilege and honour to have been entrusted with presiding over this important Committee in such exciting and yet challenging times. We embark on the 65th session amidst growing expectations of the whole international community which looks up to us with renewed hopes for further progress in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. This Committee plays a crucial role in the pursuit of our ultimate goal of making the world a safer place.

This, in turn, brings a definition of a “safer world” and the whole concept of international security to the center of a new heightened philosophical scrutiny. Indeed, international security, as a doctrine, has become a comprehensive, multifaceted notion. It is a combination of military, political, economic, social, environmental and other security concepts which are all equally important and inter-connected. While we can move ahead on different directions independently, the progress in one area will multiply the chance of success on the other. Thus, Disarmament is no longer regarded as a system-creating factor for peaceful, prosperous and economically sustainable existence. But its leading role in striving towards these lofty goals is universally acknowledged.

Over the past 18 months, this role was once again manifestly evident in a number of emboldening developments both on multilateral and bilateral levels. The consensus outcome of the NPT Review Conference and the Fourth Biennial

Meeting of States, to mention just a few, further strengthened the emerging positive trends which, I am confident, will contribute to the constructive atmosphere during our session. Given this encouraging developments, this session could become critical in turning the corner and advancing the disarmament agenda. The First Committee, as an important part of the disarmament machinery, should step up to the plate and work in concerted effort towards a more secure world.

This Committee is now presented with a historic opportunity to garner political will and determination to build on recent achievements in many critical areas. In the light of indispensable role of multilateralism in disarmament and non-proliferation, I urge all states to work closely and cooperatively as we have more than 50 draft resolutions ahead of us on a broad range of issues. While I am fully aware of the divergent views on some of the issues before the Committee, I intend to use my powers to seek common ground and work towards maximum possible convergence of our positions. In doing so, I count on continuous support and cooperation of the Committee.

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