

Closing Statement

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

Ambassador Miloš Koterec of Slovakia

New York, 29 October 2010

Distinguished delegates, colleagues and friends,

This session was held at an important juncture in time where a long freeze that shaded the disarmament agenda is just starting to unravel. The 65th session of the First Committee had to meet the expectations and legitimate aspirations of our peoples who wish to see the Disarmament Community advance their security interests and move forward the disarmament agenda as inseparable part of the common endeavor to promote security and stability in their regions and around the world at large.

We have discussed and addressed the urgency of nuclear disarmament, the priority of nuclear non-proliferation, the need to continue strengthening the chemical and biological weapons prohibition regime, the importance of reducing conventional arms and considering means towards the regulation of their trade. We have underlined the potential, the value and the need to revitalize the United Nations disarmament machinery, addressed outer-space disarmament aspects, and many other crucially important issues for the security of mankind.

Over the past four weeks, I have had the honor of Chairing this august body, the challenge of effectively addressing a diverse, extensive and important agenda and the privilege of dealing with everyone of you to collectively bring our session to a successful conclusion. We have deliberated frankly, engaged constructively and exchanged views in an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding. We did not see eye to eye on all the issues on our agenda or all the draft resolutions we took actions on, yet we come out of this session understanding each other's views better and knowing even more that further work is required to bring our views closer if we seriously want to move forward.

Distinguished delegates,

I wish to express once again my gratitude to all of you for giving me the opportunity to chair the 2010 session of the First Committee and share with you this challenging, yet rewarding experience. I thank each and every delegation for their constructive spirit, cooperation and support, which I felt at every stage of this journey. Without your dedication and genuine commitment, the tasks at hand would have been truly difficult.

Special thanks go to the members of the Bureau. Their invaluable advice and counsel was a source of encouragement throughout the session.

I also extend my deep gratitude to the High Representative for Disarmament, Mr. Sergio Duarte and his highly motivated professional staff for their much appreciated assistance.

Let me pay a well deserved tribute to interpreters, précis writers and conference officers who have worked with us the long hours reliably and tirelessly throughout the session in a manner I can only applaud and appreciate on your behalf.

On this note, let me conclude my remarks by wishing all those who are leaving a safe trip back. I look forward to continue working with your delegations in building further on our success here today and advancing our collective objectives towards a safer and more secure world for all.

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