



S L O V A K I A

STATEMENT

by

**His Excellency
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**Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic
to the United Nations**

to the First Committee
of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

on Disarmament Machinery

- Check against delivery -

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Mr. Chairman,

Since this is the first time my delegation takes the floor in this session of the First Committee, let me begin by congratulating you on the assumption of this role and by wishing you all the success in your endeavors in steering this body. I assure you of my delegation's support during your chairmanship.

Slovakia fully associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. Nevertheless, I would like to add few comments from the national perspective.

Mr. Chairman,

The Conference on Disarmament (CD) has been for a long time valued and recognized as a multilateral channel for strengthening international security. We continue to perceive the CD as a single multilateral negotiating forum for disarmament matters. We are convinced that the CD is still the best place to produce global and viable instruments.

That is why a continued impasse of this body is unacceptable and unsustainable.

It is rather astonishing that while international security is jeopardized and the international community is facing a great threat through the nuclear test by DPRK and the use of chemical weapons in Syria, the CD is debating whether it should start negotiations on pressing issues on disarmament and nonproliferation.

We regret that, despite increased and concerted efforts, the CD once again failed this year to meet its obligation to establish a Programme of Work thus failing to respond to numerous demands of the international community.

We are disappointed that individual interests prevail over global security interests thus preventing the international community from advancing on issues that would strengthen security for all.

Ongoing stalemate in the Conference and stagnation in strengthening and moving forward norms on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation endangers global security environment and especially the disarmament landscape. A machinery that is not able to secure and strengthen the environment risks changes in the landscape. We must prevent such erosion.

Extending a toolbox of non-proliferation and disarmament instruments available to the international community is an important part in strengthening international security architecture. We need to address today's security challenges in an effective and responsible way. In this context, it is necessary to urgently revitalize the role of the CD.

We need to show increased flexibility and political will, which would be reflected in trust and confidence and will help us to bridge our views.

Mr. Chairman,

Last year the UN General Assembly adopted two resolutions establishing an open-ended working group, which has met this year "to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations", and a group of governmental experts, which will

commence its work next year on recommendations on possible aspects of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

My country supported these two resolutions with an aim to create a new momentum and to provide additional impetus to existing disarmament mechanisms and facilitate the Conference on Disarmament to begin its substantive work on these issues.

Slovakia has welcomed the decision of the CD to establish an informal working group with a mandate to produce a programme of work robust in substance and progressive over time in implementation. My delegation appreciates an initial discussion, which took place during the meetings of the group at the end of the CD session this year. We support the resumption of the work of the group in the 2014 session with an aim to produce an outcome within a limited time frame. We believe that a programme of work should lead to negotiations on agreed issues.

Mr. Chairman,

All issues on our agenda deserve careful consideration. There may be a question whether any issue or what issue is ripe for negotiations. But we would find an answer to it only if we deal with an issue. Only if we start, we can find out how far we can reach. So we need to commence dealing with issues on our agenda as soon as possible. We are of the view that starting negotiations on one issue will not mean the neglect of the others.

Slovakia continues to support immediate commencement of the negotiation on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices, which would be part of the architecture of a nuclear weapon free world. We believe that such a treaty would be well placed in a comprehensive framework of mutually reinforcing instruments.

Indeed, we consider such a treaty as an indispensable and next logical step towards achieving our final goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation recognizes that the SSOD I decided that the CD would conduct its work by consensus. We understand that a consensus rule has been established in order to provide that a decision taken in the CD adequately reflects security interests of the Member States. It is only natural that security interests can best be defended during the negotiations.

In this regard, we believe that a consensus on outcomes of negotiations would create a mechanism, which would offer enough power to defend such security interests. It would be for the sake of the Conference if the application of this rule has been reviewed. The consensus rule should not be used to create procedural hurdles.

We also see a potential for more active role of the P6 mechanism. Enhanced cooperation of the P6 could bring longer perspective, which would be pursued beyond a single presidency. We believe that such an approach could create a new dynamism in the CD.

My delegation pays also due attention to a desire and interest in the CD membership expressed by many countries. We believe that this issue deserves proper consideration. In this

regard, Slovakia welcomes the increasing support for appointing a special coordinator on the expansion of the CD membership.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me express a deep gratitude to UNIDIR for its work, including its most valuable contributions to the debate in the CD on various topics. We appreciate UNIDIR's inputs and hope that such cooperation could also continue in the future.

There is a great value of UNIDIR, as a research institute, being an autonomous body as it enables it to provide an important service through carrying out independent analysis. We understand that no problems have been raised by Member States with respect to the work of UNIDIR and the fulfillment of its mandate. We believe that there is no need to fix anything that is not broken.

UNIDIR was established by the decision of the SSOD I. There is a view that a similar decision would be required to change the status of UNIDIR. We wish that its existing status be guaranteed in the future as well.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.