

Statement from the President of Pugwash on the CD breakthrough

As President of the 1995 Nobel Peace Prize-winning Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, and as a former Head of delegation to the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament and UN Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, I am delighted that this sole multilateral negotiating body adopted a programme of work on Friday May 29.

This breaks a stalemate of a decade which reflected a lack of political will rather than any institutional deficiency. Now the CD can do what it was always intended to do - negotiate multilateral disarmament agreements beginning with a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty,

All delegations must be congratulated on this consensus which will hopefully extend throughout the negotiating process. I look forward to further agreements being negotiated on all other items of the CD agenda leading to a world free of weapons of mass destruction and the regulation of conventional weapons to their lowest possible limits

Jayantha Dhanapala