

28 April 2006

Disarmament Commission

2006 substantive session

10 - 28 April 2006

Draft Report of Working Group II on Agenda Item 5

1. At its organizational session (267th meeting) on 12 December 2005 and its 269th meeting on 10 April 2006, the Disarmament Commission adopted its agenda for the 2006 substantive session (A/CN.10/L.57), and decided to allocate to Working Group II agenda item 5 entitled “Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons”.

2. The Working Group, under the chairmanship of Mr. Carlos Duarte (Brazil), held seven meetings between 12 and 28 April. Ms. Christa Giles, of the Disarmament and Decolonization Affairs Branch, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, served as the Secretary of the Working Group, and Ms. Pamela Maponga of the Department for Disarmament Affairs served as an adviser to the Working Group.

3. The Chairman submitted a conference room paper (A/CN.10/2006/WG.II/CRP.1). In this connection, a working paper was also submitted by Pakistan (see A/CN.10/2006/WG.II/WP.1*).

4. At its 1st meeting, on 12 April, the Working Group held a general exchange of views on the subject. At the same meeting, the Working Group II agreed to take up a conference room paper, to be prepared by the Chairman, updating the text of the previous Chairman's consolidated working paper, Rev.4, which was attached to the Report of the Disarmament Commission for 2003 (A/58/42), as a basis for discussion. From its 2nd meeting, on 13 April, the Working Group engaged in substantive discussions and consultations on the Chairman's conference room paper. During this period, written and oral proposals were made by delegations. As a result, the Chairman submitted two revisions of his paper, A/CN.10/2006/WGII/CRP.1/Rev.1 and A/CN.10/2006/WG II/CRP.1/ Rev.2.

5. At its 6th meeting, on 27 April, the Working Group considered the Chairman's conference room paper, A/CN.10/2006/WG II/CRP.1/ Rev.2, entitled "Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons". Delegations acknowledged that the Chairman's conference room paper constituted a significant effort to reflect the state of Working Group II's discussions. The Group decided to consider the paper, taking also into account the views and proposals relating to it expressed at its 6th meeting on 27 April, as a possible basis for its work at the next session of the Disarmament Commission in 2007.

6. At its seventh meeting, on 28 April, the Working Group considered and adopted by consensus its report on agenda item 5.