



CZECH REPUBLIC

Statement by

Mr. Jiří Ellinger

**Deputy Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic
to the United Nations**

**at the Thematic Discussion on Disarmament Machinery
of the First Committee of the 69th Session
of the General Assembly of the United Nations**

New York, 17 October 2014

Mr. Chairman,

Since I am taking the floor for the first time, allow me to express my delegation's sincere congratulations to you on your election as the Chairman of the First Committee, as well as to the members of the Bureau. You can rest assured of our cooperation and support.

The Czech Republic fully supports the statement delivered on behalf of the EU. It is my honour to draw your attention to the issues that are of particular importance to my country.

Mr. Chairman,

The Czech Republic has always been a supporter of the United Nations and of effective multilateralism. In order to achieve goals and meet the challenges in the field of international security, especially in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, we need a well-functioning and fully operational UN disarmament machinery the role of which is, in our view, irreplaceable.

Unfortunately, one of the key components which plays significant role in the whole machinery – Conference on Disarmament - has not been able to meet our expectations for more than a decade. We are frustrated by the continuing deadlock in this body and by its repeated failure to commence substantial disarmament negotiations. Like the vast majority of UN Member States, we have been expecting the commencement and early conclusion of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a legally-binding Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. We regret that it has not been able to deliver any tangible result to these ends so far. We believe that such Treaty is long overdue and once it has entered into force, it will play a key role in the general disarmament and non-proliferation efforts as a third pillar complementing the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

That is why we supported the establishment of the Group of Governmental Experts, and our expert has actively participated in its work. We are convinced that the GGE has undoubtedly the potential to bring us closer to the future Treaty. We are also confident that the Group will present to the UN Secretary General substantial and concrete recommendations, which will make the future negotiators' task much easier. Any positive steps this Group could achieve towards the future Treaty would carry a good message to the forthcoming 2015 NPT Review Conference.

We understand that launching negotiations is not feasible without consensus on adopting a Programme of Work of the CD. That is why we perceive the re-establishment of the Informal Working Group to assist in developing a Programme of Work as a positive step in the right direction.

We also hope that sufficient time and effort will be devoted to the question of the enlargement of the Conference. This hope is in line with Rules of Procedure of the CD, which provide for the review of the membership question at regular intervals. It would be appropriate to pay more attention to this fact as we consider that international stability and security, respectively disarmament, is by definition a universal question and must be addressed by a universally represented body. As coordinator of the Informal Group of Observer States to the Conference on Disarmament, the Czech Republic has done its best in this regard. Also in this vein, we reiterate our call for an appointment of a special coordinator who could initiate the necessary debate on the topic of enlargement of the Conference on Disarmament. We are convinced that the enlargement of the CD membership would promote transparency and inclusiveness of its work.

I thank you for your attention.