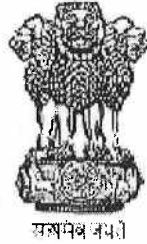


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PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

PLENARY SESSION

GENEVA, 29 JULY 2008

STATEMENT

BY

Hamid Ali Rao
Ambassador & Permanent Representative of India
to the Conference on Disarmament

Madam President,

Since this is the first time that we have requested the floor under your Presidency, allow me to convey to you our warm congratulations and say how pleased we are with the most efficient manner in which you have been discharging your important responsibilities. We would like to assure you of the full cooperation and support of our delegation.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to colleagues who have joined us recently in the Conference on Disarmament: Ambassador Christian Strohal of Austria, Ambassador German Mundarain Hernandez of Venezuela and Ambassador Luiz Filipe de Macedo Soares of Brazil.

We also look forward to participating actively in the informal discussions on all agenda items that are planned for the 3rd Session.

Madam President,

As we begin the Third Session of the CD, we would like to recall and appreciate the efforts that have been undertaken by you and your predecessors with the aim of finding common ground to enable the CD to commence substantive work. We would also like to recall our statement of 28th February this year detailing our overall approach on this subject. In this context, we appreciate the efforts that seek to build on the commendable efforts and the momentum that was generated last year to move the CD out of its long-standing stalemate.

India will work with other delegations to make progress towards our common goal, which is reaching consensus on a Programme of Work to enable the CD to move forward. We are confident that under your Presidency, no efforts will be spared to find solutions taking into account the interests of all stake-holders.

Thank you, Madam President.