

19 April 2010

**Thematic Debate – Disarmament and World Security:
Challenges for the International Community and the Role of the UN**

Several conferences and meetings both in the fields of conventional weapons and of weapons of mass destruction are scheduled for the next coming months. The current political environment creates a unique window of opportunity for real advancements in the disarmament and non-proliferation agenda.

In accordance with the United Nations Charter, the President of the General Assembly is convening a one-day thematic debate in order to foster the discussion on disarmament in all its multifaceted aspects. The objective is to bring together Member States, the United Nations system, academia and civil society to have a fruitful debate on the issues that pertain to social and economic development and maintain international peace and security, which are at the core of the United Nations mandate.

**Thematic Debate - Disarmament and World Security: Challenges for the
International Community and the Role of the United Nations**

New York, 19 April 2010

Programme

10h00 - Opening Session:

Speakers:

H.E. Ali Abdussalan Treki - President of the 64th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations

H.E. Ban Ki-moon - Secretary General of the United Nations

H.E. Alberto G. Romulo – Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines

H.E. Vitaly I. Churkin – Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations

H.E. Susan E. Rice – Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations

10h50 - 13h00 - Session 1: Strengthening Multilateral Commitments regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction: the challenges and opportunities of disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. *

Panelists:

Ambassador Rolf Ekéus – Chairman of the Governing Board of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

Ambassador Mohamed I Shaker – Chairman of the Egyptian Council of Foreign Affairs

Ms. Joan Rohlfing – President and Chief Operating Officer of the Nuclear Threat Initiative

Ambassador Abdul Samad Minty – Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa

Moderator: Ambassador Mona Juul (Norway) – Former Chair of the First Committee (Disarmament and International Security Committee)

15h00 - 17h30 - Session 2: Enhancing security through the regulation of arms: security needs, military expenditures, the arms trade and arms availability. *

Panelists:

Ambassador Jayantha Dhanapala – President of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs and Former United Nations Undersecretary General for Disarmament Affairs

Ambassador Camilo Reyes Rodríguez – Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia and former Chair of the 2001 United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects

Dr. Keith Krause - Small Arms Survey Project and Professor at the Graduate Institute of Development and International Studies

Dr. Christiane Agboton-Johnson - Deputy Director, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

Moderator: Ambassador José Luis Cancela (Uruguay) – Chair of the First Committee (Disarmament and International Security Committee)

17h30 – 18h00 - Closing remarks

*** All session will be followed by Q&A with Member States**



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

22 March 2010

Excellency,

Since early last year, the change in the political environment both within and outside the multilateral system has led to a renewed interest in certain areas of the disarmament and non-proliferation agenda, which have been deadlocked, in some cases, for around a decade. Moreover, key multilateral conferences and meetings on both conventional weapons and weapons of mass destruction will take place in 2010.

However, several challenges remain. These challenges are not only related to the concerns of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery but also to the full implementation of disarmament obligations. Besides, the need for developing renewable and reliable sources of energy has assumed increased importance. In this context, the renewed interest in nuclear energy for peaceful uses stems from the legitimate aspirations for economic growth.

In conjunction with the discussions on weapons of mass destruction, it is also fundamental that the international community addresses issues related to the production, use, export and import of conventional weapons, including small arms and light weapons. The figures of the armament industry are overwhelming. The smuggling and misuse of conventional weapons, particularly of small arms and light weapons result in alarming number of casualties each year, particularly among women and children, especially in developing countries.

As many conferences and meetings related to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation are scheduled in the coming months, the entire membership of the UN should have the possibility to discuss the challenges ahead.

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations

To contribute to this positive momentum and considering the competence of the General Assembly to consider “the general principles of co-operation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and regulation of armaments” (article 11.1), I intend to convene on **April 19th 2010** a thematic debate entitled “**Disarmament and World Security: Challenges for the International Community and the Role of the United Nations**”.

The thematic debate will bring together Member States, Academia and Civil Society to have a fruitful exchange on the issues that pertain to the very core of the United Nations mandate, which are to foster social and economic development and maintain international peace and security.

I would like to invite you to actively participate in the proposed thematic debate. Further details about the structure and organization will be communicated in due time.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Ali Abdussalam Treki

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NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Office of the President of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly presents its compliments to all Permanent Missions and Permanent Observers Missions to the United Nations and has the honour to attach herewith for your information the draft programme of the Thematic Debate entitled “Disarmament and World Security: Challenges for the International Community and the Role of the United Nations”, to be held on Monday, 19 April 2010 at the conference room 4 (NLB).

The Office of the President of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly avails itself of this opportunity to reiterate to all Permanent Missions and Permanent Observer Missions to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 6 April 2010



To All Permanent Missions and
Permanent Observer Missions to the United Nations

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H.E. Ali Abdussalan Treki - President of the 64th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations

H.E. Ban Ki-moon - Secretary General of the United Nations

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