



## THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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## REMARKS TO THE ADVISORY BOARD ON DISARMAMENT MATTERS

New York, 24 February 2010

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to join you.

My thanks to Dr. Carolina Hernandez for serving as Chairperson last year. Ambassador Carlo Trezza, thank you for taking the helm.

I also want to thank all of you for your willingness to serve on this Board.

Your voice is especially important during what promises to be a critical year in the field of disarmament, both inside and outside the United Nations.

You have two very important items on your agenda.

Let me begin with your examination of conceptual issues leading up to the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

I welcome your recommendations from last year on this issue. As you know, I have a deep personal interest in advancing the three great goals of this treaty—disarmament, non-proliferation, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

I look forward to the results of your continuing deliberations.

I also commend you for placing disarmament and non-proliferation education on your agenda. This, too, has enormous importance not just for the future of any single treaty, but the future of international peace and security.

Eight years have passed since the last UN experts study on this issue. The time is ripe for another review.

As Secretary-General, I welcome such studies. In particular, I wish to commend the fine work that has been produced by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research over the years – as well as your own efforts as UNIDIR's Board of Trustees.

Let me also stress the unique role you play in the United Nations disarmament machinery. Aside from the Secretariat itself, you are the only entity that is not expected to serve as a forum for advancing policies of particular States.

This institutional detachment is a great asset. It is indispensable in ensuring that the Secretary-General has the best objective advice on all the important issues on your agenda.

Please therefore accept my gratitude and best wishes for a successful session.

Thank you.