



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