

Together with these developments came the UN financial crisis, the report of the Group of 18 and the realization that we must make the best possible use of our meeting time.

Already this year our timetable has been a busy one. The CD continues to negotiate, the superpower talks continue, we have just completed a successful final session of the preparatory committee for the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, we are now assembled for what could be a very productive UNDC session, and soon we shall meet in preparatory committee to plan for the third Special Session of the United Nations devoted to disarmament.

Opportunities abound for action and we must be vigilant and diligent in our efforts to capitalize on them.

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What can we do during this session of the Disarmament Commission to increase the positiveness of the atmosphere, to play our part in speeding the world toward a more peaceful, more stable, a more secure environment. Let me put forward a few ideas by which we might guide our deliberations here for the next few weeks.

1. We must continue to treat seriously and with dispatch the agenda items referred to us by the General Assembly.

2. We should take inspiration from these encouraging international developments including the success we achieved last year when the UNDC succeeded in finalizing the CBM item on its agenda. We should work toward completing more agenda items thereby building confidence through consensus and making room on our agenda for other important matters.

3. We must continue to work on the basis of consensus, but consensus defined as positive cooperation, as understanding of the reasonable positions -- not defined as an unreasonable imposition of views of one on all others.

4. We should establish quickly our working groups and other necessary organizations so as to commence our work with a minimum of administrative delay.

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