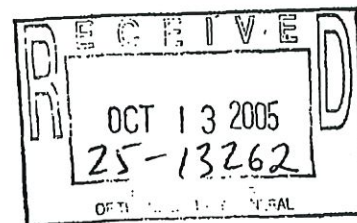


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Disarmament

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Note to the Secretary-General

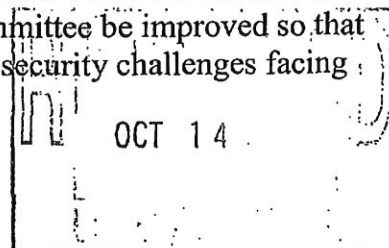
ADVISORY BOARD ON DISARMAMENT MATTERS

Summary

The Chairman of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, Ambassador Vicente Berasategui of Argentina, submits herewith a summary of the discussion the Board held at its 45th session from 28 to 30 June this year in Geneva. I recall that the Board addressed the following issues: challenges and opportunities at the regional level in the areas of weapons of mass destruction and conventional arms; and a review of disarmament machinery. It is recommended that you continue to urge all members of the international community to renew their commitments to disarmament and non-proliferation, and to take concrete steps leading to progress in this field. A letter of reply to Ambassador Berasategui is attached for your consideration and signature.

Report on the work of the 45th session of the Advisory Board

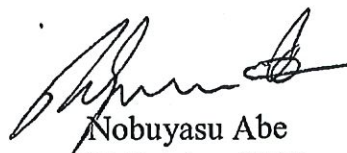
1. The main message derived from the Board's deliberations was that there was an urgent need to make progress on measures of disarmament and non-proliferation, including those concerning non-State actors, in order to prevent a weakening of the present system of legal norms in this field. The Board underlined the need to strengthen the role of the United Nations in addressing these challenges.
2. Among a number of recommendations on challenges and opportunities at the regional level in the areas of weapons of mass destruction and conventional arms, the Board recommended that inter-regional dialogues be undertaken to share information, to exchange successful experiences and lessons learned, and that mechanisms on cooperation between the regional organizations be established or strengthened to promote disarmament and non-proliferation.
3. On disarmament machinery, the Board agreed that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral negotiating body, should be preserved and strengthened without prejudice to adjustments in its procedural arrangements which could facilitate progress in the consideration of disarmament measures. It also recommended that the functioning of the First Committee be improved so that it could effectively address both traditional and current security challenges facing



the international community, in particular, in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.

Recommendation

It is recommended that you continue to urge all members of the international community to renew their commitments to disarmament and non-proliferation, and take concrete steps leading to much needed progress in this field. We also recommend that you take note of the recommendations made by the Board on the two topics discussed during its 45th session.



Nobuyasu Abe
13 October 2005

[Drafted by X. Wang]



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

14 October 2005

Excellency,

I wish to thank you for your letter of 10 October 2005 forwarding your report on the results of the 45th session of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters.

Allow me to express my appreciation to you and to the members of the Board for your efforts to review the important issues related to regional approaches to disarmament and non-proliferation, and the revitalization of existing disarmament machinery.

I have taken note of the recommendations made by the Board on enhancing regional roles in complementing global disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. I have also noted the recommendations made on preserving and strengthening the Conference on Disarmament while exploring adjustments in its procedural arrangements aimed at facilitating fulfilment of its negotiating mandate. As you know, the lack of agreement on any measures of disarmament and non-proliferation in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document was a deep disappointment to me. I will continue to urge all Member States to renew their commitments to disarmament and non-proliferation goals, and to start negotiations to that end. I am also grateful for the Board's effective oversight of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, as well as its recommendations on strengthening the Institute's research capacity.

I look forward to meeting with you next week.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Annan', written in a cursive style.

Kofi A. Annan

His Excellency
Mr. Vicente Berasategui
Chairman of the
Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters
Buenos Aires