

Introductory Remarks by Sergio Duarte  
High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

## **Consultation on Promoting International Security and Stability through Disarmament**

Hosted by EastWest Institute and the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United  
Nations  
22 October 2010

### **1:15 – 1:20 Greetings**

[Welcome presented by Amb. Aitimova]  
[Opening remarks made by Pal Sidhu]

### **1:30 – 2:00 Panel presentations**

I would like to take this occasion to thank both the EastWest Institute and the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations—and I thank them not only for organizing this event today, but also for their many efforts in support of initiatives to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world, including the Secretary-General's five-point nuclear disarmament proposal.

It is troubling indeed that as we meet here today, over 20,000 nuclear weapons continue to exist in this world, 65 years after the United Nations General Assembly first called for their total elimination, and 40 years after the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty required its States Parties to enter into good faith negotiations on nuclear disarmament.

The title of this Consultation strongly implies that disarmament must not be postponed indefinitely until the prior achievement of world peace. It also implies that progress in disarmament makes its own independent contributions to international security and stability.

While our three distinguished speakers will certainly agree on the desirability of eliminating nuclear weapons, they will no doubt have their own ideas on how this goal can be safely achieved within the earliest possible timeframe, and on what non-nuclear-weapon States can do advance this global nuclear disarmament agenda.

Our first speaker will be Ambassador Jim McLay from the Permanent Mission of New Zealand to the United Nations. A founding member of the New Agenda Coalition, New Zealand has a long and honourable record of support for global

nuclear disarmament and, of course, for the United Nations. Ambassador, I am pleased to give you the floor.

[...]

Our second speaker is Ambassador Thomas Graham, who played a pivotal role in achieving the indefinite extension of the NPT in 1995 and who has written extensively of his work in the fields of disarmament and arms control. We are all grateful and honoured that you could be with us today.

[...]

Our final speaker is Ambassador Christian Strohal, Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations in Geneva. He has had the dubious pleasure of participating in recent efforts to revitalize the work of the Conference on Disarmament, at a time when Austria has also been a leading voice in support for new steps forward in nuclear disarmament, especially as a responsibility arising under international humanitarian law. We welcome your insights on what remains to be done to move this agenda forward.

[...]

**2:00 – 2:45 Open discussion.**

I would now like to invite questions for our speakers.

[Option: Ask your own first question to the panellists, based on their presentations.]