

**Statement by John Duncan, UK Ambassador for Multilateral Arms Control & Disarmament,  
29 May 2009, Conference on Disarmament (as delivered)**

Mr President,

On behalf of the United Kingdom, please allow me to congratulate you and the P6 for leading the CD to the decision we have just taken.

Leadership is sometimes defined as comprising four elements:

*Vision* - to see the world as it might be;

*Courage* - to take up that vision and pursue it to its fulfilment;

*Determination* - to follow the path to success; and

*Steadfastness* - to overcome the obstacles along the way

Sir, these are qualities that you have shown in full measure, in the highest tradition of international diplomacy.

Mr President, Colleagues,

This has indeed been a long and arduous path. For more than a decade we have been unable to take the decision to agree on a Programme of Work. From being the neglected orphan of multilateral diplomacy, today the CD has now shown the way. Shown what can be done when a group of nations refuse to be turned aside from their common purpose.

This achievement is a collective effort and a tribute to cross-regional co-operation; to the efforts and determination of many individuals, to reach out and find the areas of shared vision.

It is fitting that the culminations of these efforts have been brought together under Algeria's Presidency. An African and Arab nation representing two great world communities and a continent which has perhaps gone the furthest in taking practical steps towards achieving our common vision of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Mr President,

Getting the CD back to work - negotiation and substantive discussion - is an essential element in achieving that objective. You and your P6 colleagues can count on the support of the United Kingdom in taking forward your work.

[ends]