

G8 Summit

Statement by Ms Fiona Paterson Charge d'Affaires UK Deputy Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament

14 July 2005

Mr President,

On behalf of the UK Delegation, may I congratulate you on your assumption of the Presidency of the CD and assure you of our fullest co-operation.

Mr President,

Last week, leaders of the G8 countries met at Gleneagles to address some of the most urgent and difficult international problems, including the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery means which, with international terrorism, are the pre-eminent threats to international peace and security.

As colleagues know, a barbaric terrorist attack on London on 7 July, which was denounced afterwards by the G8 Leaders as " an attack on all nations and on civilised people everywhere", coincided with the opening of the G8 Summit. It did not stop the work of the G8 Leaders, rather it focussed and sharpened their resolve in tackling global threats during their two days of deliberation and discussion.

The G8 Leaders made a joint statement on Non-Proliferation which acknowledged the role which all States must play in upholding the international arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation norms and underlined the need to meet and ensure effective implementation of obligations in full. The G8 Leaders reaffirmed their commitments in this regard and emphasised their determination to meet proliferation challenges decisively, through both national efforts and effective multilateralism. They also acknowledged the role of this Conference in advancing both non-proliferation and disarmament objectives and called upon us to resume substantive work.

Whilst regretting that the NPT was unable to achieve consensus at the 2005 Rev Con, Mr President, the G8 Leaders welcomed the fact that all States Parties had nevertheless reaffirmed the Treaty's validity. The G8 leaders reaffirmed their full commitment to all three pillars of the NPT, the cornerstone of nuclear non-proliferation. They pledged to redouble their efforts to uphold and strengthen the Treaty.

The G8 Leaders also reaffirmed commitment to PSI, CWC, BTWC, the Global Partnership against Proliferation of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, and

support for IAEA, including continuing cooperation in the area of nuclear and radiological safety and security.

Finally, Mr President, having mentioned earlier the tragic events which took place in London last week, on behalf of my Government and the UK delegation in Geneva, may I take this opportunity to thank all of our colleagues who have expressed their condolences personally or in writing. Your support and solidarity at a difficult time has been much appreciated.

Thank you Mr President.