



Conference on Disarmament

19 February 2026

Statement by His Excellency Sumith Dassanayake, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations at Geneva

Mr. President,
Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues

It is a great honour to address you this morning, for the first time, as the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka. I arrived in Geneva last week and presented my Credentials to Madam Tatiana Valovaya, Director General of the United Nations Office at Geneva early this week. Today is my very first engagement at the UN in Geneva and I look forward to contributing constructively at the on-going discussions and initiatives at the Conference on Disarmament as well as at the other multilateral fora.

I also take this opportunity to extend my warmest congratulation to His Excellency Omar Zniber, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco, on assuming the Presidency of the CD.

Mr. President, please be assured of Sri Lanka's fullest support and cooperation.

I also wish to congratulate the new Permanent Representatives of Bulgaria, Slovakia and Senegal who are joining the CD today.

I would also appreciate the work of the Ambassador of Mongolia, the first President of the CD for 2026 and also wish to extend my best wishes to the

subsequent presidents of the CD this year to lead this vital conference to achieve our shared goals and expectations.

Mr. President,

Distinguished Colleagues,

Today, we are living in uncertainty due to increasing geo-political tensions in the global security landscape. Therefore, inclusive dialogue, trust, compromise, mutual respect and transparency have become more vital than ever in today's multilateral diplomacy. To realize our shared vision for enduring global peace and security we all need to rethink and renew our commitments.

As an active partner of many key disarmament initiatives including global nuclear disarmament, establishment of nuclear weapons free zones and prevention of arms race in outer space, Sri Lanka will continue to engage with the CD in renewed spirit at this critical time.

Mr. President,

As a country that strongly supported the establishment of this vital body at the SSOD-1 (First Special Session on Disarmament) in 1978, Sri Lanka wishes to continue its constructive role in advancing global disarmament.

I appreciate the efforts of Ambassadors of Mongolia and Morocco so far, towards resuming substantive work of this year's CD and also appreciate the proposal by Egypt to this effect. All these efforts reflect the spirit of the partnership and engagement to break the deadlock in our work. It is my genuine hope that we will reach a collective solution to commence substantive work without further delay.

In conclusion, I wish to reaffirm the commitment of Sri Lanka towards realizing our shared vision for global disarmament and I wish to engage constructively with all delegations to achieve these goals during my tenure.

Thank you