

**Informal Plenary in the CD on 'New and Additional issues related
to the agenda of the CD' – Thursday 5th August, 2004**

Mr. President,

During the Informal Plenary held on 10th June, 2004 on the subject of 'new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: radiological weapons', my delegation had stated our view that the very rich debate on this subject had revealed that there was sufficient scope for discussing new issues such as terrorism, WMD (whether they be weapons of 'mass destruction' or 'mass disruption') within our traditional agenda. However, in order to meet the concerns of those delegations desirous of further discussions on these 'new' issues, the Group of 21 has shown their flexibility in accepting compromise language to enable the holding of today's informal plenary.

Mr. President,

9/11 represented a turning point in the global campaign against terrorism. The international community was forced to take cognizance of the magnitude of the problem that is haunting us despite all efforts to combat this scourge. French Judge Jean-Louis Bruguière recently described the threat as feeding on 'une haine irréductible, irréfléchie et passionnelle'. Recent terrorist attacks had made crystal clear that every country is vulnerable and that international cooperation is indispensable.

While recognizing that the UN is the most appropriate forum to deal with this global threat, we need also to remind ourselves of ongoing work in this area. The UN General Assembly has entrusted to the Ad-hoc Committee on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, a mandate to embark on the elaboration on two important International Conventions, namely the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and the International Convention for the Suppression of the Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. Sri Lanka is of the view that we need to finalise as a matter of priority the draft International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism on which substantial amount of work has been completed and there is only one issue outstanding namely the scope of the convention. Adoption of these conventions would strengthen the central role of the General Assembly and its due contribution to the on going international efforts to deal with weapons of mass destruction and terrorism.

Let us therefore Mr. President, concentrate our efforts in the CD on subjects already at hand, and to accord priority in the remaining weeks of this session to focusing on a Programme of Work. There has been wide support expressed for the A5 proposal and we support the G-21 statement today and the call to other delegations to offer constructive amendments to help forge consensus around Programme of Work.

(Ambassador Jackie Sanders statement to the CD on 29th July referred to a forward movement on FMCT and I could not resist a reminder to Ambassador Sanders that it was President Reagan who urged us in arms control to "Trust but verify").