

Conference on Disarmament

English

Final record of the one thousand seven hundred and twenty-ninth plenary meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Wednesday, 19 June 2024, at 10.15 a.m.

President: Mr. Abdul-Karim Hashim Mostafa(Iraq)



The President (*spoke in Arabic*): Distinguished colleagues, I call to order the 1729th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

Thank you for participating in today's meeting to consider the draft decision on the work of the Conference. Before beginning our programme for today, I am pleased to welcome His Excellency Ambassador Carlos Foradori, Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva, and His Excellency Ambassador Burak Akçapar, Permanent Representative of Türkiye to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva.

I would like to propose that we consider the draft decision contained in document CD/WP.658 on the work of the Conference for 2024, which was distributed electronically by the secretariat on Friday, 14 June. This document includes one paragraph on the appointment of the coordinators of the subsidiary bodies and another paragraph on the timetable for their work.

Before we continue, I would like to draw the attention of the Conference to a minor correction in the text and a proposed amendment to the timetable.

First, let me touch on a minor typographical correction that needs to be made in paragraph 1 of the draft decision. The name of the second subsidiary body is missing an s in the last word, so the full name of the subsidiary body is as follows: Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters. This correction will be included in the text of the decision to be issued by the secretariat after its adoption.

Secondly, I would like to draw the attention of the Conference to the timetable for the meetings of the subsidiary bodies. Due to scheduling issues, there is a request to reschedule the meeting of subsidiary body 3 on prevention of an arms race in outer space to Friday, 28 June, instead of Thursday, 27 June. I would like to seek the views of member States on this proposed amendment. If there are no comments, I will take it that the Conference approves this proposed amendment to the timetable.

I now give the floor to the representative of Pakistan.

Mr. Ahmed (Pakistan): Mr. President, thank you for sharing your plans and the draft working paper with us. We fully support the working paper that you have put forward, including the oral amendments that you have just introduced. We are satisfied with the timetable change for subsidiary body 3, which will now meet on 28 June 2024.

Just a point of clarification that we would like to seek, since it was not very clear in the interpretation, on the corrected title of subsidiary body 2. If you could kindly confirm that the title of subsidiary body 2, as you have just read it out, "Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters", is going to be exactly the same as the title that is mentioned in the timetable of subsidiary body 2, which is the correct version right now.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank the representative of Pakistan, and I assure him that the correction has been made according to what has been agreed upon and what has just been presented.

I now give the floor to Ambassador Aidan Liddle.

Mr. Liddle (United Kingdom): While my delegation does not have any difficulty with the decision either, Mr. President, if we are making spelling corrections, then for subsidiary body 5, I believe the correct title of agenda item 7 is "Transparency in armaments", plural, which should likewise be reflected in the timetable.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank the Ambassador of the United Kingdom for this clarification, which will be taken into consideration. Are there any other requests for the floor? I give the floor to the representative of the Russian Federation.

Mr. Belousov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Mr. President, we have no objections to the adoption of the document. I would just like additional clarification of the amendments that we have just heard from you, so that we can clearly understand in what form we are adopting the document. I understand that the amendments relate both to the list of coordinators – namely, to the names of subsidiary body 2 and subsidiary body 5 – and to the timetable for the meetings of the subsidiary bodies – namely, a change to the date of the

meeting of subsidiary body 3 and a change to the title of subsidiary body 5. My question is simply whether my understanding of the set of amendments that we are now adopting is correct.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): Thank you. For further clarification, I would like to repeat the three amendments made to the proposed text. The first amendment relates to subsidiary body 2. Here, the word “matter” is followed by the letter s and the new text becomes “Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters”.

The second amendment is to subsidiary body 5: New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons – Comprehensive programme of disarmament – Transparency in “armaments” instead of “armament”.

The third amendment is to the date for the meeting of subsidiary body 3: Prevention of an arms race in outer space. The new date is 28 June instead of 27 June.

Mr. Belousov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The title of subsidiary body 5, Transparency in armaments, should also be amended in the timetable. There are four amendments in all.

The President: You are right. The fourth amendment will be made to subsidiary body 5, so I will read it again: Subsidiary body 5 on new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons – Comprehensive programme of disarmament – Transparency in armaments, with an s.

So the text that has been sent to you with the four amendments that have been read out today. Are there any requests for the floor, any objections? Seeing none, I will take it that the Conference on Disarmament wishes to adopt the amendments.

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): Before I turn to the delegations wishing to take the floor, allow me to thank the coordinators of the subsidiary bodies and wish them success in their work. Bearing in mind the limited time available for the work of the subsidiary bodies, I would like to make it clear that we are working jointly with the incoming presidency of the Conference, with Ambassador Noel White, Permanent Representative of Ireland, and closely with the coordinators to promote a common approach to the work of the subsidiary bodies in 2024. We hope that this coordinated approach will enable the subsidiary bodies to dedicate the maximum time to their substantive work, in accordance with decision contained in document CD/2390.

Does any delegation wish to take the floor? The representative of the Russian Federation has the floor.

Mr. Belousov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): I would like to begin by congratulating the Iraqi presidency on this triumph, which was secured with the help of long and constructive consultations in various formats on the draft decision on the work of the Conference on Disarmament for 2024 and with a view to resuming – without delay and without becoming entangled in unnecessary discussions – the work of the subsidiary bodies next year. I would also like to thank all colleagues, who showed flexibility and a willingness to compromise in order to reach the consensus that we have reached, which is reflected in the decisions we made at the previous meeting of the Conference and at this meeting. I hope that the secretariat will promptly issue the final version of the documents we have adopted, including the amendments adopted today.

My delegation believes that it is important for the subsidiary bodies to begin their work as soon as possible. We would like to express our appreciation to the coordinators who agreed to guide the work of the subsidiary bodies and our full commitment to working closely with all the coordinators of the five subsidiary bodies. In our view, and this is a request for the Irish presidency, it would make sense to organize a plenary meeting at which the coordinators of the subsidiary bodies could present their vision of the activities of these bodies and listen, in a preliminary exercise, to delegations’ views of the objectives they have set for the outcome of the work of the subsidiary bodies this year and next. It could be a general meeting, a plenary meeting of the Conference, to get to know, so to speak, the

coordinators and promote an understanding of the common goals that are, as it happens, the reason we established the subsidiary bodies.

In the future, more intensive work will naturally be organized at the meetings of the subsidiary bodies, and we also hope that the coordinators will initiate active informal consultations with all interested delegations on a possible list of topics that the subsidiary bodies should address without delay. At the previous meeting, I drew delegations' attention to paragraph 3 of the document that we adopted at that meeting, which states that the subsidiary bodies are to agree on the specific topics to be considered.

I would like to remind delegations that, in 2022, the coordinators, who did a good job in this respect, gave us a rough idea of the topics that would be considered at the meetings of the subsidiary bodies. I would like to reiterate that my delegation views the first meetings of the subsidiary bodies as preparation for the substantive work that we hope will continue in 2025. Once again, I would like to reiterate the importance of preparing subsidiary body decisions informed by the results of the consultations to be held by the coordinators.

We believe that it is premature and unwise to talk about final reports this year. We nonetheless believe that the subsidiary bodies should provide advice or make recommendations on how their work should proceed in 2025, in particular on the need for that work to continue next year, so that there is a basis for next year's technical decision to reactivate the subsidiary bodies. In addition, in any such decision or other such document, provision must be made for the number of possible plenary meetings of the subsidiary bodies in 2025.

As I said at the previous meeting, my delegation is of the view that, on the assumption that we can resume the work of the subsidiary bodies from the very beginning of the 2025 session, it would be appropriate to envisage six meetings for each subsidiary body, four of which would be devoted specifically to substantive work – that is, to the discussion of the issues that delegations decide to put before the Conference and are prepared to discuss in depth – and two of which should be devoted to the preparation of the final reports that are to be submitted to the Conference.

I will also touch on the issue of continuity as it pertains to coordination. We believe that this year's coordinators should continue to be the coordinators next year. Of course, events or circumstances beyond our control can affect anybody, but we believe that it is important, for the sake of consistency, continuity and the work that will be done before the end of this session and during the intersessional period, for the coordinators who have now taken up their posts to continue their work next year. I would like to wish them success and once again assure them of my delegation's full readiness to strive for results in each of the five subsidiary bodies.

Another technical issue that I would like to raise is that, in 2022, the secretariat circulated a document that contained links to the audio recordings that were retained after the 2018 meetings of the subsidiary bodies. Thus, delegations, delegations, I repeat, participating in the work of the Conference were given the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the proceedings of those subsidiary bodies. I believe that if the secretariat prepares such a document this year, too, including links to the websites where delegations can consult the proceedings of the 2018 and 2022 meetings of the subsidiary bodies, it will be very useful for the organization of our work in the subsidiary bodies. I hope that this proposal is supported by other delegations and understood by the secretariat as well. I would just like to reiterate that, as on previous occasions, these materials should be made available only to participants in the Conference and delegations that have been invited to observe the work of the Conference and, in accordance with the rules of procedure, of the subsidiary bodies.

These are, for the moment, the comments I wished to make. I would like once again to congratulate the Iraqi presidency on the successful outcome of its painstaking work on the Conference's programme of work and to thank the coordinators and all the delegations, which did their utmost and showed the utmost flexibility in helping us achieve what we have achieved today.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank the representative of the Russian Federation for his statement. With regard to the technical point that he raised about the subsidiary bodies

and the archived recordings, I think I will leave this matter for the secretariat if there are no objections from the participating delegations, and if it is technically possible to do this and it is permitted under our rules of procedure. I now give the floor to the Ambassador of China.

Mr. Shen Jian (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): Thank you, Mr. President.

The Chinese delegation congratulates you on your efforts to promote consensus at this year's session of the Conference on Disarmament, following the major breakthrough achieved last week, and on the adoption of decisions on the list of coordinators of subsidiary bodies and the relevant timetables. The excellent and effective work that you and your team carried out during your four-week term is greatly appreciated. At the same time, China welcomes and congratulates our distinguished colleagues from Peru, Switzerland, Argentina, Egypt and Bulgaria for taking up their respective positions as coordinators of the subsidiary bodies. China will fully support the incoming President and the coordinators in carrying out their work in accordance with the mandate established in the decision contained in document CD/2390 and the clear timetables set out at this meeting, and will strive to ensure that the work of the subsidiary bodies proceeds smoothly and achieves substantive results.

This year the Conference made special arrangements to ensure the continuity of the work of its subsidiary bodies. Given the limited time available for this year's meetings of those bodies, China trusts that, under the leadership of the President and the coordinators, all member States will make full use of the time available for these meetings, adhere to the principles of comprehensiveness, balance, inclusiveness and mutual respect, ensure due attention both to procedural and organizational issues and to substantive discussions, and properly address such issues as the subsidiary bodies' working methods, reports and recommendations, the annual report of the Conference and the drafting of General Assembly resolutions. This will lay a solid foundation for ensuring a smooth transition of the subsidiary bodies' work from this year to next year. My Russian colleague has just made some useful suggestions. In this regard, we should pay particular attention to drawing on the experience and lessons learned from the establishment of subsidiary bodies in 2018 and 2022. At the same time, bearing in mind the need to maintain the status and role of the Conference, we should focus on professional discussions and substantive work. It is important to avoid politicizing the subsidiary bodies and, in particular, to avoid introducing controversial political elements.

Mr. President, China once again thanks you and your team for your efforts and looks forward to participating constructively in the work of the subsidiary bodies so as to steadily advance the work of the Conference for the rest of the year and build good momentum.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank the representative of China for his statement. Before giving the floor to the Ambassador of the United States of America, allow me to give the floor to the secretariat to clarify some of the points that have been mentioned by the delegates.

Mr. Spies (Secretary of the Conference on Disarmament): In response to the question raised by the representative of the Russian Federation, I can confirm that, in 2022, the secretariat was able to provide links to all of the digital recordings of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies in 2018. Since those meetings were held in an informal setting, the recordings are not accessible on the public website of the United Nations Office at Geneva. We will look into providing the links to the digital recordings and providing member States and observer States with a password so that you can all gain access to those recordings. We will communicate that information to you in due course.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank the secretariat for those clarifications. I now give the floor to the Ambassador of the United States of America.

Mr. Turner (United States of America): Mr. President, let me join others in congratulating you. I wish to thank our Russian colleague for his detailed analysis of some of the steps that we may wish to take. I agree with our Chinese colleague that we need to take a comprehensive and balanced approach. However, I think that we should keep in mind the possibility that one subsidiary body may make progress more quickly than another subsidiary body. I would ask that we at least keep in mind that, when we finalize a timetable for the

2025 session, we should perhaps schedule a minimum of six meetings for each subsidiary body, while at least leaving open the possibility that there could be additional meetings of a subsidiary body if one makes rapid progress.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank Ambassador Turner for his statement. I now give the floor to the Ambassador of India.

Mr. Ray (India): Mr. President, first of all, I would like to join others in thanking you and your team for the considerable efforts that went into the adoption of the decision on the programme of work and the decision on implementation. It is a considerable achievement, given the circumstances, and I would once again like to extend to you the congratulations and thanks of my delegation. Secondly, I would like to thank all the delegations that have demonstrated flexibility. It is sometimes difficult for delegations to make these compromises, and my delegation appreciates it. Thirdly, I would like to congratulate and thank the coordinators of the subsidiary bodies and assure them of the fullest support of my delegation in the conduct of their work.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank Ambassador Ray for his statement. I now give the floor to the delegation of Ireland.

Mr. Lainé (Ireland): Thank you, Mr. President, for all your and your team's work and thanks also to the secretariat. Congratulations on the good outcome. I wish to thank the subsidiary body coordinators for taking up their respective roles. We will be sure to follow in your footsteps, Mr. President, and to do everything we can to facilitate the smooth operation of the subsidiary bodies, including through close coordination among them and consultations with delegations to ensure that agreement is reached, including on continuing our work in the 2025 session.

I have a couple of questions on the basis of some of the suggestions made by our colleague from the Russian delegation. The first question concerns his suggestion for the Irish presidency to hold a plenary meeting with the coordinators, which I think is a good idea so as to ensure coordination and transparency. I am wondering whether it would be useful to do that before subsidiary body 1 meets on Tuesday, 25 June 2024. Would it be useful to hold such a plenary meeting on Monday, 24 June? I would like to hear from other colleagues on this. There is also the possibility of holding a meeting on the Tuesday morning, but doing so might risk the loss of time for subsidiary body 1 to conduct its work. My question is therefore just about when the best timing would be for the proposed plenary meeting and whether everyone would find a meeting useful.

Second, I might have misunderstood but I believe he mentioned that it was not advisable to talk about any type of report of the subsidiary bodies in the current session. My question is how that would work in view of paragraph 5 of the decision contained in document CD/2390, which makes reference to reports being agreed by consensus. For now, we had been discussing the preparation of purely technical reports to avoid longer discussions.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank the representative of Ireland for his contribution. I now give the floor to the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr. Ali (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): Thank you, Mr. President. Allow me at the outset to congratulate you on the successful conclusion of the consultations on the two decisions on the work of the Conference on Disarmament for 2024 adopted at the previous meeting and today. Through you, I also congratulate the previous Indian, Indonesian and Iranian presidencies, without whose efforts during their tenures we would not have reached this satisfactory outcome. I also thank the coordinators of the subsidiary bodies who have just been appointed for accepting these positions. We look forward to working with them during the short period of time established in the decision adopted by the Conference today.

The delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic welcomes the proposals made by the representative of the Russian Federation on the work of the subsidiary bodies. I believe that the proposal to hold a plenary meeting during the Irish presidency to discuss how the subsidiary bodies will work will give us the opportunity to address the ideas put forward by the Russian delegation, which we believe will be relevant to the work of the subsidiary bodies for next year. Because what is different this year is that we have adopted the principle of

continuity in the work of the subsidiary bodies, and we must therefore be careful not to take any measures within any of the subsidiary bodies this year that might undermine their work next year. For example, the failure by any of the subsidiary bodies to adopt a report would have an impact on their work next year. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic for his valuable intervention. I now give the floor to the Ambassador of the United Kingdom.

Mr. Liddle (United Kingdom): Mr. President, let me echo other delegations in congratulating you and your predecessors for getting us to this point. Thanks, too, to the delegations that have volunteered to lead our subsidiary bodies. I wanted to react briefly to some of the questions that have been raised about the work of the subsidiary bodies.

Obviously, we have only one meeting for each subsidiary body in the calendar for this year's session. It is our intention to use that first meeting of each subsidiary body to set out our expectations of what the bodies might achieve, particularly with a view to their continuation in the 2025 session, as well as some of the issues on which it might be worth them focusing.

I agree entirely with the representative of Ireland that paragraph 5 of the decision contained in document CD/2390 says that we have to adopt a report on the progress achieved, including any recommendations for continuing the substantive work of the Conference on Disarmament on the agenda items. To that end, I would agree with his suggestion that each subsidiary body agree a very short technical report that simply notes that they have met in accordance with the decision that we have just adopted and with a formal recommendation that the work of the subsidiary body continue in 2025. That would then provide the basis on which the Conference could make that decision in January 2025.

In the meantime, we believe that it would be helpful for the coordinators of the subsidiary bodies to consult with delegations on the particular structure of their subsidiary body's work in 2025 and then to kick off that work in 2025 on the basis of what has been agreed during the course of those consultations. We do not think that there needs to be any more elaborate a process than that at this stage, but certainly a technical report along those lines would be very useful. I also agree that it would be helpful to hold a brief plenary meeting early next week, before subsidiary body 1 begins its work, in order to set out these issues in more detail. Monday, 24 June 2024, would perhaps be the best time to do that, so that we do not lose any time in subsidiary body 1 on Tuesday, 5 June.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank Ambassador Liddle for his statement. Now, are there any delegations wishing to take the floor? If there are no more requests for the floor, before I adjourn this meeting, I would like to thank everyone for their constructive and positive participation, which enabled us to introduce the draft decision today and the other draft decision two days ago. This was possible only because of the cooperation and constructive contributions of all delegation members. We were also building on what was achieved by the previous presidencies. Here I would like to thank the three presidencies that preceded me: those of India, Indonesia and the Islamic Republic of Iran. I wish the upcoming presidencies of Ireland, Israel and Italy all the best in their work next year. I would also like to thank in advance the coordinators of the subsidiary bodies and wish them success in their work. I thank everyone who contributed to the success of our presidency, the team that worked tirelessly with me, the secretariat and, of course, the interpreters. The secretariat will contact delegations about the upcoming meetings of the subsidiary bodies and the next plenary meeting.

There seems to be a request for the floor from the delegation of the Russian Federation. The Ambassador of the Russian Federation has the floor.

Mr. Gatilov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Mr. President, distinguished colleagues, the Russian Federation, as a permanent member of the Security Council, a possessor of nuclear weapons and a committed party to many fundamental international treaties, is fully cognizant of its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. My country is making consistent efforts and proposing concrete steps to establish a truly democratic system of international relations based on the rule of international law that

would be consistent with the dynamic process of creating a multipolar world. Under such a system, all States would be sure of their own security, which would allow the international community to deal with numerous regional and global problems, including the resolution of existing conflicts, in a truly constructive manner.

In this connection, we would like to draw the attention of the delegates to the Conference of Disarmament to the address given by the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir V. Putin, at a meeting with the leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on 14 June 2024, in which he touched on a whole range of issues relating to the current security situation both on the Eurasian continent and throughout the world – that is, issues that directly affect the Conference's work.

Today we can state with full confidence that the Euro-Atlantic security system has not only failed to prove its worth but has also been a complete embarrassment. We are convinced that the negative effect here was caused primarily by the decades-long policy of the collective West, led by the United States, which relied on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) – an aggressive military bloc – and a system of bilateral and small-group military and political arrangements.

For decades, as the President of the Russian Federation has emphasized, our State has not only pointed out the erroneous approach taken by Western countries but has also put forward constructive initiatives to build a mechanism for a European global security architecture. These initiatives included the idea of adopting a treaty on European security. In addition, it was Russia that proposed a summit of the Heads of State of the permanent members of the Security Council, including to develop a modern framework for international security. Lastly, to prevent the ultimate erosion of strategic stability, my country has also proposed a mutual moratorium on the deployment of intermediate- and shorter-range missiles. As we know, however, all these initiatives were categorically and immediately rejected by our partners. The refusal to consider the draft treaties on security guarantees for Russia submitted to Washington and Brussels in December 2021, as well as the West's resolve to inflict a strategic defeat on our State, has exacerbated what was already a critical situation, from which there is not yet a way out, on the Eurasian continent.

Instead of working to strengthen international ties and mutual trust, the States members of NATO have consistently undermined previously reached agreements. Let me remind you – and we have said this many times in this room – that it was Washington, with the connivance of its European allies, that significantly undermined strategic stability by unilaterally withdrawing from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty and the Open Skies Treaty. The decades-old system of confidence-building measures and arms control in Europe has been destroyed.

All that the States members of NATO could offer the world was, as the President of Russia said, "NATO-style diplomacy". Such diplomacy consists not of promoting a peaceful solution to conflicts that are destructive to both sides but of finding one of the parties guilty and coming down on it with all their political, informational and military might, economic sanctions and restrictions. This principle was implemented by NATO countries in Europe in the Balkans, and the same approaches were taken in different parts of the world: in Iraq, Syria, Libya, Afghanistan, the Middle East, the South Caucasus and Central Asia. The result is the aggravation of existing problems, thousands of deaths, the proliferation of humanitarian and social disasters and the emergence and strengthening of terrorist enclaves.

The attempts by NATO to take its failed and destructive approach in other regions are a matter of serious concern. Again, I remind you that, at the Alliance's summit in Madrid in 2022, it was announced that NATO plans to address security issues not only in the Euro-Atlantic area but also in Asia and the Pacific. We see this as nothing less than a desire to increase pressure on the countries, including the Russian Federation, that the Alliance considers it necessary to contain. In essence, it is an increase in the potential for conflict in yet another part of the world.

At the same time, the NATO-centric system of international security is by its very nature designed to preserve the global dominance of the United States. For that reason, Washington is now investing in military technologies, and in the technologies of tomorrow: in space, in modern drones, in strike systems based on new physical principles. These are all

areas that will determine the nature of armed struggle and thus the military and political potential of the Powers and their positions at the regional and global levels.

To prevent further extremely dangerous developments, the President of Russia set out a vision for a new security system in the Eurasian space, which, as he emphasized, would actually have to be created anew. The initiative will draw on the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the primacy of international law. Its implementation is intended to prevent the fragmentation of Eurasia into opposing blocs and the outbreak of a large-scale armed conflict involving Eurasian and other Powers.

I would like to highlight a few key components of this initiative.

First and foremost, it involves establishing a constructive, mutually respectful dialogue with all potential participants in the future security system. Russia is prepared to ensure that it is open to all Eurasian countries that wish to participate in its creation, including the States members of NATO. Physical proximity, being on the same continent, encourages a joint search for ways of peaceful coexistence. As the President of Russia stressed, if Europe wishes to continue to be an independent centre of global development and a global hub of culture and civilization, it will sooner or later have to restore good-neighbourly relations with the Russian Federation.

Another important area of work is the intensification of the dialogue between multilateral organizations already working in Eurasia. I am referring to the Union State of Russia and Belarus, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Eurasian Economic Union, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. In the future, we hope that other influential Eurasian associations from South-East Asia to the Middle East will also join these processes.

The next step involves a broad discussion of a new system of bilateral and multilateral guarantees of collective security in Eurasia. In the long term, then, the military presence of external Powers in the region will have to be cut back.

We believe that Eurasian States and regional organizations themselves will identify specific areas of cooperation to ensure joint security. This requires building a system of working institutions, mechanisms and arrangements that are designed to serve the shared goals of stability and development.

The architecture built as a result of such common efforts will not be directed against anyone's interests or presuppose the creation of any blocs. Its parameters will not only ensure a durable peace but also prevent geopolitical upheaval due to the crisis of Western-style globalization. It will create reliable military and political guarantees to protect both Russia and other countries of the region from external threats and will form a conflict-free and development-friendly space. It will eliminate the destabilizing influence of extraregional players on Eurasian processes.

The initiative to recreate a security system in Eurasia would not be complete without a resolution of the Ukraine crisis.

We will not delve into the origins of this conflict. My delegation has repeatedly spoken at the Conference on Disarmament about the reasons for the situation that, through no fault of our own, has arisen. It is important, however, to emphasize once again that the crisis involving Ukraine is not a conflict between two States, much less a conflict caused by problems between two peoples. If it had been, as the President of Russia has noted, Russians and Ukrainians, who are united by a shared history and culture, spiritual values and millions of kinship, family and human ties, would have found a way to fairly resolve any disagreements.

It is important to realize that the events in Ukraine are a direct result of the aggressive and cavalier policy that the West has been pursuing since the end of the twentieth century – that is to say, since long before the special military operation began.

Under these circumstances, all attempts to hold so-called peace conferences on Ukraine, such as the one held recently in Bürgenstock, Switzerland, to which, by the way, Russia is not even invited, are absolutely absurd. Ignoring the underlying causes of the crisis, disregard for Russia's national security interests and attempts to impose conditions for ending

the conflict that will only preserve the status quo with regard to the position of NATO will encourage the Alliance to adopt additional destructive policies. This is a dangerous path not only for Europe but also for the entire world.

I would like to cite in this connection the conditions, as set out by the President of Russia, that would make it possible to begin a peaceful settlement, of course after the West allows Kyiv to lift its ban, supposedly self-imposed, on negotiations with Russia. They are clearly formulated and practicable: the complete withdrawal of Ukrainian troops from the Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics and Kherson and Zaporizhzhia Oblasts, and from the entire territory of these regions within their administrative boundaries at the time of their incorporation into Ukraine after the Soviet Union ceased to exist. Once Kyiv declares that it is ready for such a decision and provides official notification that it is abandoning its plans to join NATO, Russia will immediately cease firing and begin negotiations, as well as pledge to guarantee the unimpeded and safe withdrawal of Ukrainian units and formations.

In the future, all those basic and foundational provisions should be established in the form of international agreements. Naturally, such a course of action also presupposes the lifting of all Western sanctions against Russia. Only such an option will make it possible to bring the armed conflict in Ukraine to a real end and to contribute to the restoration of trust and good-neighbourliness between Russia and Ukraine and in Europe as a whole.

The proposals regarding security relate primarily to Eurasia. In our opinion, however, the future system of Eurasian security and cooperation should become the foundation of the global security architecture in the era of multipolarity.

As the President of Russia noted in his address, the world is changing rapidly. Profound changes are taking place in global politics, in economics and in technological competition. More and more States are striving to defend their sovereignty, self-sufficiency and national and cultural identity. The countries of the global South and East are rising to prominence, and the role of Africa and Latin America is growing. This new political and economic reality now serves as the foundation for the emerging multipolar and multilateral world order.

In that context, the Russian Federation fully supports the initiative of the Republic of Belarus to develop a programme document – a charter of multipolarity and diversity in the twenty-first century. In this charter, both the framework principles of a Eurasian security architecture, based on the basic rules of international law, and, in a broader sense, a strategic vision of the essence and nature of multipolarity and multilateralism as a new system of international relations could be formulated.

The importance of establishing a new security system against the backdrop of the current unprecedented potential for conflict and crisis of mistrust, including between nuclear Powers, is absolutely obvious to the entire international community. Russia is interested in ensuring greater engagement in equitable dialogue on such a vital topic for all as the creation of a system of indivisible security and the establishment in world affairs of the principle that the security of some cannot be ensured to the detriment of the security of others, including in the United Nations and, of course, here at the Conference on Disarmament.

We believe that all States, without exception, should participate in the work of building a new world, and interaction should take place in the context of the new realities of multipolarity, based on the principles of the sovereign equality of States and equal and respectful dialogue. The Russian Federation is ready for that.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank Ambassador Gatilov for his statement and I now give the floor to the Ambassador of the United Kingdom.

Mr. Liddle (United Kingdom): Despite the length of his lecture, the intervention by the Ambassador of the Russian Federation contained nothing that could be dignified with the name “peace plan”. In fact, to hear him and his President talk about peace reminds me of the words ascribed by the historian Tacitus to a British chieftain, complaining about the attitude of the Romans: “*ubi solitudinem faciunt pacem appellant*” – where they make a desert, they call it peace.

My delegation, my country and, indeed, the vast majority of the States Members of the United Nations know what peace looks like – and it is not what Russia is doing. The basis for a sound, just and lasting peace is the withdrawal of Russian forces from the territory of Ukraine; it is the recognition of Ukraine’s internationally recognized borders; it is respect for the letter and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations and for the principles of non-aggression, the territorial integrity of States, the political independence of States and the rights of States to choose their own pathway.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank Ambassador Aidan Liddle for his statement. I now give the floor to the Ambassador of the United States of America.

Mr. Turner (United States of America): I fully endorse the remarks that my British colleague just made. I would note that it is rather ironic, albeit understandable, that Russia would ask that we begin a new security order from scratch, from zero, as if we had no understanding of what has been going on in Europe for the past couple of years. I would note that it is Russia that has violated the major arms control agreements, most notably and most recently the New START, as well as the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. As we made clear in New York, we have serious concerns about Russia’s plans for outer space and its intentions to put a nuclear weapon in outer space. These are not the actions of a peace-loving nation. I would also note his reference to “peaceful coexistence”. This would presumably be after Russia has annexed the territories of a neighbouring State against its will and by simply ignoring what has been going on for a number of years now.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank Ambassador Bruce Turner for his statement. If there are no more requests for the floor, I would like to recall that the secretariat will contact delegations to inform them about arrangements for future meetings and meetings of the subsidiary bodies.

With that, the meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 11.25 a.m.