

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/PV.972
8 February 2005

ENGLISH

FINAL RECORD OF THE NINE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SECOND PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 8 February, at 10.25 a.m.

President:

Mr. Chris SANDERS

(Netherlands)

The PRESIDENT: I declare open the 972nd plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

At the informal meeting earlier today, we reached an agreement on the agenda for the 2005 session and on the Presidential statement to be made following its adoption. I would now like to proceed to the formalization of this agreement.

May I take it that the Conference decides to adopt for its 2005 session the agenda contained in document CD/WP.538, which is before you?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I would like to express my sincere thanks to all delegations for their cooperation in the process that has resulted in today's adoption of the agenda. The agenda will be issued as an official document of the Conference.

Now I shall read the statement: "In connection with the adoption of the agenda, I, as the President of the Conference, should like to state that it is my understanding that if there is a consensus in the Conference to deal with any issues, they could be dealt with within this agenda. The Conference will also take into consideration rules 27 and 30 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, as well as paragraph 22 and other relevant paragraphs of the 2004 report of the Conference on Disarmament to the General Assembly, contained in document CD/1744."

There are no speakers on the list for today's plenary meeting. Does any delegation, however, wish to take the floor at this stage? I recognize the distinguished Ambassador of France.

Mr. RIVASSEAU (France) (translated from French): I am taking the floor again on the question of the agenda that we have just adopted. The Conference on Disarmament could have taken the easy but harmful approach by refusing to think carefully and seriously about the starting point of this work. Fortunately we had an informal discussion last Tuesday which clarified issues and was interesting and important concerning the agenda. During that discussion and the subsequent consultations, some might have been tempted to call into question what was achieved during the formal meetings in 2004, particularly on new and additional issues. That pitfall was avoided despite a difficult and at times disappointing discussion. It is true that our delegation had hoped for something more encouraging for the future. We still think that the Conference on Disarmament, to which we are very committed, is having difficulty in adapting to the new security environment, whereas other security forums are engaged in a necessary aggiornamento.

Our debate cannot stop here. It must continue. It will not be generated by our delegation but by what is made self-evident by events and by the need to ensure the continued relevance of the Conference on Disarmament.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the distinguished representative of France for his statement. Is there anybody else at this stage who would like to take the floor? That does not seem to be the case. So I think this concludes the list of speakers.

As I have informed the Coordinators, I will be travelling tomorrow and the day after tomorrow, for consultations in my capacity as CD President. If there is no request to have a meeting on Thursday, we will not have a meeting on Thursday. If there is any one of you who wishes to have a meeting on Thursday, that meeting can take place under the presidency of my deputy. But if I detect no desire now to have a meeting on Thursday, our next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 15 February at 10 a.m.

There is one remaining short statement which I will want to go on record with, and that is the following sentence: "I have concluded that there is an absence of consensus on the establishment of any particular subsidiary body or its mandate in the first two weeks of our annual session."

The meeting rose at 10.30 a.m.