

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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ENGLISH

FINAL RECORD OF THE ONE THOUSAND AND SEVENTY-SIXTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 31 July 2007, at 10.20 a.m.

President: Mr. Jürg STREULI (Switzerland)

The PRESIDENT (spoke in French): I call to order the 1076th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament, the first meeting of the third and last part of this year's session.

I believe this session will be very short, because for the time being I have no speakers on my list.

We have now returned after the summer break, which for some meant summer holidays - I can see that from the tanned faces of some of our colleagues - for others, holidays plus consultations in the capital, and for the President, holidays and consultations with a number of delegations. As you know, the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, recently appointed Ambassador Sergio Duarte, whom we know well as President of the 2005 NPT Review Conference, to the post of High Representative for Disarmament Affairs with the rank of Under-Secretary-General. I have sent Ambassador Duarte a letter to congratulate him, on behalf of the Disarmament Conference, on his appointment.

We are now at the start of the third part of the 2007 session. According to the organizational plan we submitted at the beginning of the session, we are going to work during the next three weeks on the basis of progress identified.

The week of 20 August will in principle be devoted to evaluating these three weeks and the following three weeks, in other words from 27 August to 14 September, considering and adopting the annual report. Obviously, this organizational plan could be adapted in the light of progress made in our work. We are basing our work in the third part of the session on the following documents, which have been adapted by the secretariat to the fact that we are now in the third part. I wish to remind you that on 28 June 2007, at the last plenary session of the second part of this year's session, I asked the secretariat to issue the report of the Presidents of the Conference on Disarmament on the second part of the 2007 session, including its three annexes, as an official document of the Conference. These annexes contained the texts on which the Conference focused its work during the second part of this year's session up to the point where it adjourned for the summer recess. As you will recall, these annexes were as follows: annex I, which is a draft decision by the Conference dated 14 June 2007; annex II (document CD/2007/L.1, dated 23 March 2007); and annex III (document CD/2007/CRP.5, dated 14 June 2007).

I understand that this document is being reproduced at this moment.

Also at that meeting of 28 June, I stated for obvious reasons that CD/2007/L.1 would have to be reissued with the deletion of the words "the second part of" in each paragraph. The new document now carries the number CD/2007/L.1**, since it is referred to in the other two documents, that is, CRP.5 and the draft decision by the Conference. The latter are also being reissued as CD/2007/CRP.5* and CD/2007/CRP.6. Please note that no substantive changes have been made to these documents. Taken together, these documents constitute a realistic basis for a programme of work. The secretariat has distributed a set of these three documents to you in English, and the other language versions are also available in this room. That is what I had to say about the documents for the last part of the Conference session. It must be noted that we have very little time left, and we have to accept the fact that the closer we come to a consensus, the

(The President)

longer and more complex the decision-making process becomes. Not necessarily here in Geneva, but in certain capitals where the decision is taken at a higher level and involves a number of persons, ministries and institutions.

As I have just told you, we must accept this fact and give the necessary time for these decisions to be taken. This situation also means that things must take a lot longer in the capitals concerned than here in Geneva. This does not mean that we are condemned to inactivity in Geneva, but I believe that currently it is first and foremost the steps taken at a high level in capitals which are able to take us forward along the path towards consensus. Let us use the small amount of time remaining to us this year for these steps. As I have already indicated at the beginning, I used the summer recess for consultations with a number of delegations. Those consultations have shown that the positions of delegations for the time being have not changed, or that the delegations are awaiting instructions over the next few days. I am sorry not to be able to tell you more. And I can only repeat that time is pressing.

With our three documents, we have never been so close to a consensus for a long time, and the choice today is no longer between the current L.1 and the amended or improved L.1, but between the current L.1 or nothing at all, nothing at all for a long time.

Each member of the Conference on Disarmament must thus gauge what best serves its security interests, a work programme, even one which it finds imperfect - and every consensus is by definition imperfect - or a Conference which will go back to lethargy and stagnation for many years.

That is what I had to say for this meeting at the start of our last part of the 2007 session, and I would like to ask the delegations whether any of them would like to take the floor.

Nobody wishes to take the floor.

I can announce that the next plenary session of the Conference on Disarmament will take place on Tuesday, 7 August 2007 in this conference room at 10 a.m. The Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, Mr. Pfirter, will join us to make a statement. I would also like to inform you that an exhibition has been set up in front of the Council chamber on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention. I invite each of you to attend the opening of this exhibition on 7 August at 9.30 a.m. by the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament, Mr. Ordzhonikidze, and Mr. Pfirter. One last remark: do not forget the reception organized by the Swiss Government and the Geneva authorities which will take place on Thursday, 9 August at 6.30 p.m. at the Rive-Belle Villa. In fact this will be an event featuring raclette from the Valais. The invitations are to be sent out today.

If no other delegations wish to take the floor, I hereby adjourn this session.

The meeting rose at 10.30 a.m.