

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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ENGLISH

FINAL RECORD OF THE ONE THOUSAND AND NINETY-NINTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 11 March 2008, at 10.20 a.m.

President: Mr. Ahmet ÜZÜMCÜ (Turkey)

The PRESIDENT: I declare open the 1099th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

First of all, I would like to read a message sent to the presidency by the NGO Working Group on Peace of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, who, as in previous years, have attended a seminar to mark International Women's Day. In keeping with a long tradition, the participants in this year's seminar have addressed a message to the Conference on Disarmament.

I will now read that message.

“We, women from many parts of the world, take this opportunity to raise our voices, which are often suppressed or ignored, on disarmament, peace and security. The 2008 International Women's Day Disarmament Seminar highlighted the crises of human security and sustainable development caused by military spending, war and weapon profiteering, and the persistence and ideas and expectations of gender that shape how war, women, and peace are considered.

“This year's seminar, held on 5-6 March 2008, included over 100 participants from non-governmental organizations from more than 40 countries and marked two significant anniversaries. The first is the thirtieth anniversary of the First Special Session on Disarmament of the United Nations General Assembly, possibly the highest point of consensus and vision ever achieved in multilateral disarmament diplomacy, which created the Conference on Disarmament we have today and set out its 10-part agenda.

“Our seminar was directly linked to neglected items on the Decalogue, namely the reduction of military spending, the linkage between disarmament and development, nuclear disarmament, conventional weapons, and disarmament as confidence-building. We struggle to find language to express our dismay, and our anger, at the failure of Governments over the last 11 years to advance these agenda items and their commitments made by consensus 30 years ago.

“A 40-year-old treaty was also discussed, a treaty that has inhibited nuclear proliferation somewhat, but that has not yet delivered on nuclear disarmament. If, indeed, ‘life begins at 40’, then the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) must gain a new lease on life if it is to deliver tangible results at the 2010 Review Conference. The contribution of the CD to the success of this meeting is to start negotiating a verifiable fissile-material treaty. States parties must get serious about compliance with the disarmament obligation and commence negotiation of a nuclear-weapon convention.

“Civil society has documented how small arms and light weapons are killing and wounding hundreds of thousands of people every year and how they threaten sustainable development throughout the world, but still this issue has met with a less than adequate international response. The unexploded remnants of cluster munitions, attractive in size, shape, and colour to children and other unwitting civilians, continue to kill for decades after conflicts are over, as do landmines that lay hidden in the earth. Conflict goods that

(The President)

fuel wars, repression and environmental damage are traded on our markets almost completely unhindered. There are stricter international regulations on the trade of old postage stamps than on conventional armaments. And we are now witnessing another escalation of the nuclear arms race and the potential weaponization of outer space.

“We are women from countries that experience war and peace, from countries that produce weapons and from countries that pay the high economic, social and human price of receiving them. We, as women, unanimously call on governments to abandon narrow concepts of military security and instead focus our human and economic resources on addressing the real daily threats to the security of their citizens, such as poverty, hunger, insecurity, HIV/AIDS, climate change, and environmental degradation.

“Weapons can do nothing to alleviate these security problems. Instead, the acquisition of arms diverts enormous financial, technical and human resources from where they are really needed. This has been true for a long time, but the situation has never been more urgent than it is today. What is preventing progress? Who benefits from business as usual? We reject the idea that the military industry, the weapons trade, brings jobs, prosperity or security. The arms trade has turned people into mercenaries and parts of our planet into cemeteries. The military-industrial-academic complex, that we were warned in 1961 as having the potential for a disastrous rise of misplaced power, has truly achieved its potential when military spending exceeds \$1,204 billion annually in 2006 prices. Reducing military spending is on your agenda. You are mandated to address and curb this disastrous and misplaced political and economic power that military corporations exercise.

“Reversing a real security threat - catastrophic climate change, for example - will require a paradigm shift in resource allocation. We can meet this challenge, but only if we are prepared to face the fact that bombs, guns and landmines will not deter or remove the threat of a tsunami, a hurricane, a flood, a virus, or a water shortage. To do this we have to bring a halt to the organized crime of weapons profiteering and the CD has a role to play. Eight million lives could be saved with an investment of \$57 billion. We could achieve by 2015 the Millennium Development Goals with \$135 million in overseas development assistance. These levels of investment are tiny in comparison with the level of military expenditure.

“Compare military spending with efforts to finance gender equality for half the human population:

- The combined budgets of United Nations bodies working on women’s issues is \$65 million, only 0.005 per cent of world military expenditure
- The World Bank estimates the cost of interventions to promote gender equality under Millennium Development Goal 3 is \$7-13 per capita. The world’s military expenditure in 2006 amounted to \$184 per capita

(The President)

- Of \$20 billion in bilateral aid in 2001-2005, an OECD Development Assistance Committee study reports that only \$5 billion was allocated to projects promoting gender empowerment; the cost of approximately two weeks of the occupation of Iraq

“Article 26 of the Charter of the United Nations emphasizes the need to stop wasting human and economic resources on armaments. It is time for the Security Council to act in compliance with Article 26 by delivering a plan for reducing armaments. If the Security Council had fulfilled this task, the disarmament machinery would not be so overburdened or stuck as it is today.

“Conflict prevention involves confidence- and trust-building, and begins with reducing the role of nuclear and other weapons in security policies. Everything flows from this first step that, when taken, will move security thinking beyond the capacity to destroy to the capacity to share this planet’s finite resources sustainably, to enjoy life with the full spectrum of human rights. Rather than being utopian, these goals are entirely achievable, but trends in military spending must be reversed before they can be realized.

“Participants in the 2008 International Women’s Day Seminar focused on the roles and responsibilities of women, outlined in Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), to participate in conflict prevention, disarmament and all levels of security decision-making. Since the adoption of this resolution these issues have been newly and more deeply understood. Governments and NGOs have undertaken some laudable work to implement it, and we have seen some more highly competent and intelligent women appointed to engage in security and disarmament - of course we would like to see more because as the President of Chile said recently, ‘A woman who enters politics changes; a thousand women who enter politics change politics.’ Without women’s equal participation, sustainable peace, sustainable development and true human security are unattainable. Women must be able to contribute their perspectives, help determine the direction of policy options, and have a greater say over budgetary allocations.

“We need to examine the relationship between masculinity and war as much as the relationship between women and peace. Men and women experience war very differently, from war-making to peacebuilding and everything in between. In any given army, 90 per cent of the soldiers are men while in any given refugee camp, 80 per cent of the adults are women. Gender roles help to explain why this is so - good human qualities like strength and honour get allocated to men and deformed into tools for violence and domination. Good human qualities like tenderness and care get allocated to women and deformed into the badge of submission. Both parts of humanity end up as less than fully human. If we want security for all, we need both women and men, working as equals, to take responsibility for our common security. Wisdom about gender roles will contribute to the peace that can be achieved.

“We women will continue to advocate for the vital changes - in terms of military budgets and doctrines - that must be made to achieve genuine human security. We as citizens hold you responsible, and we recommit to supporting and encouraging the CD in

(The President)

its work, and to educating our constituencies about its vital role. We as women have addressed this body since 1984. We would like to be able to do this ourselves rather than through an intermediary. Indeed, not allowing us to read our own statement undermines the seriousness of the CD in the eyes of people around the world. In this year of the thirtieth anniversary of SSOD-1, is it not time to allow civil-society organizations the chance to address the CD on a regular basis? We understand the danger inherent in armament, and we will continue for another 24 years, and as long as necessary, to advocate for disarmament negotiations in the CD, and for security and disarmament decision-makers to be accountable, transparent and democratic. We value all those of you who are helping in this endeavour and salute your efforts.”

Before giving the floor to today’s speakers, I would like to seize the opportunity, on behalf of the Conference and on my own behalf, to bid farewell to our distinguished colleague, Ambassador Juan Martabit, whose term as representative of Chile in Geneva is about to come to an end.

Since his arrival in Geneva in 2003, Ambassador Martabit has represented his country and upheld its values with dignity and authority. In addition to his many other tasks in Geneva, he has always been actively and insistently involved in the efforts to break the deadlock in this body and resume substantive work, including through the assumption of the task of Friend of the President in 2006 and as coordinator in this year’s session.

On behalf of the Conference and on my own behalf, I should like to convey to our dear friend Ambassador Martabit and his family every wish for success and happiness in the future.

I have the following speakers for today’s plenary meeting. The first speaker will be Chile, then Myanmar, then the floor will be open.

Excellency, you have the floor.

Mr. MARTABIT (Chile) (spoke in Spanish): I thank you for your kind words, and allow me to congratulate you on taking the Chair of the Conference on Disarmament and on the efficient way in which you are conducting our work. I assure you that our country will support your efforts.

Allow me also to welcome the text you have just read out on behalf of an association of women who recently held an important seminar on matters of concern to us. Also, Mr. President, through you I would like to thank the six Presidents of the CD for last year as well as the current Presidents for having maintained the P-6 platform and for the organizational framework of activities which they have offered to us.

My country appreciates the collective efforts made over recent years by the P-6 platform. We believe that this mechanism has managed to develop a spirit of greater cooperation and has achieved continuity, inclusiveness and transparency. This new mechanism, we believe, has generated better understanding between the Presidents throughout the year, as well as between them and the other members of the Conference.

(Mr. Martabit, Chile)

We see this exercise, particularly that relating to the thematic analysis of the content of the agenda, as being designed to establish conditions which will enable us, as soon as possible I hope, to resume the work of this important and irreplaceable negotiating forum. We want to overcome this long impasse as soon as possible and to see the Conference get down to work.

With a view to resuming our work as soon as possible, the Chilean delegation has always shown flexibility. We have given constructive support to various initiatives which have been designed to save this Conference from this lethargy which we believe to be unjustified. Chile among others supported the Amorim proposal; took an active part in the five Ambassadors' proposal; supported the paper presented by the Ambassador of the Netherlands entitled "Food for thought"; and welcomed Presidential decision L.1 submitted in March 2007 and complemented by documents CRP.5 and CRP.6.

In the same spirit I participated as a "Friend of the Presidents", in 2006, and I am now participating as "coordinator" of agenda items 1 and 2, namely, "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament" and "Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters", from the general viewpoint of nuclear disarmament. We were close to reaching the desired consensus which would have allowed us to resume our work. L.1 constituted a delicate compromise, the result of an accumulation of many efforts, and is a new opportunity which frankly we should not miss on this occasion.

The Conference is a body which has contributed significantly to peace and international security, through such important instruments as the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Convention banning chemical weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. It seems to me that we cannot and must not allow ourselves the luxury of discrediting it.

As has happened with many other multilateral bodies, the Conference on Disarmament faces problems of an external and also internal nature. This is how things are - we live in a complex world, with political attitudes and interests that are sometimes difficult to reconcile, of which the heterogeneous membership of the Conference is a good reflection. In many aspects this situation is beyond our control, particularly for small countries, which nevertheless show their constant desire to create and participate in a better world.

Despite what I have said, I think we can and indeed must shoulder our responsibility in respect of the internal problems affecting the Conference. This important forum cannot stand aside from the overall process of renewal which the multilateral system is undergoing, in both its global and its regional aspects. I think it is necessary to prepare the Conference to respond effectively and efficiently to the constant challenges before us, which of course ultimately affect all of us. I feel sincerely that the time has come to give serious consideration to a large range of issues. We cannot continue trying to work in a body which is a relic of the past.

Perhaps, for example, the time has come to think in depth about the composition of the agenda, the way decisions are adopted, the group systems, the informal mechanisms, requests for expansion and appropriate participation by civil society, insofar as this could help us to unblock the situation affecting us.

(Mr. Martabit, Chile)

I have ventured to make these comments on the occasion of the end of my assignment in Geneva, after more than four years in which I certainly wish to thank you for the trust you have placed in me and my country, on many occasions, in efforts to help the Conference recover from the difficult times it is passing through. In particular I would like to thank the Secretary-General of the Conference, Mr. Sergei Ordzhonikidze, the Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Tim Caughley, the secretariat staff, the interpreters and all the colleagues and friends whose constant support throughout all these years have made the work of this Ambassador to this body very pleasurable.

I convey to you all my best wishes for success in the future work of the Conference as well as best wishes in your personal lives.

The PRESIDENT: I thank Ambassador Juan Martabit for his farewell statement and for the kind words he addressed to the Chair and again, we wish you all the best for you, Ambassador, in your future life.

I now give the floor to the representative of Myanmar, Ambassador Wunna Maung Lwin.

Mr. LWIN (Myanmar): Mr. President, since I am taking the floor for the first time at the present session, I would, first of all, like to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the CD. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation for the excellent work that you and the members of the P-6 have done so far. I am sure that your collective leadership will bring tangible results that will bring the CD back on track and enable us to move forward.

My delegation associates itself with the statement on nuclear disarmament delivered by the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Syria on behalf of the G-21 on 26 February 2008.

Nuclear disarmament remains the highest priority on the international agenda of arms control and disarmament. This has also been the consistent policy of our country. Nuclear weapons impinge on the security of all nations. We are of the view that the continued existence of nuclear weapons poses a grave danger to mankind. Therefore, it is our firm belief that the only effective defence against nuclear catastrophe is the total elimination of these weapons.

As Myanmar is fully aware of the priority and importance of nuclear disarmament to the international community, Myanmar has tabled a comprehensive draft resolution on nuclear disarmament at the General Assembly of the United Nations since 1995. Our resolution enjoys the broad support of co-sponsors from NAM countries as well as other countries interested in nuclear disarmament. General Assembly resolution 62/42, entitled "Nuclear disarmament", adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its sixty-second session last year, is comprehensive in scope and includes essential interim steps for reducing the danger of nuclear weapons. In addition, it calls on the Conference on Disarmament to establish an ad hoc committee to negotiate a phased programme of nuclear disarmament.

In this regard, my delegation reiterates its full support to the proposal of the G-21, as contained in documents CD/1570 and CD/1571. We would like to suggest to all the members of the Conference on Disarmament to revisit this proposal.

(Mr. Lwin, Myanmar)

Myanmar consistently attaches paramount importance to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We believe that the two processes of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are substantively interrelated and mutually reinforcing and that these two processes must go hand in hand in a sustainable, balanced, coherent and effective manner. These are global issues affecting all of us, and it is therefore the task of the international community as a whole to face these challenges and find ways and means to overcome them.

As a State party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Myanmar is firmly committed to nuclear disarmament. There is indeed in the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference the “unequivocal undertaking” by the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament. The will to fulfil this “unequivocal undertaking” needs to be demonstrated by the full implementation of the “13 practical steps”. Progressive and systematic steps to dismantle and eliminate nuclear weapons, the irreversibility of nuclear reduction and disarmament measures, further reductions of the operational status of nuclear weapons, diminishing the role of nuclear weapons, accountability and verifiability - all these must be an integral part of such a nuclear disarmament process.

Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, we should aim, inter alia, at pursuing efforts on the following measures. First, the conclusion of a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States. Second, encouragement of nations to accede to the NPT, which is a cornerstone of nuclear non-proliferation and the essential foundation for achieving nuclear disarmament. Third, strict adherence to the provisions of the NPT by States parties to the Treaty. Fourth, establishment and strengthening of nuclear-weapon-free zones. Fifth, recognition and encouragement of unilateral measures taken by nuclear-weapon States for nuclear arms limitation, and urging them to take further steps in this regard. Sixth, de-alerting and deactivating immediately their nuclear weapons and taking other concrete measures to reduce further the operational status of their nuclear-weapon systems. Seventh, diminishing the role of nuclear weapons in strategic doctrines and security policies to minimize the risk that these weapons will ever be used and to facilitate the process of their total elimination.

In our perception, these measures represent some practical and important contributions towards nuclear disarmament.

We take note with regret that the programme of work of the CD could not be agreed upon by the member States. We also regret that the 2007 session of the CD was not able to submit its substantive report to the First Committee. In this regard, we are of the view that the parties concerned will demonstrate their unwavering commitment to the process of disarmament and exercise the firm political will to overcome this deadlock.

However, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Presidents of the CD in 2007 who conducted intense consultations and attempted various initiatives in order to reach a consensus on a programme of work, inter alia through the convening of formal and informal plenary meetings and interactive sessions on issues of the agenda and other issues relevant to the international security climate.

(Mr. Lwin, Myanmar)

It is our sincere hope that with the concerted efforts of the P-6, the Conference will soon commence its substantive work during the 2008 session and that the CD will be able to arrive at a decision to start negotiations at an early date on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified time frame, including a nuclear weapons convention.

In conclusion, despite the impasse in the work of the CD, we must not let our resolve be weakened by the negative trend, but instead must work constructively, with renewed determination and political will, to address the legitimate security concerns of the international community.

The PRESIDENT: I thank Ambassador Lwin of Myanmar for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the Chair.

I now give the floor to the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr. AL NUQARI (Syrian Arab Republic) (spoke in Arabic): We have asked for the floor in order to express our best wishes to His Excellency Ambassador Juan Martabit. We wish him the best for the future, both professionally and personally.

The Ambassador of Chile and his delegation contributed positively to help the Conference to get out of its predicament and to move the work forward. Chile and Ambassador Martabit also contributed positively to the Group of 21. We wish him all the best.

We thank the delegation of the Committee on the Status of Women of the NGO Federation for its statement. Our position is well known. We have long been in favour of giving this NGO an opportunity to deliver its statement directly at the Conference.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the distinguished representative of the Syrian Arab Republic and I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Peru.

Mr. SCHIALER (Peru) (spoke in Spanish): Mr. President, since my delegation is taking the floor for the first time during your term of office, we first wish to congratulate you and to thank you for the efficient and expeditious way you have been conducting the work of this session of the Conference on Disarmament.

My delegation wished to take the floor to bid farewell to the Ambassador of Chile, His Excellency Juan Martabit, as he concludes his assignment in Geneva. Peru would like to thank Ambassador Martabit for the untiring manner in which he personally and his whole delegation have helped us to progress on all the items on the agenda of this distinguished body. Progress which often seemed elusive, seemed to be slipping out of our hands. However, the high degree of commitment, determination, and the acute and exceptional diplomatic qualities of Ambassador Martabit clearly demonstrate the path we need to follow in the Conference on Disarmament to convert this progress, sometimes elusive as I have already said, into tangible reality. It only remains for me to thank Ambassador Martabit once again for his major contribution to the Conference on Disarmament as Permanent Representative of Chile, as a

(Mr. Schialer, Peru)

member of the Group of 21 and as coordinator of informal working groups on various occasions, and to wish him all the best in the new senior responsibilities which I understand he will be undertaking very shortly. We are sure that these too will be outstanding services on behalf of his country, Chile, the region and understanding among nations.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the distinguished representative of Peru for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the Chair. I now give the floor to the Deputy Permanent Representative of Norway.

Ms. SKORPEN (Norway): Mr. President, since this is the first time the Norwegian delegation is taking the floor during your presidency, let me first express our satisfaction with the manner in which you have carried out this task and assure you of this delegation's full support. I also want to join others in wishing Ambassador Martabit the best in his new life.

I am taking the floor as a representative of one of the nations that provided support to the seminar, the 2008 International Women's Day Disarmament Seminar on 5-6 March. We provided support in particular to enable women from developing countries to participate in this seminar, which we consider an important initiative with respect to implementing Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), which outlines, as referred to in the statement, the role and responsibility of women to participate in conflict prevention, disarmament and levels of security decision-making.

Our Foreign Minister underlined the role of civil society during his address to the CD last week, when he emphasized the need to involve all stakeholders. We consider the involvement of civil society vital to moving our security and disarmament agenda forward. Women have played a central part in past efforts, such as the campaign to ban anti-personnel landmines within the area of small arms and light weapons, and now with regard to cluster munitions, and we have also seen their role in the anti-nuclear movements of the past and their effort to put human security at the centre of our efforts.

We would like to see women's NGOs delivering their own statement in the future, although we think you did a good job, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the distinguished representative of Norway for her statement and for the kind words addressed to the Chair. I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Algeria.

Mr. KHELIF (Algeria) (spoke in Arabic): Mr. President, as this is the first time that the Algerian delegation has taken the floor under your presidency, the Algerian delegation would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency and to express our support for you in achieving progress in our work. I join the previous speakers in expressing deep gratitude to the Ambassador of Chile for the efforts that he made as Permanent Representative of his country at our Conference. I also thank his aides for all the efforts that they made at the Conference to achieve further progress.

(Mr. Khelif, Algeria)

We thank him for the valuable ideas that he presented to us in order to create more dynamism at the Conference - a dynamism which necessitates efforts to develop new ideas and ways of working so as to end the deadlock at the Conference. This dynamism also calls for a new vision outside the Conference, in the capitals which provide the necessary political will for progress at the Conference. Without this political will, the Conference will not be able to make any progress.

I also join the previous speakers in expressing some ideas on the participation of civil society in our work. As Ambassador Jazaïry of Algeria said in his statement to the Conference on 7 February, the nuclear threat is a threat to the entire international community. It must therefore be addressed by all components of the international community, including Governments, civil society, etc.

We regret that consensus was reached only on allowing the President to deliver the statement on behalf of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women to mark International Women's Day. We regret that consensus at the Conference was limited to that extent. We hope that in the future that body, which has major contributions to make and good ideas on the subjects of nuclear disarmament and enhancing international peace and security, at least will be allowed to address us directly, as a first step, pending agreement by the States parties to give further opportunities for participation by civil society in the work of the Conference.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the distinguished representative of Algeria for his statement and for the kind words he addressed to the Chair. I now give the floor to the Deputy Permanent Representative of Australia.

Mr. MACLACHLAN (Australia): First, if I might, I would like to bid farewell to His Excellency Juan Martabit and to thank him and his delegation for all the cooperation my delegation has enjoyed over the past few years.

I would also like to join Norway in thanking you, Mr. President, for the fine job you did in reading out the women's statement. However, like Norway, we too would have wished it were the case that the NGO's representatives themselves could have read out this statement.

Australia, like Norway, was one of the supporters of the seminar held last week. We were pleased in particular to fund delegations or representatives that had come from some distance from Geneva - in fact, from Australia's region - and we see this very much as further evidence of the commitment of the new Australian Government to multilateral arms control and disarmament, and in particular the role of civil society in those processes.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the distinguished representative of Australia for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the Chair.

I have no more speakers on my list. Does any delegation wish to take the floor at this stage? I give the floor to the distinguished representative of China.

Mr. LI (China) (spoke in Chinese): The Chinese delegation would like to join other speakers in thanking the distinguished Ambassador of Chile for his contribution to the work of the Conference. We would also like to take this opportunity to convey to him our best wishes.

The Chinese delegation has a procedural matter that it would like to raise at this juncture, regarding the reports to be submitted by the coordinators. We all know that the consolidated report on seven items will be distributed to delegations today by the coordinator. Like other delegations the Chinese delegation will carefully study these reports, and we will reserve the right to make further comments on them at future meetings.

Another procedural matter that we would like to raise is that, as we understand it, when we discuss the reports of the coordinators at future meetings, those meetings should be informal in nature.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the distinguished representative of China for his statement and in fact, on the question of reports by the coordinators, this will be taken up during the informal meeting that will follow this plenary.

I have again no more speakers. Does any delegation wish to take the floor? That does not seem to be the case.

This concludes our business for today. This formal plenary meeting will be followed in a few minutes by an informal meeting, which will be open only to members and observer States of the Conference.

The next formal plenary meeting of the Conference will be held on Thursday, 13 March, at 10 a.m. in this chamber.

This meeting stands adjourned.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.