

# CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/PV.1120  
27 January 2009

ENGLISH

---

## FINAL RECORD OF THE ONE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTIETH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Tuesday, 27 January 2009, at 10.15 a.m.

President:                      Mr. Le Hoai TRUNG                      (Viet Nam)

The PRESIDENT: I declare open the 1120th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament. First of all, I would like to take the opportunity to extend a warm welcome to Ms. Theresa Hitchens, who has assumed her duties as Director of UNIDIR and who, I am sure, will make a great contribution to the disarmament community in Geneva.

I would like to advise delegations that we have had further consultations on the informal thematic debate mechanism, and I would like to report that things have gone well, and we have been preparing the organizational framework that contains information about our future meetings. We will share the information with the Regional Coordinators and will try to provide the organizational framework to you as soon as possible.

I have the following speakers for today's plenary meeting: Nepal and the Republic of Korea. I now give the floor to the distinguished Ambassador of Nepal, Ambassador Dinesh Bhattarai.

Mr. PAUDYAL (Nepal): Mr. President, I am making this statement on behalf of my Ambassador, who happens to be out of town on some urgent business.

My delegation extends warm congratulations to you on your assumption of the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament and pledges its full support for the success of this Conference. Nepal attaches great importance to the work of the Conference on Disarmament. We want this global negotiating forum to be effective in order to overcome the long-standing deadlock on disarmament and non-proliferation.

Nepal stands for the general and complete disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction, including biological, chemical, nuclear and radiological weapons. We firmly believe that arms are no solution to any problem. We are for the peaceful settlement of differences and disputes. At a time when we are confronted with a series of crises, including the financial crisis, we find a compelling and urgent need for the disarmament and non-proliferation agenda to move ahead in an expeditious manner. We are concerned that the issue of disarmament remains on the sidelines of the main agenda in the work of international organizations. The cost of the stalemate in the process of disarmament is visibly high. It has not only escalated rivalry in armaments, increased insecurity, and held up resources, but has also denied development to billions of people around the world.

We welcome the agenda adopted for the 2009 session. We hope that it will revitalize multilateral disarmament efforts, gather momentum, and lead to the release of human and economic resources for development purposes, help move towards the achievement of the MDGs, and create a sustainable foundation of peace, security, progress and prosperity for all countries.

As the host country for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament for Asia and the Pacific, we are working with 43 member States of the region in carrying out disarmament-related promotional activities from Kathmandu, fostering a climate of cooperation for peace and development in the region. The areas of the Centre's activities include global disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, enhancing regional dialogue on disarmament, outreach

(Mr. Paudyal, Nepal)

and advocacy activities. Nepal remains committed to work with member States to advance the cause of disarmament through the regional process leading to universal disarmament measures, honouring international commitments under related treaties and agreements and create a conducive environment for complete disarmament.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the distinguished representative of Nepal, who has spoken on behalf of Ambassador Dinesh Bhattacharai. I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of the Republic of Korea, Ambassador Im Han-taek.

Mr. IM (Republic of Korea): Mr. President, first of all, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the first presidency of the 2009 Conference on Disarmament. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation for your tireless efforts to conduct intersessional consultations with all member States as we seek to find common ground with a view to yielding substantive work in the CD. Thanks to your hard efforts, this year's work has got off to a good start with a smooth adoption of the agenda for 2009, and I assure you of my delegation's full support in your dedicated endeavour.

The stalemate in the CD over the last decade coincides with the lack of progress in the field of multilateral disarmament in general. Some may say that this has been wasted time, but we believe that it has yielded progress in some ways. Indeed, we have deepened our understanding of one another's national positions and concerns through constructive discussions held on the basis of the P6 mechanism and through the appointment of Coordinators for seven agenda items. The 2007 L.1 proposal and CD/1840 of 2008 are among the valuable outcomes. Despite the obstacles faced, the CD has managed to keep the momentum alive.

Paradoxical as it may sound, the long-standing deadlock in the CD has raised awareness in the international community with respect to the urgent need to tackle disarmament issues. In this regard, we welcome recent disarmament initiatives, including the "five-point proposal" suggested by United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon and the EU proposals on nuclear disarmament. These initiatives all serve to underline the need to breathe fresh life into the multilateral disarmament machine.

It is promising that, with changes in leadership in major countries, prospects for international discussions on disarmament are appearing on the horizon. The expectations, as well as the pressure, put on the CD by the international community are higher than ever, particularly with critical disarmament conferences, such as the 2010 NPT Review Conference and the 2011 BWC Review Conference approaching. Against this backdrop, it is vital that the CD does not miss the opportunity to play its unique role. Indeed, not rising to this opportunity would represent a betrayal of the international community and a disaster for the CD itself. We would therefore urge all member States to muster political will and display the maximum flexibility possible.

The starting point for the CD is to produce a consensus on the programme of work, which will enable it to embark on substantive negotiations. My delegation has repeatedly expressed its support for CD/1840, which we believe represents a realistic and balanced approach. We recognize that the time is ripe for the launch of negotiations in the CD on a fissile

(Mr. Im, Republic of Korea)

material cut-off treaty. We also support the idea of focused thematic debates on the four core issues that would not deprive any member State of the right to raise any issues when necessary.

The Republic of Korea has always been among the advocates of international efforts for multilateral disarmament and has contributed fully to common efforts. Most notable is the resolution on “Preventing and combating illicit brokering activities”, which we submitted together with Australia at the last United Nations General Assembly and which was adopted by consensus. I take this opportunity to convey my heartfelt gratitude to the member States of the CD for their valuable support. The Republic of Korea remains committed to the cause of multilateral disarmament. The CD serves a central role as the principal negotiating forum for arms control and disarmament. My delegation looks forward to playing its due part in the process of breathing new life into this body in the months and years ahead. We are indeed deeply committed to this end.

The PRESIDENT: I thank Ambassador Im Han-taek for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the Chair.

I have no more speakers on the list. Does anyone wish to take the floor at this moment? That does not seem to be the case. So I should like to invite you to proceed to the almost final item on our agenda today.

I would now like to invite the Conference to concede an additional request received from a State not a member of the Conference to participate in our work as an observer during this session. The request is contained in CD/WP.551/Add.2 and was received from Georgia. We have considered the request without reverting to an informal setting, as we did with a number of cases before.

May I take it that the Conference grants the request for admission?

It is so decided.

I recognize the distinguished Ambassador of the Russian Federation, who would like to take the floor.

Mr. LOSHCHININ (Russian Federation) (spoke in Russian): Mr. President, I would like to ask you to clarify whether the plenary meeting will continue after our informal consideration of the issue to which you referred.

The PRESIDENT: Ambassador, we are still in a formal meeting, as with some previous cases. You have the floor again, Sir.

Mr. LOSHCHININ (Russian Federation) (spoke in Russian): Mr. President, concerning the issue to which you just referred, I would like to say the following. The Russian delegation has consistently advocated the broadening of the membership of the Conference and the participation in its work of all States that strictly observe their international commitments and work towards strengthening international security in the interests of disarmament.

(Mr. Loshchinin, Russian Federation)

At the same time, it should be clear to all that Georgia does not currently meet such criteria. I also wish to recall that, while Georgia participated in the Conference in past years as an observer, it made no contribution whatever to the discussion of the issues on the agenda except perhaps its attempts to use the Conference to make false accusations and divest itself of responsibility for its military aggression against South Ossetia.

Moreover, we have stated on numerous occasions and would like to stress once again that Georgia has received and continues to receive large quantities of weapons significantly in excess of its defence and national security needs. There is a whole litany of accusations against Georgia concerning international obligations in the field of disarmament that it has taken upon itself but fails to implement.

Here, I would like to be frank: Georgia's request for observer status at the Conference on Disarmament is surprising to say the least. I will not go into detail about the events of August 2008, when the Saakashvili regime unleashed its aggression against South Ossetia. I will simply remind you that, over the past few years, Tbilisi has increased its military budget thirtyfold, which cannot in any way be reconciled with participation in the work of the Conference. The name of our forum is the Conference on Disarmament and not on armaments.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I thank the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation, Ambassador Valery Loshchinin, for his statement.

So the list of speakers is exhausted, and before adjourning I would like to inform you that the secretariat wishes to invite those States that have not done so to submit the list of members of their delegations, preferably by the end of this week.

The next plenary meeting of the Conference will be held on 3 February at 10 a.m. in this chamber. At that time, the distinguished Foreign Minister of Bangladesh will address the Conference.

The meeting rose at 10.35 a.m.