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# Conference on Disarmament

11 June 2009

English

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## Final record of the one thousand one hundred and forty-first plenary meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Thursday, 11 June 2009, at 10.25 a.m.

*President:* Mr. Roberto García Moritán ..... (Argentina)

**The President** (*spoke in Spanish*): Distinguished colleagues, Mr. Secretary-General, I call to order the 1141st plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

Let me begin by extending a warm welcome to a new colleague who is joining us. I am referring to His Excellency Ambassador Scuda, who has assumed the post of Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament. Ambassador Scuda, on behalf of the Conference on Disarmament and on my own behalf, I should like to assure you that you may count on our full support and cooperation in your new undertaking.

Distinguished colleagues, on today's list of speakers we have the Islamic Republic of Iran, Colombia and Malaysia. I therefore have great pleasure in giving the floor to the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

**Mr. Moaiyeri** (Islamic Republic of Iran): Mr. President, I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your assumption of the post of President of the Conference on Disarmament. I assure you of the full cooperation of my delegation. I would also like to commend the excellent performance of your predecessor, Ambassador Jazaïry of Algeria, during his presidency of the Conference.

On 29 May the Conference on Disarmament adopted document CD/1863 to establish a programme of work for the 2009 session. In doing so, the Conference ended its long-standing deadlock. At the same time, expectations arose that the Conference would play its role in realizing the objectives and priorities of members, which are known as the four core issues, in an equal manner. I have pointed out earlier that in our view the Conference on Disarmament, as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, should perform its responsibilities in a manner that meets the security concerns of all States.

The position of the Islamic Republic of Iran towards the work of the Conference on Disarmament is clear and well known to the members of this body. We are of the firm conviction that the existence of nuclear weapons is the greatest threat to the security of all nations. Therefore, nuclear disarmament remains the highest priority of my delegation in the work of this Conference. We are not alone in taking such a position. A large number of members of the international community, particularly the members of the Non-Aligned Movement, have repeatedly called the attention of the international community to the threat posed by nuclear weapons to international peace and security, as well as the security of every individual State. Therefore, they have requested immediate action by the international community to eliminate that threat. Today the international community is more than ever concerned by the continued existence of thousands of nuclear warheads in the stockpiles of the nuclear-weapon States. We continue to believe in the need for negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified time limit, including a nuclear-weapon convention. Such negotiations must lead to the legal prohibition, once and for all, of the possession, development, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons by any country and must provide for the destruction of such inhuman weapons.

In the same spirit, I once again reemphasize that a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT), which would ban fissile material for nuclear weapon purposes, should not be turned into an instrument in the area of the non-proliferation. We will never accept such an approach. An FMCT should be a clear and meaningful step towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects. It should be a comprehensive, non-discriminatory, internationally and effectively verifiable treaty. Past production and existing stocks, as well as the future production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, must be covered under the scope of the treaty. We will vigorously pursue our position in this regard during any negotiation on an FMCT in the Conference on Disarmament.

We would also like to see progress on the other two issues, namely negative security assurances and the prevention of an arms race in outer space. These are also important

issues to be dealt with seriously in the substantive work of the Conference. Today the risk of an arms race in outer space is ever-increasing. At the same time, some nuclear-weapon States still pursue a strategy involving the use of nuclear weapons, particularly against non-nuclear-weapon States.

The Conference should vigorously pursue its deliberations with a view to starting negotiations on legally-binding instruments on the four core issues. In our understanding, the substantive work of the Conference on all four core issues will be measured by real progress and not merely by focusing on some issues and manifestations of a talk show on the others.

We are at a crucial stage in the work of the Conference. We have to build upon our achievements. We believe that the Conference should move smoothly and safely. In implementing the programme of work, balance and equilibrium should be observed. The rules of procedures of the Conference should be fully respected. The planning for implementation of the programme of work should carefully consider a balanced allotment of time for the working groups and special coordinators. We have to avoid parallel meetings in our planning. The principle of equitable geographical distribution and rotation should be observed in appointing the chairs and special coordinators. I hope within such parameters we will be able to establish a sound basis for our future activities.

**The President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran for his statement and for his kind words addressed to the Chair. I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Colombia.

**Mr. Camacho** (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): Thank you, Mr. President. As this is the first time that the delegation of Colombia has taken the floor under your presidency, allow me to express our full support for the work that you are undertaking at a crucial stage of the Conference on Disarmament. Every time a country from our region leads a disarmament and security process or forum, we see reflected the principles that characterize our region, a pioneer region in peace-related efforts, and we are convinced, Sir, that your extensive diplomatic experience and your knowledge will contribute to the smooth work of the Conference in the coming days. You may count on our full support.

I should just like to touch briefly on a few subjects to which you referred earlier. The delegation of Colombia believes that the criterion of maintaining a geographical balance when appointing the chairs of the working groups and the special coordinators is an important one, and we look forward to your proposals in this respect with interest. In this connection, we believe that we should adhere to a formula similar to the one used in earlier years in the work and deliberations of this forum.

We also feel that we should strive to achieve a balance in the allocation of time, at least with regard to the four main topics, on the understanding that we should be flexible later on, bearing in mind that the dynamics of our meetings, the progress made or the difficulties encountered, will ultimately determine how time is allocated.

Furthermore, Colombia has reiterated that, at least initially, we must avoid holding simultaneous meetings of the working groups and the special coordinators so that delegations can attend most of them. We are aware that as we proceed it will become difficult to programme meetings, given the many commitments that we have in other forums in Geneva and other parts of the world.

It is important to think through this carefully, and it is likewise important that the necessary consultations and discussions be held so that we can move forward in this important phase. However, Colombia also considers it essential that we move forward with pragmatism and efficiency so that we can progress in our effort to save the Conference on Disarmament.

Lastly, we think we need to give due consideration, bearing in mind our urgent needs and our priorities, to other subjects such as the participation of civil society, a question that my delegation and another delegation have raised in this forum.

**The President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the distinguished representative of Colombia for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the Chair. I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Malaysia.

**Mr. Azril** (Malaysia): Mr. President, allow me first to congratulate you on assuming the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. You are no stranger to this chamber. Your work, expertise and contributions in past years have been instrumental in further shaping and strengthening the work of the Conference. Please be assured of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

Through you, we would like to commend the work of your predecessors, in particular, Ambassador Jazaïry of Algeria, for continuing the momentum set by this year's P6. His unique experience, instinctive and effective professional quality, and uncanny ability to connect with delegations has facilitated and enabled the Conference to move forward with the successful adoption of CD/1863, which my delegation fully endorses. We commend him and his delegation for their efforts.

While the Conference on Disarmament was somewhat in a stalemate for over 11 years, existing and newly-emerging threats continued to proliferate outside these walls, threatening international peace and security. CD/1863 is indeed a delicate balance, an artful piece of work that has successfully combined the work of many years in a comprehensive manner when the Conference was in a deadlock. It is the much needed impetus to face the growing challenges of the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the insecurities that exist surrounding nuclear weapons.

We welcome the mandate on all the four core issues outlined in CD/1863. The call to start negotiations on a verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other explosive devices, as expressed in CD/1863, is timely and constitutes one of the key steps towards nuclear disarmament. Such a treaty is essential in preventing the proliferation, both vertical and horizontal, of nuclear weapons.

We underline that the other core issues, namely, nuclear disarmament, negative security assurances and the prevention of an arms race in outer space, are of equal importance, and we look forward to the substantive discussions that will take place under the respective working groups, without precluding the possibility of future negotiations on these issues.

In implementing the programme of work as outlined in CD/1863, I wish to put on record the following position of my delegation. We underscore the importance of the principles of equitable geographic representation and rotation. With regard to these principles, my delegation is of the view that they could be applied in tandem and with care to the distribution of work among different groups in the appointment of chairs and special coordinators. Given the limited amount of time in this year's calendar of work, it is important that these principles are implemented in a practical manner, for purposes of continuity in the work of the Conference. We hope that the Conference will be able to appoint the chairs of the working groups and special coordinators within the cycle.

With respect to the balanced allocation of time, we are committed to a balanced schedule that would ensure that the working groups on all four core issues will be dealt with in a fair manner, as well as the work of the special coordinators on other specific issues. At the same time, consideration must be given to the possibility of the participation of experts from capitals. Again, practicality and flexibility will be needed, given the time constraints that we face this year.

My delegation at this time will refrain from making any specific proposals on the time frame or on how the allocations should be structured, as we are confident in the wisdom of the presidency and your fellow P6 colleagues. In this regard, we look forward to receiving your proposed working schedule.

We strongly recommend that continued efforts be made to allow the Conference on Disarmament to start its substantive work as soon as possible. We underscore that the decisions undertaken on the above issues should also be based on the rules of procedure. We wish to register our appreciation for the transparent manner in which you have conducted your work.

In concluding, let me assure you of my delegation's readiness to work with you and other members of the Conference in the hope that we will soon be able to embark on implementing the agreed programme of work.

**The President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the distinguished representative of Malaysia for his statement and for his kind words addressed to the Chair. Would any other delegation like to take the floor? I call on the distinguished representative of Mexico.

**Ms. Garcia Guiza** (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): Thank you, Mr. President. My delegation is particularly pleased to see Argentina serving as President of the Conference on Disarmament at a historic moment when after 12 years we have adopted the long-awaited programme of work that will enable us to begin our substantive work.

Allow me, Sir, to commend you for the positive spirit in which you have led this forum and to remind you that you can rely on the full support of the delegation of Mexico in carrying out your difficult task.

We are at a decisive moment in the Conference on Disarmament, given that we must take the first steps towards realizing the programme of work contained in document CD/1863, which we adopted on 29 May 2009.

One of the first of these steps is the appointment of delegations to chair the four working groups and the three special coordinators of the agenda items. We agree with your proposed approach that decisions in this regard should reflect a geographical balance so that all regions are adequately represented.

Accordingly, we consider that your proposal that four posts should go to the G-21, two to the Group of Western European and other States and one to the group of Eastern European States (the 4-2-1 proposal) is a viable one, considering that such a distribution proved useful last year.

Secondly, we have to come up with a timetable for our work. In this connection, my delegation would prefer an allocation of time that would make it possible to take up all agenda items with the requisite flexibility. On this point, my delegation will wait for you to put forward your proposal in the next few days so that it can make more specific comments.

Mexico is confident that with the positive atmosphere prevailing in the Conference and the flexibility of Conference members, we will soon be able to resolve these important procedural matters and get down to substantive work soon.

With regard to the use to be made of plenary meetings, a matter that you raised at the last meeting, my delegation believes that once the working groups and the special coordinators begin their work, plenary meetings can be used to allow those groups to report on progress they have made and for delegations to make statements on the items, on the understanding that substantive questions be resolved as they come up.

Lastly Sir, allow me to say that while it is clear to us that the programme of work we adopted is for the current session, we would like to stress how important it is that any

substantive work we might begin this year be continued in 2010 so that we do not find ourselves at the beginning of the next session paralysed because we do not have a programme of work, a situation which, unfortunately, would delay even further the achievement of our common objective, which is a nuclear-weapon-free world.

**The President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the distinguished representative of Mexico for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the Chair. I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Pakistan.

**Mr. Khokher** (Pakistan): Mr. President, at the outset, we would like to express our appreciation for your efforts with regard to reaching a consensus on the implementation of the programme of work of the 2009 session. We believe that the Conference should now focus on the issues which would facilitate the early resumption of substantive work on the four core issues as well as on the other three agenda items. In this regard, we would like to make the following points.

*On the application of the rule of consensus*: all decisions are to be taken on the basis of the rule of consensus, as laid down in the rules of procedure of the Conference. Accordingly, the appointment of Chairs of the working groups and special coordinators, the allocation of time and the preparation and adoption of the report of the working groups will be finalized on the basis of consensus.

*Selection of four chairs and three special coordinators*: the selection should be based on the principle of equitable geographical distribution. We welcome your proposal in this regard. We, in the G21, are in the process of consultations on this issue.

*Selection of chairs*: neutrality is the key factor in reaching a consensus on the nomination of chairs and special coordinators. Therefore, we believe that the chairs preferably should not be from the P5 [P6?], States that are not parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) or countries in a military alliance or countries enjoying nuclear protection.

*Terms of reference*: the programme of work of the Conference is a package with the clear objective of working on four core issues with a view to negotiating legally-binding instruments. The Conference cannot afford to have mere discussions without any outcome. With this clarity on the objective, it is important to chart a road map for work in the 2009 session. This will be useful for making an assessment at the end of the session to determine the programme of work for the next year. Therefore, we suggest discussions on the terms of reference for the working groups.

*Allocation of time*: all working groups on the four core issues should have a balanced allocation of time. We also need to allocate sufficient time for the three special coordinators to explore the way forward through consultations.

*Rotation of chairs*: rotation of the chairs is also important. The term of the chairs should be in accordance with the rules of procedure. One option is to synchronize the term of the chairs with the term of the presidency of the Conference. We are ready to look at other ideas as well.

*Establishment of subgroups*: the working groups, once established, should have debates and exchanges of ideas in order to determine the number of subgroups needed for each working group.

*Substitution of chairs*: we need to have a clear understanding of whether the chair is person-specific or country-specific.

*Level of chairs*: we request that the members discuss the appropriate level for the chairs of the working groups and special coordinators. In our view, these should be at the ambassadorial level. We look forward to hearing the views of Conference members.

**The President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the distinguished representative of Pakistan for his statement and give the floor to the distinguished representative of Indonesia.

**Mr. Puja** (Indonesia): Mr. President, allow me first to begin by congratulating you on assuming the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. Your role and diplomatic skills are critically important in pursuing further progress in our work. I would also like to pay tribute to your predecessors, in particular the Ambassador of Algeria, for their untiring efforts and their commitment to bringing the Conference back on track.

The adoption of the programme work, CD/1863, two weeks ago was the result of hard work, good faith and the common objective of moving the Conference on Disarmament forward. Thanks to the favourable atmosphere, the adoption has also to some extent avoided the sinking of the Conference into irrelevance. It is therefore all the more vital that we should keep making the most of the momentum and continue to move forward in the pursuit of our objectives, based on document CD/1863. We need to make sure that those mandates are fully implemented.

The immediate procedural matters also need to be resolved before we embark on substantive work. We see the need to maintain our spirit of cooperation and flexibility in order to achieve progress. Therefore, my delegation considers it important to ensure openness and transparency in the whole process, to keep all members of the Conference on board. We should avoid any process that might prejudge our future work. Let the inclusive work and discussion commence and see how it moves forward. I call on all of us to keep strengthening the process and the trust built up so far. Besides, progress lies in the strength of dialogue and can best be achieved by taking into consideration the concerns of all.

We should also effectively address how we can smoothly continue our work for the next session, since we have not much time left in the current session.

We look forward to receiving the proposed working schedule that you are going to present. My delegation believes it is important to avoid parallel or conflicting meetings and to provide adequate time for consultations and coordination in order to allow us to be better prepared.

The schedule should also reflect a balanced focus on all core issues. Document CD/1863 provides different mandates for different working groups, but also states that each working group and the special coordinators should "take into consideration all relevant views and proposals, past and future". Therefore, negotiations in one working group should not prevent other working groups from pursuing their work. Indonesia, for its part, will contribute to the discussions on all agenda items, including security assurances against nuclear weapons.

We have just adopted the programme of work after a 12-year delay. This long impasse has provided some lessons that we can learn. Therefore, we need to be thoughtful in making our way forward so as to ensure broad support as we move along.

**The President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the distinguished representative of Indonesia for his statement and for his kind words addressed to the Chair. I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of China.

**Mr. Wang Qun** (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): Mr. President, at the outset I should like to take this opportunity to welcome your assumption of the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. We are convinced that your rich diplomatic experience and wisdom will continue to guide the Conference as it moves steadily forward. China appreciates the untiring efforts that you and the other Presidents have made to help the Conference reach agreement on specific working arrangements.

These specific working arrangements for the Conference on Disarmament in the next phase are a top priority for us. China is in the process of identifying the positions of all parties with a view to formulating its own position. On the whole, we believe that, as many colleagues have just noted, the rules of procedure of the Conference and principles such as the principle of balance are important; these are extremely important rules and principles. In our view, these rules and principles should be reflected in the specific programme of work for the next phase. These issues merit further thorough exploration in the Conference so that on this basis we may reach early agreement on the programme of work. The main reason that China is still studying the positions of the various parties while developing its own position is that some of the issues are not very clear, and we need to seek instructions from Beijing. For example, we believe that the chairmen or coordinators for the different working groups should be appointed as soon as possible, which means that agreement should be reached on some kind of subsidiary working mechanism. The working mechanism has already been specifically set out in document CD/1864, but how should the subsidiary bodies be dealt with? And how is the question of the chairmen or the coordinators of these subsidiary bodies to be dealt with? China is looking at the positions of all parties on all these issues and hopes to put forward its own views as soon as possible.

In short, China hopes that all members will work to preserve the hard-won momentum and favourable atmosphere in the Conference, continuing to engage in wide-ranging and transparent consultations with a view to reaching early agreement on a generally balanced programme of work and resuming substantive work. China will, as always, play a constructive role in this process.

**The President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the distinguished representative of China for his statement and for his kind words, and I give the floor to the distinguished representative of the United Kingdom.

**Mr. Duncan** (United Kingdom): Mr. President, since this is the first time I have taken the floor under your presidency, let me congratulate you on your appointment and assure you of the support of the United Kingdom delegation in your endeavours. I would also like to again pay tribute to your predecessor and his success in bringing us to this new era. I would also like to welcome new colleagues, such as our colleague from Japan.

We have listened very carefully to the interesting discussion today, but as dialogue is not about talking at each other, I will make a few unprepared remarks on some of the things that we have heard today.

Some delegations have raised issues regarding the principles that we should be looking at if we are to achieve success. Amongst these, we would choose perhaps three as being particularly important. Firstly, trust, as you yourself, Mr. President, have mentioned. We certainly welcome the very measured statements that we have heard today, and we are encouraged by what we have heard in the margins. Secondly, good faith. It is not helpful if nations now try to start setting new conditions. The rules and procedures of this organization are what they are, and they are well known. A collective endeavour requires give-and-take by all, so let us avoid the trap of identifying new obstacles. Rather, we should look for new solutions. Thirdly, balance. And here I think it is worth stressing that from the United Kingdom's perspective, this is a very important issue. The subjects raised in CD/1863 — now, I believe, CD/1864 — deserve very serious attention. The position of the United Kingdom on a number of these issues is well known, but that does not mean that we are not prepared to engage. Indeed, we consider that this is absolutely crucial to making progress.

If we are to move forward in a determined and measured way, as our Indonesian colleague mentioned only a few minutes ago, the key factor, to my mind, is to harness the talent in this room. We have, across the regional groups, experienced colleagues who have



earned the respect of the Conference in their previous tasks as chairs, coordinators and presidents over the past three years. We would urge them to step forward soon to free the Conference from its previous obsession with procedural detail and allow us to live up to the outside world's expectation, to focus on the substance in a balanced manner and to implement the decision we took two weeks ago.

**The President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the distinguished representative of the United Kingdom for his statement and also for his kind words, and I give the floor to the distinguished representative of the Philippines.

**Mr. Domingo** (Philippines): Mr. President, as this is the first time my delegation has taken the floor under your presidency, we would like to join our other colleagues in expressing our joy at seeing you at the helm of the Conference on Disarmament, and we pledge also our full support. We would also like to thank your predecessor, Ambassador Jazaïry, for his successful steering of this body to the adoption of CD/1863. The Philippines, as you know, is the incoming President of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, so this understandably makes our lives a lot easier and will facilitate our work.

Another principle that my delegation would like to see taken into consideration is that of inclusivity. I would like to confirm my delegation's understanding that observers to the Conference on Disarmament will also, ipso facto, be given the same rights and privileges as members in the working groups and the groups of the special coordinators. We feel that, as the distinguished Ambassador of the United Kingdom has mentioned, there is definitely a need to harness the talent we have here, including among our fellow backbenchers in the roster of observers. So again, we should like to confirm our understanding that observer States, by virtue of having been accepted as observers at the regular sessions of the Conference, will also, ipso facto, be allowed to participate in the work of the working groups and of the special coordinators.

**The President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the distinguished representative of the Philippines for his statement and for his kind words. Does any other delegation wish to take the floor? This does not appear to be the case. Consequently, if you agree, we should adjourn this plenary meeting. As I see no objection, it is so decided.

*The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.*