

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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ENGLISH

FINAL RECORD OF THE ONE THOUSAND AND FORTY-SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Monday, 22 January 2007, at 10.10 a.m.

President: Ms. Glaudine MTSHALI (South Africa)

The PRESIDENT: I declare open the 1047th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament and the first part of its 2007 session.

As we begin this session of the Conference on Disarmament, I would like to bid a belated farewell to our two colleagues who have left the Conference since we adjourned in September 2006, namely, Ambassador Yoshiki Mine of Japan and Ambassador Türkekul Kurttekin of Turkey. On behalf of the Conference on Disarmament, I would like to request the respective delegations to convey to them our deep appreciation for their many valuable contributions to the work of the Conference during their tenure, as well as our sincere wishes for their success and satisfaction in their new assignments.

Allow me also to extend a cordial welcome to new colleagues who have assumed their responsibilities as representatives of their Governments to the Conference, namely, Ambassador Jean-François Dobelle of France, Ambassador Sumio Tarui of Japan, Ambassador Maria Nzomo of Kenya, Ambassador Moussa Bocar Ly of Senegal and Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü of Turkey. I would like to take this opportunity to assure them of our full cooperation and support in their new assignments.

At the outset, please allow me to place on record that South Africa is extremely honoured to assume the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament for the very first time since becoming a member of the CD in 1996. I wish to ensure you that on my part I will spare no effort to try and awaken the Conference from its slumber and the extended hibernation that it has been experiencing during the last couple of years.

As you are no doubt aware, all the CD Presidents for 2007 have agreed to join South Africa in a united effort throughout this year to guide the work of the Conference. In this regard, I wish to place on record my appreciation for the willingness expressed by the representatives of Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland and Syria to embark on this venture with me.

I would also like to express my thanks to my immediate predecessor, Ambassador Anton Pinter of Slovakia, and indeed to all the other 2006 Presidents, namely the representatives of Poland, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation and Senegal, for their hard work and dedication that led to the establishment of what has commonly become known as the “P-6” platform. I can assure them that I and the other five Presidents for 2007 have every intention of building on the foundation that they have laid.

This 2007 session of the Conference on Disarmament takes place against the backdrop of a number of challenges - some might even say failures - that have affected international disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control efforts during the last two years. Without dwelling on the past, it would appear to be fair to say that the very inability of this Conference to deliver on its status as the “single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum” of the international community ranks very high amongst these challenges.

(The President)

Being a pragmatic optimist, I have sought to approach South Africa's presidency of the Conference as an opportunity to seek out areas of agreement and possible compromise - rather than disagreement - among members. Since I first started conducting informal consultations with delegations in New York on the margins of the First Committee meeting during October 2006, I have tried to establish what would be possible, practical and feasible for the Conference this year. As you know, your many invaluable contributions and ideas have enabled the 2007 Presidents to come up with an initiative that we believe will provide impetus to the CD to actively and collectively engage on the many important issues that the Conference deals with.

Apart from the bilateral consultations with all members of the Conference, I have also sought to engage members at our informal meeting last week on 15 January and again within the context of the regional groups on 17 January. I wish to thank each and every delegation which have expressed not only their support to me as the current President but also rendered advice and demonstrated flexibility and a constructive spirit during the interactions with them over the past few months.

I can honestly say that I have tried my best to consult with all delegations and to keep everybody informed of the intentions of the 2007 Presidents. Those of you who have been in this position before will appreciate the complexity, intensity - and sometimes even frustration - of this task. It will most definitely have been worth all these efforts if it helps to move the work of the Conference forward. I will continue to seek your support for the initiative of the 2007 CD Presidents. My "P-6" colleagues and I have undertaken to operate in as transparent a manner as possible to facilitate the work of the Conference. In this regard, we look forward to working together with all delegations to achieve as much as we possibly can during 2007.

To the extent that I have tried - and will continue to try - to energize the work of the Conference on Disarmament this year, the President nevertheless remains an instrument of the Conference and its member States. As such, I am very much like a mirror that reflects back at you. If the Conference wishes to achieve progress, I will be only too happy to join you in reflecting that. However, if the Conference elects to continue maintaining the current stalemate and impasse, that, too, will unfortunately be reflected.

As I have stated in a different context recently regarding the disarmament machinery, we, as members of the Conference on Disarmament, frequently refer to the "lack of political will" as the main reason for the stalemate we have experienced over the past 10 years. However, it will behove us to recognize that we who are based in Geneva contribute significantly to the advice that influences the decisions taken by our capitals in this regard. Therefore, "political will" is what we make of it.

The way I see it, we can do one of two things. We can be suspicious of any new initiatives and seek to question them by reverting to procedural arguments relating to form, rather than substance. Or we can seek to set aside our differences and make positive contributions for the benefit of the entire Conference and all of its members.

(The President)

At this early stage, however, we need to fully appreciate that we cannot move forward with anything until such time that we have reached agreement on the Conference's agenda for 2007. As you may be aware, I intend to convene an informal plenary after this meeting to consider the draft agenda. I therefore once again appeal to all delegations to demonstrate a constructive spirit and the required flexibility that will allow us to adopt an agenda for 2007 at the earliest possible moment.

I would now like to invite the Secretary-General of the Conference, Mr. Sergei Ordzhonikidze, to deliver a message addressed to the Conference by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon. Mr. Secretary-General, you have the floor.

Mr. ORDZHONIKIDZE (Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations): I would like to deliver the message that the Secretary-General asked me to deliver at the opening of the Conference on Disarmament.

"I send my greetings to all members of the Conference on Disarmament as it opens its 2007 session. I express my sincere hope that this year's meeting will make significant progress on the disarmament agenda.

"Since taking office as Secretary-General, I have staked out as one of my priorities the mission to invigorate disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. As I stressed to members of the Security Council earlier this month, and I now emphasize to you, the United Nations can and must be fully engaged in this work. I intend to ensure that the Organization is up to the task.

"Equally, I look to the Conference on Disarmament - the world's single negotiating forum for multilateral disarmament - to rise to the challenge. This Conference possesses both the breadth of expertise and the depth of knowledge to address disarmament concerns. During this year's session, I hope you will also demonstrate the political resolve necessary to take difficult measures. Our aim should be twofold: we must prevent any expansion of nuclear arsenals, and we must accelerate the reduction of existing weapons stockpiles.

"All countries should move towards halting production of fissile material for weapons. In this context, agreement on a treaty on fissile materials for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices would be a prerequisite for sustainable nuclear disarmament.

"Maintaining the moratorium on nuclear tests is equally important, and should be in effect at least till the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty enters into full force. Let me use this occasion to urge all States that have not yet done so to sign or ratify this Treaty.

(Mr. Ordzhonikidze, Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations)

“The prevention of an arms race in space continues to present an urgent challenge, as such a race would seriously affect the preservation of outer space for peaceful purposes. I am also conscious of the importance attached within your membership to stronger “negative security assurances” from nuclear-weapons States. Such strengthened commitments can help reassure non-nuclear-weapons States, and significantly advance the cause of non-proliferation and disarmament.

“I look to the Conference on Disarmament to lead progress on all these fronts. I need hardly remind you that the stakes are high. World military spending has now risen to over 1.2 trillion dollars. This incredible sum represents 2.5 per cent of global GDP. Even if one per cent of it were redirected towards development, the world would be much closer to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

“The challenges ahead are significant. Yet we find ourselves at a promising juncture in the disarmament debate. Both the Third Review Conference of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, and the Sixth Review Conference of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, have recently concluded with significant gains. Their outcomes have, I believe, improved the climate for progress on multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation diplomacy. The Conference on Disarmament must now seize this moment.

“It is in this spirit that I wish you a most productive session, and look forward to the outcome of your deliberations.”

Thank you very much. That was the message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The PRESIDENT: I thank Mr. Ordzhonikidze for delivering the message from Mr. Ban Ki-moon. I would ask Mr. Ordzhonikidze to convey to the Secretary-General of the United Nations our appreciation for his personal support of the Conference and for the importance he attaches to our work.

I have the following speakers for today’s plenary meeting: Poland, followed by Slovakia, then the United States of America and the Netherlands.

I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Poland, Ambassador Rapacki.

Mr. RAPACKI (Poland): Madam President, allow me to express my wholehearted congratulations on assuming the first presidency of the Conference on Disarmament in the year 2007. I am fully confident that with your wisdom, experience and determination, we will accomplish our mission of advancing the work in the CD. Equally, I am convinced that the synergy already gained by the close cooperation of all the CD Presidents in 2007 continues to produce tangible results and visible benefits.

(Mr. Rapacki, Poland)

Let me also assure you of Poland's full support for your efforts to steer us towards the best possible solutions which would contribute to overcoming the obstacles preventing us from launching negotiations and causing the deadlock that has now plagued the CD for almost a decade.

Poland has always been dedicated to the cause of international peace and security, including multilateral endeavours in the field of global disarmament. This strategic course inclines naturally our special efforts undertaken with a view to sustaining and further strengthening the role of the Conference on Disarmament as a vital instrument in the international security machinery. We persist in these efforts and continue our active participation in elaborating new concepts and ideas that will ensure the Conference's role as the single negotiating forum in the field of disarmament, despite the difficulties it has recently been experiencing. Our priorities and expectations with regard to the Conference on Disarmament remain unchanged, and there is no need to repeat them time and again.

Madam President, let me also take this opportunity to commend you as well as all this year's Presidents for the enormous efforts they have undertaken with the purpose of ensuring progress within the CD. You have been given the important task of heading our work at the start of the 2007 first session of the CD. Having played the same role last year, I am aware how much time, effort, patience and comprehension it takes to listen, understand, work through and elaborate ideas that would meet everyone's expectations and ensure further progress. The initiatives presented by you and this year's other Presidents reflect your strong determination and commitment to achieving this goal. Having conducted numerous meetings and consultations with groups and delegations, you have managed to generate a good climate in the CD, and thus contributed to rebuilding and strengthening mutual trust and confidence, without which success is impossible. It was truly a difficult challenge, and my delegation would like to thank you and commend you for all your efforts in achieving this goal.

When I spoke to this august body last year, I was full of optimism that with the support offered by all delegations, the attempts undertaken by last year's CD Presidents would bear tangible fruit. I was also aware that the desire of last year's Presidents to overcome the long-time impasse in the CD required thinking out of the box about the problems experienced by the CD. With great satisfaction I have learnt that the proposals introduced in 2006 have been thoroughly reconsidered, re-examined and further developed by the platform of this year's Presidents. In this context I welcome and support the new concepts encompassed in the organizational framework assuming more refined, more focused and more in-depth discussions on the substantive issues. I believe that, in the present circumstances, this is the best possible solution on how to move the CD in the direction of relaunching the negotiation process on matters most vital to international peace and security. I commend you, Madam Ambassador, as well as all the 2007 CD Presidents, for this important achievement. I hope that all the CD members will show their flexibility and readiness to support the P-6 in their endeavours.

At this stage of the proceedings, the prompt adoption of the agenda of our work seems to be the most important task with which we are being challenged. Without the agenda we will not be able to carry out our work and enter the stage of constructive thematic discussions. I trust that - as in the case of the last year - flexibility and determination to conduct substantive work

(Mr. Rapacki, Poland)

within the CD will prevail. I hope that the CD succeeds in smoothly adopting the agenda, which would allow for discussions oriented towards all security concerns related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. Endless discussions on the question of the agenda is the worst possible scenario one can imagine. We should rather concentrate our energy and efforts on substantive work. The organizational framework presented by this year's Presidents, as well as the concept of coordinators assigned for each agenda item, offer a unique opportunity to carry out constructive work in the CD. Thus I appeal to all CD members to act in a spirit of flexibility and show the necessary political will that will save the reputation of this body. A setback with respect to the agenda may be very costly.

A moment ago we heard a very encouraging address from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon. Allow me to recall the words of the former United Nations Secretary-General, expressed last year. As he reiterated, for the first time in a decade, we were working to an agreed schedule, with the result that there would be structured debates on key issues. I am fully confident that this year we can do even better than that, proving our determination and strong commitment to reasserting the role of the CD. By a common effort, clear vision of what we desire to achieve and fresh ideas in work, we are approaching our goal. Let us not lose this momentum.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Poland for his statement and the kind words addressed to the Chair. I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Slovakia, Ambassador Pinter.

Mr. PINTER (Slovakia): Madam President, let me begin by congratulating you on assuming the post of the President of the Conference on Disarmament and assuring you of the support and cooperation of my delegation during your presidency. I as well express my gratitude for your tireless efforts during the bilateral consultations conducted with all the member States of the Conference, which have brought about very innovative and promising ideas that have a good chance to become a follow-up to last year's activities aimed at bringing the CD back to negotiations.

Slovakia shares the view of those delegations that see the membership of their country in the CD as membership in a conference that is engaged in real business and thus negotiates important global disarmament and security norms. Therefore, we hope that the words of encouragement, support and understanding which you have often listened to these last days will be translated into a constructive approach by each and every delegation aimed at overcoming the long period of an absence of negotiations. I draw the parallel between words and deeds quite intentionally, since we still remember the similar positive atmosphere and readiness to contribute to the successful outcome of the last session which ended up, as we all know, with a result short of the expectations of the vast majority of member States.

Therefore, I wish that you, Madam President, all your successors and indeed the whole membership of CD - that we all - would jointly not only sustain this optimism but translate it into concrete productive action. Another lesson learned with regard to last year is that we should have a forward-looking approach in relation to the deals and bargains agreed at the beginning and during 2007 so that at the end of this year's session we have no doubts which facts should be

(Mr. Pinter, Slovakia)

reflected in the CD annual report and in what manner. Therefore, it is important that we try to achieve a common understanding and interpretation of all elements of the arrangements and agreements that apply during the whole year and do not question them at later stages.

This approach also stems from the prerequisite that the agenda of the CD is inclusive enough to cover all security questions that member States may have. In this respect, we join those voices that strongly discourage any attempts to change the agenda agreed last year. This approach, which should be the main focus of the CD, will save us from bogging down into unproductive debates.

The issue of FMCT ranks among the core issues of the CD, and as such it has a special position within the agenda, as was outlined in the schedule of the CD's activities in 2006. Based on these aspects, and having in mind the two concrete proposals on FMCT submitted in May 2006, we consider appropriate that this year the CD upgrades the level of its engagement on this issue.

Let me conclude by expressing my hope that last year's momentum gathered in the Conference and the atmosphere of growing confidence will be developed into a new era of CD productivity. It is our genuine hope that 2007 will bring, owing to the engagement of the S-6 formation, a real breakthrough, enabling the Conference to embark on the track of performing its long overdue negotiations.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Slovakia for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the Chair. I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of the United States of America, Ambassador Christina Rocca.

Ms. ROCCA (United States of America): Madam President, first, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the first presidency of the CD in this new session, and I would like to join others in expressing my delegation's appreciation for the thorough preparations you have made to facilitate the CD's work this year.

As you have said, the first order of business for this body is to adopt an agenda. The United States believes that the agenda contained in CD/1764 has served us well and continues to meet the needs of this body. Its scope is broad enough to accommodate deliberations on any issue of global security that the membership deems appropriate, and the United States is therefore prepared to join consensus in adopting the same agenda for 2007.

We also would like to thank you and your P-6 colleagues for the proposed schedule of activities. The United States concern has been to maintain the momentum acquired last year and move forward rather than repeat the process. We believe this plan offers member States a chance "to abandon the all-consuming linkages that have dominated [our] approach in recent years and get down to substantive work", to quote the former United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, when he addressed the CD last June. We have listened carefully to your presentations, and believe that with this effort to craft an organizational plan that is intensive, yet flexible, you may have found a way to break the deadlock that has stymied action in this body

(Ms. Rocca, United States)

for over a decade. The United States is cautiously optimistic that 2007 will be the year during which the CD abandons that failed package approach and focuses its efforts on the issue that commands consensus in this body. In that regard, we are eager to join others in commencing work negotiating a legally binding ban on the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other explosive devices. The United States believes that concluding an FMCT is a desirable and achievable goal for the CD, which is why we tabled a draft text of such a treaty in this body last year, and we urge others to use this as a basis for finally beginning substantive work toward a goal we all share.

There is a bit of American folk wisdom that applies to our situation in the CD: "If you keep doing what have always done, you will keep getting the results you have always gotten". I do not believe many of our governments are willing to continue getting the results they have been getting from the CD. Mine certainly is not. Just as we in the CD will collectively undertake periodic evaluations during 2007, many of our respective governments will be evaluating their investment in the CD based on the results we produce. Let us work together to prove to our respective governments that the CD remains a viable venue for discussing the most important international security issues of the day.

In conclusion, let me assure you of my delegation's commitment to support you as you guide the CD over the coming four weeks, and of our readiness to participate in debates on all issues of relevance to the CD's agenda.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the United States of America for her statements and for the kind words addressed to the Chair. I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of the Netherlands, Ambassador Johannes Landman.

Mr. LANDMAN (Netherlands): Madam President, further to the EU statement that you will be hearing on Wednesday and to which the Netherlands of course fully subscribes, I would like to add the following.

The Netherlands is very pleased that you have chosen to work as a team together with the other five incoming Presidents in preparing the sessions of the CD during this year, building on the laudable precedents and important innovations of last year. For the CD to be effective, a maximum of cooperation between Presidents has been shown to be crucial. Moreover, the proposed organizational framework, with its vertical delineation of all items of the agenda through the appointment of seven Coordinators, is bound to help the CD to make better use of time and resources. I am fully aware of the difficulties you had to face in preparing this outcome. My full-hearted congratulations.

The newly gained momentum should not be lost. For a decade now, delegations have emphasized, to no avail, the important role the CD is supposed to play in assuring international security and peace. And this role is becoming more urgently required. Nuclear and ballistic proliferation by State actors is a growing menace, and the risk that non-State actors will acquire WMD is increasing with time. Not only for the CD time is running out.

(Mr. Landman, Netherlands)

What we need is confidence-building, flexibility and creativity, and you and your five colleagues have already shown a lot of it, Madam. The CD could learn from the BTWC Review Conference at the end of last year, in which all these elements were united. Indeed, the BTWC Review Conference was an important event which showed that, in the field of disarmament, multilateral diplomacy still works. The ability of States parties to agree on a substantive outcome sends a strong signal to the CD and the whole non-proliferation machinery. The CD needs a similar realistic approach to international security.

As I have emphasized several times, we are ready to engage in discussions with an open mind and with respect for the positions of other members of the CD. Negotiations should start without preconditions, and on the understanding that nothing is precluded from the negotiations. Fixed linkages are unhelpful, just as insistence on no linkages at all is not helpful either. The Netherlands has never disguised that it is ready to start negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear devices, while being flexible on the further make-up of the programme of work. I hope that other members of this body are or will soon be able to express similar readiness and flexibility to start negotiations.

It is the general understanding that the agenda of the CD, which has been already ours for so many years, is all-inclusive. So any subjects relevant to the work of the CD may be raised at any plenary meeting. Last year, the CD's agenda was adopted within one day. This time, I trust, the agenda will be adopted at least as smoothly as last year.

Madam President, you seem to have created a mechanism: working as a team of six Presidents reinforced with the seven Coordinators you designated, so as to allow the CD to get off to a flying start. Getting the CD back to work is a team effort indeed! We must commit ourselves, all of us, individually and as a group - here in this Council chamber - to do everything we can do to break the stalemate within the CD. You have the Netherlands' full support.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the Netherlands for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the Chair. I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation, Ambassador Valery Loshchinin.

Mr. LOSHCHININ (Russian Federation) (translated from Russian): Madam President, we are most pleased to see that it is you who are leading the Conference during its initial stages, and we are convinced that your term in the Chair will be successful and that you personally will meet with success. You can count on the unswerving support and cooperation of the Russian delegation.

As the first President of the Conference's 2007 session, you have the difficult task of preparing the basic blueprint for our session and its practical organization. We welcome the decision of all six Presidents of the Conference for this year to coordinate their efforts throughout the session, devoting them to the common goal of launching substantive activities in our forum. The proposals that you have drafted, which were discussed during consultations before the opening of the Conference, are important, constructive and most promising in our view.

(Mr. Loshchinin, Russian Federation)

As a first step we need to adopt the agenda. Russia is in favour of immediately adopting it without change. The existing agenda includes issues that are of continued relevance to international security. Developments in the world arena have just convinced us of this fact once again. Moreover, as has been shown by the success of the Conference's work in 2006, the existing agenda is sufficiently flexible to allow discussions on practically any disarmament issues which are of concern to States. In addition, we reserve the right to correct the agenda as the Conference proceeds if the participating States wish and agree to do so.

Our main common aim is to achieve consensus on the work programme and to relaunch the efforts of the Conference on Disarmament towards its direct purpose. We must place disarmament issues back on the global agenda as soon as possible. We believe that we must do everything possible to accomplish this task and refrain from steps which would stand in the way. This is the approach which will guide the Russian delegation.

Madam President, we wish you and your colleagues in the group of six Presidents of the Conference, as well as all members of the Conference and our Conference as a whole, every success.

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

This concludes the list of speakers for today. Does any delegation wish to take the floor at this stage? That does not seem to be the case.

I now intend to suspend the plenary meeting and to invite the Conference to consider, in an informal meeting, which will follow immediately, the draft agenda for the 2007 session, as contained in document CD/WP.545, as well as the requests received from States not members of the Conference to participate in our work during this session, as contained in document CD/WP.544. Thereafter, we shall resume the plenary meeting in order to formalize the agreements which we made at the informal plenary.

I would like to remind you that the informal meeting is open to the member States of the Conference only.

The plenary meeting is suspended for five minutes. After five minutes we will resume.

The meeting was suspended at 10.40 a.m. and resumed at 11.50 a.m.

The PRESIDENT: This plenary meeting is resumed.

At the informal plenary meeting that we have just concluded we have held an exchange of views on the agenda of the Conference for the 2007 session. We will continue this discussion at the informal plenary meeting of the Conference which will be held on Wednesday, 24 January 2007, immediately after the 1048th plenary meeting. Until then I will also continue my consultations with the delegations concerned and I will keep the Conference informed on their progress.

(The President)

I would now like to invite the Conference to take a decision on the requests for participation in our work from States not members of the Conference. These requests are contained in document CD/WP.544 and were received from the following States: Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Holy See, Kuwait, Latvia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritius, Moldova, Nepal, Oman, Portugal, Qatar, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, Sudan and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. As indicated during the informal plenary, the secretariat will follow up on the question regarding the names of the representatives of this specific category of States.

May I take it that the Conference decides to invite these States to participate in our work in accordance with its rules of procedure?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: This concludes our business for today. Does any other delegation wish to take the floor at this stage? That does not seem to be the case.

Before adjourning the meeting, I would like to invite the members of the Conference to inscribe their names on the list of speakers for the forthcoming meetings.

This concludes our business for today. The next plenary meeting of the Conference will be held on Wednesday, 24 January 2007, at 10 a.m.

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.