

# CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/PV.1100  
13 March 2008

ENGLISH

---

## FINAL RECORD OF THE ONE THOUSAND ONE HUNDREDTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Thursday, 13 March 2008

President: Mr. Ahmet ÜZÜMCÜ (Turkey)

The PRESIDENT: I declare open the 1100th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

I have no speakers on the list for today's plenary meeting. Is there any representative who would like to have the floor?

The distinguished Ambassador of India has the floor.

Mr. RAO (India): Mr. President, let me begin by conveying to you how pleased we are to see you conducting our proceedings with great diplomatic tact and skill, and we would like to pledge our fullest support in carrying forward the work of this Conference.

We have requested the floor to convey our appreciation for the update based on the informal discussions conducted as part of the organizational framework. We would also like to convey our appreciation to the seven coordinators for having taken on the onerous responsibility of conducting informal discussions under the relevant agenda items.

We note that the reports of the coordinators were prepared under their own responsibility and not as a result of the formal discussions process in the CD. The reports contain only their personal summary and assessments. We, therefore, cannot expect them to be accurate reflections of the concerns of all delegations, given the limitations of the process itself. India reserves its position with regard to the substantive aspects covered by the reports of the coordinators and we feel that these cannot be cited as a precedent or as a reflection of substantive positions of delegations during the formal negotiations in the Conference on the relevant agenda items. The issue of revalidating discussions has to be understood given these limitations.

Without prejudice to our national position on future negotiations, let me reiterate once again the commitment of our delegation to contribute to all efforts for the commencement of substantive work by reaching consensus on a programme of work that takes into account the interests of all stakeholders and for the CD undertaking its substantive work in accordance with the rules of procedure.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the distinguished Permanent Representative of India for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the Chair.

As to the coordinators, your understanding is correct. Reports prepared by coordinators are not official documents and are presented to the Presidents on the personal responsibility of themselves.

I now give the floor to the distinguished Permanent Representative of China.

Mr. WANG (China) (spoke in Chinese): I would just like to ask a question about the procedure. I wonder, Mr. President, if you could tell us what is on our agenda for today?

The PRESIDENT: After we finish the plenary session, I shall present an evaluation of the presidencies of the 2008 session in the informal format of the plenary. Before that, I am going to make some concluding remarks, as it is the last day of the presidency of Turkey.

I give the floor to China.

Mr. WANG (China) (spoke in Chinese): I thank you again, Mr. President, for letting us know about the agenda for today. More specifically, the Chinese delegation would like to have a clearer understanding of the issues that we are going to discuss at the formal meeting and those that we will be taking up in the informal meeting. Of course we understand that you will be making a concluding statement at the end of your tenure as President and that that will be the last item.

The PRESIDENT: I shall make my concluding remarks at the formal plenary session. Then I will switch to the informal to present our evaluation and to present a document also. Otherwise, there are no specific issues in the formal plenary part of this morning's session, but the floor is open for statements by member States.

Do you want to have the floor China?

Mr. WANG (China) (spoke in Chinese): Mr. President, just now, at our informal meeting, you said that you were going to distribute a document. I wonder if you could tell us what document this is going to be, and what its title is? Could you tell us something about it?

The PRESIDENT: We have distributed -

Mr. WANG (China): Sorry, sorry. With your permission I think I need especially to ensure that you know that remarks are made. Sorry to speak English. I am not clear. I hope that I could be clearer, especially in the light of what you referred to as a document that you are to present. I should be grateful if you could shed more light in procedural terms on what document you are going to present us.

The PRESIDENT: This is a draft decision to be presented by the Presidents of the 2008 session for the consideration of the Conference on Disarmament.

Does any other representative want to take the floor at this stage? Then I will proceed with the remarks of the President.

Let me express our pleasure and the honour that we have felt presiding over this august body for four weeks. The Conference on Disarmament has a leading role in addressing the security challenges confronting our nations, and we feel privileged to have chaired plenary meetings where important declarations have been made. As stated by the Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister a week ago, we live in a world where security has become indivisible.

(The President)

I want to express my gratitude to my predecessor, Mr. Labidi of Tunisia, who held extensive consultations with each of you, and my best wishes to the next President, Ambassador Yevhen Bersheda of Ukraine. I would also like to thank my fellow P-6 colleagues. My delegation has been engaged with them in fruitful cooperation, and we look forward to pursuing our joint efforts for the rest of the session.

My sincere thanks go to the Secretary-General of the Conference, Mr. Sergei Ordzhonikidze, his deputy, Mr. Tim Caughley, all the members of his staff for their kind assistance in organizing and carrying out the work of the Conference, and also the interpreters for their hard work. I thank all delegations to the Conference on Disarmament for their contributions and for their active cooperation with the presidency. Through their respective permanent representatives, let me also express my gratitude to all countries who have sent dignitaries to this august body during the Turkish presidency.

The CD is the single multilateral disarmament negotiating body which brings us together, and the contributions of each member are equally important. I am confident that it will remain so.

I have a final announcement. The secretariat will now circulate document CD/WP.549/Add.1 on the organizational framework for the coming weeks. It includes the schedule of meetings to be held under the Ukrainian and United Kingdom presidencies.

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

The next formal plenary meeting of the Conference will be held under the presidency of Ukraine on Tuesday, 18 March, at 10 a.m. in this chamber.

Yes, China please.

Mr. WANG (China) (spoke in Chinese): Mr. President, on the understanding that we are still in our formal meeting, allow me first, before we proceed to our informal meetings, to thank you for the outstanding contribution that you have made to the work of the Conference on Disarmament during your tenure of the presidency. Your rich experience, your professional expertise and your patience have all left a deep impression on us. Speaking at least for myself, I believe that I should take these qualities of yours as a model for me to emulate. These qualities are also very important for the continued progress of the Conference. For that reason, I would like once again to thank you, Mr. President.

Second, in the introduction that you have just provided of the agenda for the plenary and the agenda for the informal, you mentioned that you were intending to present a paper at the next meeting. In view of this, the Chinese delegation would like to make a very brief statement about the document which you are preparing to present. First, the Chinese delegation has always taken a constructive approach to the work of the Conference, and this constructive attitude remains

(Mr. Wang, China)

unchanged. Second, as you know, this is the first time that I have taken part in a meeting of the Conference on Disarmament. In other words, I am still a novice in the Conference's work and I have much to learn.

(spoke in English)

For clarity, I will speak English.

I think I have a layman's question for you in conjunction with the document you envisaged presenting shortly entitled "Draft decision by the Presidents of the 2008 session of the Conference on Disarmament", and that is: how do you look at and interpret rule 18 of the rules of procedure? I am not focusing on the latter part of that, that is, consensus, a principle I am not talking about. In fact, my question is: how do you see the decision of the Conference vis-à-vis the role of the "Conference"? So for me, this is a layman's question. Hopefully, I could be benefitting from your expertise and your experience, so that I could handle my work here in my present capacity in a more professional manner.

By the way, I am not saying that this is a question that has to be answered today, but nevertheless, informally or formally, in bilateral contacts, I do hope that I could benefit from your experience as well as the experience of other Ambassadors and delegation members.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the distinguished Permanent Representative of China for his statement and for the kind words he addressed to the Chair. We take note of this question, and we shall reply in due course. We shall try to enlighten the Chinese Mission and others.

If I may proceed, I see no other requests for the floor, and I adjourn the formal plenary session of today.

The meeting rose at 10.30 a.m.