
Conference on Disarmament

4 June 2009

English

Final record of the one thousand one hundred and fortieth plenary meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Thursday, 4 June 2009, at 10.10 a.m.

President: Mr. Roberto García Moritán (Argentina)

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I call to order the 1140th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

At the start of Argentina's term in the Chair for this 2009 session, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our guest this morning, Ms. Rose Gottemoeller, Acting Assistant Secretary in the Department of State of the United States of America. Her presence today in this Council chamber and in our Conference is clear testimony of the importance that her country attaches to the work of the Conference.

I would now like to invite Ms. Gottemoeller to address our Conference.

Ms. Goettemoeller (United States of America): Mr. President, I am pleased to be here today as the Conference on Disarmament resumes its mandate and its historic role in the multilateral negotiation of global non-proliferation and disarmament treaties. Your decision last week to begin negotiations on a verifiable fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT), as well as to conduct substantive discussions on other core issues, reflects growing recognition of the value of non-proliferation and disarmament agreements to international peace and security. It also demonstrates the importance of all delegations realistically appraising the present situation and showing the necessary flexibility to allow the Conference to move forward. I would like to express special appreciation and thanks to Ambassador Jazairy of Algeria for his enormous contribution to this result.

This past Friday, President Obama recognized the importance of the decision that this body made to end its decade-long impasse and adopt a programme of work. If I may quote him:

“There is no greater security challenge in the world today than turning the tide on nuclear proliferation, and pursuing the goal of a nuclear-free world. I welcome today's important agreement at the Conference on Disarmament to begin negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty, which will end production of fissile materials for use in atomic bombs. As I announced in Prague, a verified cut-off treaty is an essential element of my vision for a world free of nuclear weapons. The treaty will help to cap nuclear arsenals, strengthen the consensus underlying the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and deny terrorists access to nuclear materials. Today's decision ends more than a decade of inactivity in the Conference on Disarmament and signals a commitment to work together on this fundamental global challenge. It is good to see the Conference at work again. I am committed to consult and cooperate with the governments represented at the Conference on Disarmament to complete this treaty as soon as possible.”

President Obama is looking forward. And as important and groundbreaking as adopting the programme of work was, the Conference has now before it much hard work to do. It is our collective expectation that it will begin to deliberate seriously as it organizes itself for negotiations on an FMCT, and for substantive discussions on the other issues of its agenda. We have every confidence that the same collective presidency that led the Conference to consensus on the programme of work can and will lead us just as effectively in the coming months.

There should be no misapprehensions or illusions on the difficulty of our tasks. The United States for its part is committed to doing its part. Until the FMCT is completed, I ask delegations to ensure that the Conference not return to deadlock, to pledge themselves to passing at the beginning of each year a programme of work authorizing the resumption of focused negotiations on an FMCT and discussion of related disarmament issues. Each January, we will look for the Conference to agree on its programme of work as quickly and easily as it has adopted its annual agenda.

A month ago, many of us here today were in New York for the meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The positive spirit there has, I believe, carried over to Geneva and infuses our commitment to address disarmament, starting with a fissile material cut-off treaty. This treaty has been on the international agenda for most of the nuclear age. It is time that we stopped talking about having an FMCT, and got to work to complete it. If we succeed on an FMCT, we will have taken a necessary, though admittedly not sufficient, step towards nuclear disarmament. It must be complemented by deeper respect for non-proliferation rules, consequences for those who violate those rules, improved verification of compliance, and further progress on arms control.

Together with an FMCT, the United States will also seek to bring into force the last accomplishment of this forum, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, by pursuing ratification by the United States.

The United States and the Russian Federation have begun negotiating a new agreement to replace the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), which expires just five months from now. As President Obama said in Prague in April: “We will seek a new agreement by the end of the year that is legally binding and sufficiently bold This will set the stage for further cuts, and we will seek to include all nuclear-weapon States in this endeavour.” President Obama and Russian President Medvedev have instructed that the new agreement achieve reductions lower than those in existing arms control agreements, and that the new agreement should include effective verification measures drawn from our experience in implementing START. We have been here in Geneva for the past three days with the United States delegation, engaged in productive talks with our Russian counterparts, working towards a START follow-on agreement. Our Presidents have directed that we report by July on our progress in working out a new agreement.

Next year, many of us here today will meet again in New York to review implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). That event will be an opportunity to restore international confidence in the Treaty and recommend ways in which it can be improved in all of its aspects: disarmament, non-proliferation, and peaceful nuclear uses. For the Conference on Disarmament, the programme of work sets out its tasks, prominently the negotiation of a verifiable FMCT. But the NPT Review Conference is not the finish line. For the United States, the finish line is the vision conveyed by President Obama — and which is at the core of the disarmament tasks assigned to this Conference — the peace and security of a world free of nuclear weapons. That will not come as soon as we might like, but last week’s adoption of a programme of work for the Conference is a major step on the road to our common destination, and I am confident that it will be followed by many more.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank Ms. Gottemoeller for her statement and hope that she will have a good trip back to Washington. If you will allow me, we would suspend the meeting for a few moments so that I can escort our distinguished colleague out of the room. So we are suspending the meeting for a few brief minutes.

The meeting was suspended at 10.20 a.m. and resumed at 10.25 a.m.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): We will now resume our work for this morning.

On taking the Chair of the Conference on Disarmament, I can hear still echoing in this Council chamber the optimistic applause that rang out at our meeting when we adopted our programme of work. I have witnessed other special moments in the Conference when the feeling of euphoria was based on the final outcome of substantive negotiations. I remember, for example, the first time I entered this chamber, at the moment when the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was being adopted. I felt that emotion again while I was President of the Conference on Disarmament in 1993, when we adopted

the Convention on Chemical Weapons. A few years later, I experienced the same feeling once again when we negotiated the CTBT. I see the meeting of 29 May as the moment when the Conference decided to save the sole multilateral forum on disarmament from irrelevance and agreed to look boldly into the future with different eyes and with a responsible attitude. As I was writing these words the other day, it was strange and at the same time encouraging that after 11 years, the text of the speech was no longer about regrets and disappointment but rather about the need to focus attention on negotiations and make up for lost time.

The adoption of the programme of work has been possible thanks to a certain change in the international environment which is reflected in recent positive statements on nuclear disarmament made by some leaders of the nuclear-weapon countries. But it was also possible because of 11 years of a painful learning process. Some have said, and many of us have experienced at first hand, that in life we learn certain lessons and succeed in increasing our resolve thanks to major tragedies. To have spent 11 years without being able to agree on a programme of work has without a doubt been a great tragedy for multilateralism. Nevertheless, it has shown us that lack of progress in disarmament negotiations exacerbates the deterioration in international security and constitutes a zero-sum game. We have also learned that there are issues that should not go unaddressed in the Conference on Disarmament and that, when responses cannot be provided within these walls, then inevitably there will be voices that seek to go outside; we should therefore consider who would benefit from such a situation. These lessons show that the Conference on Disarmament should have the ability to keep abreast of political developments through concrete decisions, and not lag behind, as if hidden, ignoring reality. Nonetheless, it would appear that this spring, Geneva has resolved to give the world what it had sought for so long. We have just heard the representative of the United States speak about the bilateral process with Russia. Some important steps are certainly being taken along those lines.

I would not like to end my comments on the meaning of the adoption of the programme of work without reiterating my sincere appreciation to Ambassador Jazairy for his efforts to restore this forum's *raison d'être*. I would also like to thank all member States for their flexibility in making this possible. Thus we have managed to take a first step towards what the United Nations Secretary-General so rightly called a new fresh multilateral approach, in which, according to the Secretary-General, cooperation replaces confrontation and creativity replaces stalemate.

The decision we adopted on 29 May is like a key; it is a key which opens the door to the future. We are aware that it represents the articulation of a delicate balance of elements that offers a practical response taking into account the different national interests involved. We note too, that this is not enough. Hence the need to continue focusing our efforts on certain additional decisions which will confer on the decision of 29 May the ability to become a reality and allow substantive and concrete work to begin as soon as possible. Only then will we be able to say that the key has performed the task of opening the door of the Conference on Disarmament to the future.

I believe that at the same time we are going to have to make a major effort to adapt, as we find ourselves with a Conference on Disarmament that needs to be strengthened after 11 years of inaction in the field of substantive negotiations. To that end it will be necessary for all of us to contribute to recreating this spirit and giving the Conference a new vitality. We must do so promptly and with determination.

Allow me to conclude by pointing out that the strengthening of trust among all members of our Conference continues to be a fundamental factor which must be developed and stimulated. Last Friday, we took a great step forward. Now we must take others. We are confident that we will be able to rely on support from all, honouring the reason for which we are gathered here in this Council chamber. We have only to look around us and

observe the paintings of José María Sert that adorn the walls of the Conference on Disarmament, and let us keep in mind that his motto is “solidarity among peoples” and that they reflect the various phases of mankind’s struggle for a better world.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to take advantage of the fact that I am sitting here in order to address you. On the list of speakers for this morning I have the distinguished delegation of Ecuador. I give the floor to Ambassador Montalvo.

Mr. Montalvo (*spoke in Spanish*): The delegation of Ecuador also welcomes this opportunity to address this important forum at this decisive moment of such a special occasion, and in so doing, allow me to express my pleasure at seeing you, Ambassador García Moritán, presiding over the work of this Conference at a time when a decision has been made to take up the challenge of genuine work in the Conference on Disarmament. I assure you of the full support of my delegation, and, as you are well aware, this is not the only forum or the first time I have personally been working under your leadership.

I also wish above all to place on record my sincere appreciation and pay tribute to the excellent work accomplished by Ambassador Idriss Jazairy of Algeria, who through his actions, his talent and the invaluable cooperation of his colleagues from the P6 platform, in particular in Ecuador’s case, the Ambassador of Australia, with whom we held consultations on the most recent occasion – cooperation that has made it possible to give original and renewed impetus to this Conference. Similarly, I would like to extend these words of appreciation to the representatives of Viet Nam and Zimbabwe, who embarked on a decisive and fundamental process of consultations that made it possible to adopt the programme of work during this session, thus helping to trace the path on which we now find ourselves today.

From the outset, Ecuador has supported the various proposals put forward to break the deadlock in the work of the Conference on Disarmament. We have been continuously guided by an unchanging intention to help to secure the adoption of a programme of work that would act as a tool to make it possible for the Conference to fully discharge its role as the sole global multilateral disarmament negotiating forum.

My country’s participation has been constructive and flexible throughout. We have acknowledged the major efforts behind each initiative and in this way we have opted to keep an open mind which will make it possible to draw this forum out of the long-standing stalemate it was in, something which it seems has now happily begun. This moment has finally come, we recognize that the programme of work adopted on 29 May is the best way of resuming the work of this Conference and in this connection we wish to place on record our commitment to provide full support so as to ensure that the work which is resumed in the future will be carried forward in a decisive, balanced and transparent fashion. Resuming substantive work, this is an appeal that we have heard consecutively and repeatedly in many of the statements made over recent years in this chamber; today, finally, it seems the time has arrived when this appeal is becoming a duty and is presenting us with the major challenge of showing that we are ready to put into practice the proposal we have adopted and begin to work responsibly on substantive issues. The time of subterfuge and violations is over, as you said a short while ago, Mr. President, the new vitality has begun, and although we must acknowledge that there are many challenges ahead, we are sure that they will be met with an elevated spirit of dignity and responsibility, because our common well-being and the peace of mankind are at stake.

My delegation hopes that the establishment of the working groups agreed on will take place as soon as possible so that we can begin the exchange of views and information on practical measures to ensure the progressive and systematic reduction of nuclear weapons with the ultimate aim of eliminating them, establish negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive

devices, as well as substantive discussions without limitations on the prevention of the arms race in outer space and effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. My delegation also hopes that we can have the special coordinators for discussions, as soon as possible, on new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons, radiological weapons, the comprehensive programme of disarmament and transparency in armaments.

Mr. President, once again I assure you of the support of my delegation, which will be fully ready to assist you and support you in your endeavours.

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

I give the floor to the distinguished delegation of Pakistan, Ambassador Akram.

Mr. Akram (Pakistan): Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on assuming the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. Argentina has always played an important role in the various disarmament and arms control processes. You have a personal distinction and experience in chairing some of them. We commend you for your leadership and dynamism. We would like to once again express our appreciation for the dedicated efforts of your predecessor, Ambassador Jazairy of Algeria.

Last week, the Conference on Disarmament adopted a programme of work for the 2009 session, as contained in CD/1863. This has helped us to break the long impasse in the Conference. The reasons for this sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum being unable to play a meaningful role for over a decade on four core issues – namely nuclear disarmament, negative security assurances, prevention of an arms race in outer space and other matters – are well known.

Document CD/1863, even in its current form, is a litmus test for those who claim to champion the cause of nuclear disarmament and promote the vision of a world free of nuclear weapons. Pakistan has demonstrated a persistent and principled commitment to general and complete disarmament, which is the *raison d'être* of the Conference on Disarmament. For peace and stability in South Asia, we worked hard to maintain conventional armaments at the lowest levels. Our pursuit of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region, with overwhelming support in the United Nations, was thwarted by the nuclear weapons tests conducted in May 1998. Pakistan was obliged to respond in order to ensure peace and stability in the region. And this has proven to be so. As a responsible nuclear-weapon State, we have since maintained credible minimum mutual deterrence. We have proposed the establishment of a strategic restraint regime in South Asia that encompasses three interlocked tiers of conflict resolution: nuclear and missile restraint and a conventional balance.

Pakistan stresses once again that issues of peace and security and disarmament are inextricably linked. Security is indivisible. International peace and security and universal and non-discriminatory disarmament can only be achieved meaningfully by addressing the asymmetries in both the nuclear and conventional fields that exist at the regional and subregional levels.

We did not stand in the way of consensus on CD/1863, which has been achieved in good faith on the understanding that work on all core issues would lead to the initiation of actual negotiations on legally binding instruments for universal and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament, negative security assurances and the prevention of an arms race in outer space. We would like to see progress in tandem on all core issues. Only this can ensure equal security for all States.

We believe that an international legally binding instrument providing negative security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States would prohibit the use of nuclear

weapons against them and thus reduce the salience of these weapons in the security doctrines of nuclear-weapon States. This will serve as the first building block in the future global nuclear disarmament architecture. Members of the Conference on Disarmament should strive for this with all sincerity and seriousness.

As regards the fissile material treaty (FMT), the Conference membership is fully cognizant that the issue of existing and future stocks has assumed greater significance for Pakistan in the light of the nuclear cooperation arrangements in our neighbourhood. These upset the strategic balance in the region. Unless the equilibrium is re-established, the fashioning of an appropriate FMT appears to be a difficult challenge. A treaty which merely legalized the national moratoriums of nuclear-weapon States and froze the asymmetries would undermine the international community's vision of a nuclear-weapon-free world as well as Pakistan's national security.

We have noted the conditional agreement of certain States to CD/1863, particularly their assertion that they would not accept any hindrance to their strategic programmes.

We would also like to place on record the obvious, that Pakistan will not accept any framework which is prejudicial to its national security interest or undermines strategic stability in South Asia. Pakistan's National Command Authority has underscored that while continuing to act with responsibility and avoiding an arms race, Pakistan will not be oblivious to the imperative of ensuring its security by maintaining its credible minimum deterrence.

We are ready to work together in an inclusive and transparent manner to work out the details of our future work, which should envisage a balanced allocation of time to the four working groups and special coordinators. No parallel meetings should be planned, so as to enable delegations to present their views on all issues. Sufficient space should be available to the delegations to substantively participate in the deliberations. The principles of equitable geographical representation and rotation should be respected. The rules of procedure of the Conference are the defining parameters. The Conference has delivered in the past working within these rules. It can do so again.

We should build upon what we achieved last week and not move in haste. At the end of the session, we will assess the progress made and also the willingness to work on all four core issues. This will help us to chart an appropriate future programme of work for the Conference.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the distinguished delegation of Pakistan for its comments and its kind words addressed to the Chair.

I give the floor to the distinguished delegation of Peru. Mr. Schialer has the floor.

Mr. Schialer (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): Mr. President, first of all allow me to say how pleased my country is that Argentina is presiding over the Conference on Disarmament and is doing so at the very time when a new, promising and substantive era for its work is beginning. We are all the more pleased as you are the one guiding our work. Your extensive and distinguished professional record in disarmament, your outstanding and distinguished diplomatic skills and your great personal charm will, I am convinced, guarantee the full success of the delicate process of organization and substantive definitions that the Conference must tackle as of today's meeting. My delegation is entirely at your disposal to contribute enthusiastically to the task ahead of us all. Peru provided its full support to then draft decision CD/1863, which we finally adopted last week, doing so just 24 hours after it was formally presented, a decision whose adoption may be ascribed in no lesser a degree to the brilliance and perseverance with which Ambassador Jazairy of Algeria guided the consultation process. My delegation wishes to reiterate to him and the other members of the P6 platform its deepest appreciation. The importance of having

adopted this decision cannot be overemphasized. Its importance is fundamental for this Conference, but at the same time it goes beyond the walls of this distinguished chamber. In drawing on and at the same time spurring new vitality on the international stage in support of disarmament document CD/1863 now enables us to establish and organize four working groups and appoint three special coordinators. It is our understanding that you, Sir, have already begun the necessary consultations with the regional coordinators, and we thank you for that. The wealth of experience that we have accumulated through these years, thanks to the work of the informal groups that tackled the various items on the agenda of the Conference, must be put to use in organizing these new subsidiary structures, which will now take on a formal character. It is therefore my delegation's preference that, in addition to keeping the traditional balance between regional groups and countries, we should continue with the sound practice of drawing on the guidance and coordination of distinguished members of this Conference who have considerable expertise in the field under consideration, so as also to expedite the agreements we need to build on the substantive matters that we are addressing. Also for this reason, my delegation is of the view that it would be very helpful if the bureau of each working group, for example, had an extended term, perhaps on an annual basis, so as to ensure the greatest possible continuity of our work within the balanced framework of representation in this Conference.

These are some preliminary ideas that my delegation wished to share this morning with the other members of the Conference, on how Peru views the possible organization of our future work. Once again, Sir, I assure you that my country and myself stand fully ready to make an active contribution together with you and with the Conference and I express my best wishes for success during your term, which, I repeat, I consider assured.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the distinguished delegation of Peru for its statement and its kind words to the Chair.

I now give the floor to the distinguished delegation of Brazil.

Mr. Tabajara de Oliveira (Brazil): Mr. President, my delegation wishes to congratulate you warmly on your assumption of the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. Be assured that my delegation is ready to support fully and cooperate with you throughout your presidency.

Brazil considers that the Conference on Disarmament has a leading role in addressing global security challenges, being the single multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiating forum. In this regard, my Government issued an official note on 29 May, welcoming with great satisfaction the adoption of the work programme contained in CD/1863, which will allow the Conference on Disarmament to resume its essential role.

Brazil is confident that the resumption of substantive activities within the Conference will contribute to bringing the world closer to comprehensive disarmament with a view to the total elimination of nuclear weapons. In this sense, as this body takes its initial steps towards implementing its programme of work, my delegation has full confidence in your wise leadership and looks forward to your guidance through this crucial phase.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the distinguished delegation of Brazil for its statement and its kind words.

I give the floor to the distinguished delegation of Turkey.

Mr. Etensel (Turkey) (*spoke in Spanish*): Mr. President, I would like to join the distinguished speakers in congratulating you on taking the Chair of the Conference. You may also count on the support of the delegation of Turkey. I would like to inform the members of the Conference that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey yesterday put out a press release underscoring our satisfaction at the adoption of our programme of work last week. My Ministry's statement also expressed our deep

appreciation to the Algerian presidency, to the distinguished Ambassador of Algeria, Ambassador Jazairy, for their contributions to the adoption of our programme of work. Our statement also underscored the substantive contributions made by Turkey last year when we occupied the Chair of the Conference in the months of February–March for four weeks. As the statement by my Ministry also said – with your permission I would like to read the last paragraph of our statement: “Considering arms control and disarmament as fundamental aspects of its national security policy, Turkey will continue to support efforts that will increase the Conference’s contributions to global peace and stability.”

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the distinguished delegation of Turkey for its statement, its kind words addressed to the Chair and also in particular for the excellent Spanish. It really is good to know that Spanish is so widely used in Turkey.

I have no other delegation on my list. Does any delegation wish to take the floor? I recognize the distinguished delegation of Japan. You have the floor.

Mr. Hiraishi (Japan): Mr. President, at the outset, let me join previous speakers in congratulating you on your assumption of the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament at this remarkable period in the life of the Conference. Let me assure you of my delegation’s full support and cooperation in your guiding our work in the Conference.

With last week’s historic adoption of the programme of work contained in document CD/1863, my delegation would like to extend to the P6 of 2009, in particular Ambassador Jazairy of Algeria, its highest praise for guiding the Conference to this outcome. We thoroughly welcome the adoption of CD/1863; it has been a long time in coming. I would also like to inform you that the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan has issued a statement welcoming the adoption of the programme of work in the Conference on Disarmament.

The adoption of the programme of work, though momentous, is not the end of the story, but only the beginning. Now is not the time to relax. The next task for us is to sort out all the organizational matters, such as the appointment of chairs for the four working groups and special coordinators and the formulation of a schedule of activities for the subsidiary bodies. This is in our view the current number one priority of the Conference.

Moreover, as Ambassador Tarui of Japan, who left Geneva on the day we adopted the programme of work, mentioned in his farewell statement on 26 May, what is important for strengthening international nuclear disarmament is to produce and achieve the entry into force of an FMCT as quickly as possible. As such, we should find some way to maintain negotiations until their completion and conclusion.

From this perspective, we need to carry over the great momentum of this year into the next. We must try to sort out the organizational matters for next year’s work as well before the end of the current session, which should be reflected in this year’s report, together with the historical programme of work, perhaps in the form of recommendations. This is fully consistent with past practice and the rules of procedure of the Conference.

In this way, we can have a fair idea of how and in what order substantive work, including negotiations, will be conducted next year. This will assist delegations in their planning, for instance in scheduling the travel arrangements of the relevant experts from capitals, as well as facilitating the immediate commencement of substantive work at the opening of the 2010 session.

Lastly, now that we have finally adopted the programme of work after so many years of stalemate, we should not fall into complacency. In this vein, let me leave you with an old Japanese saying from the time of the Samurai warriors: “After victory, tighten the helmet cord”.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of Japan for its kind words addressed to the Chair and I give the floor to the distinguished delegation of Algeria. Ambassador Jazairy has the floor.

Mr. Jazairy (Algeria): Mr. President, I would like to extend to you personally, to the distinguished Under-Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security at the United States Department of State and to all my colleagues who have spoken this morning in support of the efforts that my colleagues in the P6 and myself have devoted to achieving consensus on CD/1863 our collective appreciation. It was teamwork at its best, and I would perhaps like to take the liberty of speaking on behalf of my colleagues to say that we stand behind you, Mr. President, to ensure that the efficiency and team spirit which existed under my presidency will continue. You have already hit the ground running with your enormous experience in this field, and we are confident that we will achieve further successes in the weeks and months to come.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the distinguished delegation of Algeria, in particular, its Ambassador, with whom I have had the pleasure of working as part of the P6. Thank you, Ambassador, for your comments and for your constant support.

With these statements we have come to the end of the list of speakers I have before me. I would like to know whether any other delegation wishes to take the floor. It seems not. I would therefore like to invite the Conference to consider another request received from a Member State which is not a member of the Conference and which wishes to take part in our work as an observer during this session. This request, which is to be found in document CD/WP.551/Add.7, was submitted by the Republic of Honduras. I hope you have the document to which I have just referred in front of you. May I take it that the Conference on Disarmament decides to invite Honduras to take part in its work in keeping with the rules of procedure of our Conference? I see no objection.

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): This brings to an end our substantive plenary work for this morning. As I had indicated to the regional groups, I intended, immediately afterwards, to convene an informal meeting. For this purpose I am going to suggest that we adjourn this meeting and resume in an informal session in five minutes, if you agree.

I see no objection, so our plenary meeting is adjourned. Our next plenary meeting will take place next Tuesday at 10 a.m., and in five minutes' time we will resume our work in an informal session of the Conference on Disarmament. I see no objection. It is so decided and the meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.