
Conference on Disarmament

29 March 2011

English

Final record of the one thousand two hundred and nineteenth plenary meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Tuesday, 29 March 2011, at 10.15 a.m.

President: Mr. Wang Qun(China)

The President: I now declare open the 1219th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament. Before turning to our substantive work of today, allow me to express, on behalf of the Conference and on my own behalf, our sincere condolences to the victims and their families of the earthquake that struck Myanmar last week.

The paper before you is document CD/WP.565/Rev.1. I would like to furnish you with a bit of the background of this paper. As you may recall, on 24 March there were strong sentiments in this Council chamber for going back to 565, and I, as the President, indicated that I would be open to members and stand to be guided by members. Subsequently, I decided to convene on 25 March an open-ended informal consultation on paper 565. So, at that juncture, I proceeded to the open-ended informal meetings on 25 March on paper 565. And, from what transpired in that meeting, there was a preliminary emerging consensus on the thrust of 565, with the understanding that I do two changes. One is to reschedule the activities in the remaining three weeks of China's presidency, and second is, I firm up the names of coordinators for the four core issues, as well as the combined items 5-6-7.

So, at that juncture I said that, based on this preliminary consensus, I will seek and put to members a paper in the nature of Rev.1 on the basis of 565. So, before the end of 25 March, I, through the secretariat, circulated the Rev. 1 draft for members' consideration and subsequently, also at yesterday's Presidential consultations, I introduced to regional coordinators the changes in this Rev.1 text and asked regional coordinators to convey them to all members. So, this is the background of this Rev.1 text, and I now put it to members here and would like to seek their views, and would any delegation like to take the floor at this stage? If no objections, it's so decided.

Thank you for your understanding. With this I think this concludes our business for today at this plenary meeting. As announced by the secretariat, this formal plenary meeting will be followed in a couple of minutes by an informal plenary meeting on agenda items 1 and 2, with a general focus on nuclear disarmament. The distinguished Ambassador from Sri Lanka will chair and coordinate the informal meetings. So, this formal plenary stands adjourned. Thank you, and we will be coming back in several minutes with the distinguished Ambassador of Sri Lanka on the coordinatorship.

The meeting rose at 10.25 a.m.