
Conference on Disarmament

12 August 2014

English

Final record of the one thousand three hundred and twenty-fourth plenary meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Tuesday, 12 August 2014, at 10.05 a.m.

President: Mr. Anthony Andanje(Kenya)



The President: I call to order the 1324th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

Allow me to provide an update on the outstanding issues in the Conference.

I am pleased to report that, following sustained consultations regarding the informal position of the Friend of the President appointed under the authority of my predecessor, Ambassador Tileuberdi of Kazakhstan, this issue has been resolved. The mandate has been reworded and reads: “without prejudice to the rules of procedure and in full consultation with all member States, a Friend of the President, with a mandate to improve and strengthen communication and contribution of non-member States to the Conference on Disarmament in 2014”.

On the reports of the coordinators for the substantive agenda items in the schedule of activities, all the coordinators have, in accordance with the decision contained in document CD/1978, submitted their reports in their personal capacity on the various substantive agenda items.

On agenda items 1 and 2, with a general focus on the banning of production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other explosive devices, a report has been submitted by Ambassador Biontino of Germany.

On agenda item 2, with a general focus on nuclear disarmament, a report coordinated by Ambassador Abdelnasser of Egypt has been received.

On agenda item 4, a report on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons has been submitted by Ambassador Maurás of Chile.

The representative of the United Kingdom has submitted his report on the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

On agenda items 5, 6 and 7, a report on new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: radiological weapons, comprehensive programme on disarmament and transparency in armaments has been submitted by Ambassador Khvostov of Belarus.

These reports will be combined together and formally circulated to you under a single document symbol.

In the course of my consultations, many delegations suggested that an opportunity should be created to have a look at the reports submitted by the coordinators in accordance with document CD/1978 establishing the schedule of activities for the 2014 session, bearing in mind that these reports have been submitted by the coordinators in their personal capacities. I will arrange an informal meeting for Friday, 15 August, at 10 a.m. to provide delegations with the opportunity to make brief comments.

I will now turn to the list of speakers. I give the floor to Ambassador So of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, who will deliver a statement on behalf of the Group of 21.

Mr. So Se Pyong (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): I have the honour to deliver the following statement on behalf of the Group of 21 on negative security assurances.

The Group of 21 reaffirms that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. The Group remains convinced that as long as nuclear weapons exist, so also will the risk of their proliferation and possible use remain with us. Therefore, as reflected in the Group's statement delivered by Chile on 26 March 2014, regarding the follow-up to

United Nations General Assembly resolution 68/32, the Conference on Disarmament should start negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, including a nuclear weapons convention prohibiting the possession, development, production, stockpiling, transfer and use of nuclear weapons leading to the global, non-discriminatory and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time.

Pending the achievement of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, the Group reaffirms the urgent need to reach early agreement on a universal, unconditional, irrevocable and legally binding instrument to effectively assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under all circumstances, as a high priority. Such an instrument should be clear, credible, without any ambiguity, non-discriminatory and should respond to the concerns of all the parties.

The Group believes that there is a need to recognize the right of non-nuclear-weapon States not to be attacked by or threatened by the nuclear-weapon States with the use of nuclear weapons, and strongly calls upon the nuclear-weapon States to refrain from any such action or threat, whether implicit or explicit.

The Group underlines the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and to bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

The Group recalls the convening of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament on 26 September 2013, and supports and calls for the full implementation of its related resolution 68/32 to follow up that meeting, and recalls that 26 September has been designated as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, devoted to furthering this objective.

The Group highlights the objectives laid down in General Assembly resolution 68/38, entitled “Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation”, which, among other things, reaffirms multilateralism as the core principle in resolving disarmament and non-proliferation concerns.

The Group underscores the need to eliminate the role of nuclear weapons in strategic defence doctrines, security policies and military strategies, which not only set out rationales for the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, but also maintain unjustifiable concepts on international security based on promoting and developing military alliances’ nuclear deterrence policies.

The Group believes that, pending the total elimination of all nuclear weapons, the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned and taking into account provisions of the first special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament, is a positive step and important measure towards strengthening global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In this context, the Group welcomes the nuclear-weapon-free zones established by the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok, Pelindaba and Semipalatinsk and the nuclear-weapon-free status of Mongolia. The Group reiterates that, in the context of nuclear-weapon-free zones, it is essential that nuclear-weapon States provide unconditional assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons to all States of the zones. In this context, the Group urges nuclear-weapon States to withdraw all reservations and interpretative declarations to the protocols of nuclear-weapon-free-zone treaties.

The Group reiterates its strong support for the early establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of all nuclear weapons. To this end, the Group reaffirms the need

for the speedy establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East in accordance with resolution 487 (1981) and resolution 687 (1991), paragraph 14, of the Security Council and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly adopted by consensus.

The Group of 21 States that are parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) express their continued concern that one of the important decisions of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, namely the convening of a conference by the United Nations and the sponsors of the 1995 NPT Review Conference resolution on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East in 2012, was not realized, and deeply regrets the delay of concrete actions for this purpose. The Group of 21 States that are parties to the NPT are disappointed that the subsequent efforts to convene such a conference in 2013 were also not successful. They stress that the agreed mandate of the conference, as contained in the 1995 NPT Extension and Review Conference resolution on the Middle East and the 2010 NPT Review Conference action plan, should be maintained and constitute the basis for convening the conference as well as its preparatory process. In this regard, we call upon the facilitator and co-conveners to hold the conference without any further delay in order to maintain the credibility and sustainability of the NPT regime.

While the Group believes that the nuclear-weapon-free zones are positive steps towards strengthening global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, it does not subscribe to the arguments stating that declarations that have been made by the nuclear-weapon States are sufficient, or that security assurances should only be granted in the context of nuclear-weapon-free zones. In addition, given their geographical limitation, security assurances guaranteed to States members of the nuclear-weapon-free zones cannot be a substitute for universal, legally binding security assurances.

The Group recalls that the demand for security assurances was raised by the non-nuclear-weapon States in the 1960s and it crystallized in 1968 during the concluding phase of the negotiations for the NPT. The response of the nuclear-weapon States reflected in Security Council resolutions 255 (1968) and 984 (1995) was considered incomplete, partial and conditional by the non-nuclear-weapon States. The demand for assurances therefore persists.

The Group accepts that while various approaches exist, efforts to conclude a universal and legally binding instrument on security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States should be vigorously pursued. The Group considers that the conclusion of such an instrument would be an important step towards achieving the objectives of arms control, nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects.

The Group takes note of the substantive and interactive informal discussions on negative security assurances held in the Conference on Disarmament from 18 to 20 June 2014 in pursuance of the schedule of activities of the 2014 session contained in document CD/1978.

The President: I thank Ambassador So for his statement. I have no other speakers on my list. Does any other delegation wish to take the floor? I recognize the representative of the Russian Federation.

Mr. Deyneko (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Mr. President, as you will recall, on 5 August the Conference on Disarmament took the decision not to hold further meetings as part of the thematic discussions. As a result, the Russian delegation is obliged to use the plenary meeting in order to inform the Conference about developments concerning the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

First of all, I would like to inform the Conference that a joint statement on not being the first to deploy weapons in outer space was signed in Havana on 11 July. Moreover, Russia, States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, Brazil, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Argentina and now Cuba have joined forces to promote the initiative of not being the first to place weapons of any kind into orbit. The importance of this effort is confirmed in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-building Measures in Outer Space Activities and related General Assembly resolution 68/50. Allow me to recall that both documents were adopted by consensus.

I wish also to take this opportunity to inform you of the draft resolution on no first placement of weapons in outer space that will be introduced at the First Committee of the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session. The text will be circulated in the very near future to diplomatic missions in Geneva.

The main thrust of the resolution is to encourage all Member States of the United Nations to consider the possibility of making a political commitment not to be the first to place weapons in outer space. It goes without saying that reliable international legal safeguards banning the placement of weapons in near-Earth orbit can only be guaranteed through the conclusion of a universal, legally binding instrument. We already have the basis for such work: the Russian and Chinese draft Treaty on Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space.

Realistically, though, the process from the beginning of negotiations to the entry into force of the treaty will take a fairly long time. The draft resolution on not being the first to place weapons in outer space has been put forward to fill the legal vacuum during this time. Its globalization, through the adoption of national, bilateral and collective declarations based on the proposed General Assembly resolution, will create the necessary safety net which will help to build confidence and security in global affairs.

Outer space is the last remaining frontier that has not yet become an arena for armed conflict. We believe that preventing this from happening and keeping outer space free from weapons of any kind for future generations is our most important common challenge.

In this regard, we call on Conference members not only to support the draft resolution at the First Committee of the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session but also to co-sponsor it. We look forward to your active support so that this resolution may be adopted by consensus.

The President: I thank the representative of the Russian Federation for his statement. I now give the floor to the representative of Cuba.

Mr. Romero Puentes (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): Allow me first of all to congratulate you, Mr. President, on the outstanding manner in which you have been leading the work of the Conference on Disarmament. We appreciate the transparency, constancy and professionalism of your presidency.

We listened very attentively to the statement made by the representative of the Russian Federation. In connection with his statement, we would like to share a few observations. Outer space is the common heritage of all humankind and should be explored and used solely for peaceful purposes and for the benefit and in the interest of all humankind in a spirit of cooperation. Space technology plays an increasingly indispensable role in our daily lives. Efforts to ensure the use of outer space exclusively for these purposes are thus of crucial importance. Under the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, all States have an inalienable right to access outer space for research and peaceful uses. It is therefore natural that space security should be our common goal.

The constant growth of activity in space can also increase the risk of an arms race and insecurity in space. The more we depend on space, the more we need space security.

Regrettably, in recent years we have witnessed some alarming initiatives. We must therefore redouble our efforts to ensure that the Conference on Disarmament, the General Assembly and the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space take a coherent and coordinated approach to the peaceful use of outer space. It should be noted that the international guidelines agreed by the Committee are only confidence-building or voluntary measures and do not create legally binding obligations.

We are of the view that the current legal framework in this sphere is not enough to address all the security issues relating to outer space. There is a need for legally binding arrangements to keep outer space free of weapons. The draft treaty submitted to the Conference by Russia and China this year is a good basis for further discussions and negotiations in this regard. The resolution to be submitted to the General Assembly, which Cuba will have the opportunity to co-sponsor, is also a step in this direction.

Cuba stands ready to begin work in the General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament that will result in a legally binding treaty in this area.

The President: I thank the representative of Cuba for his statement and the kind words addressed to the Chair. I now give the floor to the representative of Belarus.

Mr. Grinevich (Belarus) (*spoke in Russian*): Mr. President, in relation to the statement made by the representative of Russia, I would like to recall the following point. At the informal consultations held among member States of the Conference on Disarmament, we already set out in detail our position regarding the prevention of an arms race in outer space. I wish to reiterate that our position is quite well known: we have always promoted active work by the Conference on this agenda item. Our delegation supports the updated version of the draft Treaty on Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space submitted by the Russian Federation and China. Nine years ago, the Heads of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization made a joint statement committing to the non-deployment of weapons of any kind in outer space.

Belarus highly commends the initiative of the Russian Federation to submit a new draft resolution on not being the first to place weapons in outer space for consideration by the First Committee of the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session. We hope that this draft resolution will be adopted by consensus. Belarus stands ready to be a co-sponsor of this draft resolution. If all States, particularly those States active in outer space, assume a political commitment, it will be a solid step towards preventing an arms race in outer space.

The President: I thank the representative of Belarus for his statement. I now give the floor to the representative of China.

Mr. Zou Zhibo (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): Mr. President, the Chinese delegation wishes to compliment you on the open, transparent and constructive manner in which you have moved the work of the Conference on Disarmament forward and for the positive contribution you have made.

We thank the Russian delegation for introducing a draft resolution on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space. This initiative of the Russian Federation is in keeping with the spirit of the prevention of an arms race and of the weaponization of outer space and it is consistent with the objectives of the Conference in this matter. We will give this draft resolution careful consideration.

China has always been committed to the Conference's work to move forward with prevention of an arms race in outer space and of the weaponization of outer space. Together with the Russian Federation, we submitted the draft Treaty on Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space. China supports any and all efforts to prevent an arms race in outer space and the weaponization of outer space and believes that the Conference should begin substantive work on these questions as soon as possible.

The President: I thank the representative of China for his statement and the kind words addressed to the Chair. I now give the floor to the representative of Pakistan.

Mr. Akram: Mr. President, as this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor under your presidency, I would like to begin by congratulating you on your assumption of the presidency and to assure you of our full support. My delegation would like to welcome the statement just made by the representative of Russia and take this opportunity to convey to him and to the Conference on Disarmament that my country fully supports this initiative and that we will be co-sponsoring this resolution in the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly.

The President: I thank Ambassador Akram for his statement and his kind words addressed to me. It seems I have exhausted my list of speakers. Does any other delegation wish to take the floor? I see none.

As this is the last plenary meeting under the Kenyan presidency, I would like to make some concluding remarks. It has been a matter of great pride for me and my country to preside over the deliberations of the Conference. It is a responsibility that Kenya has taken seriously.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and appreciation to my fellow Presidents of this session for their support, which has contributed immensely to our collective efforts to advance the work of the Conference. The unity of purpose and cooperation shown enhanced the effectiveness of the presidency while maintaining continuity.

I congratulate the coordinators of the substantive agenda items on the schedule of activities for their excellent work, professionalism and transparency. Each of them brought a unique perspective and insight. I thank the Co-Chair and Vice-Co-Chair of the informal working group for their ongoing contribution. I commend delegations for their patience and cooperation. Their flexibility and willingness to listen and accommodate the views of others has certainly helped maintain the momentum in our work.

I also thank members of the secretariat for the logistical support and background information on the Conference. I thank the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research for the excellent presentation, which served to enrich the debate and emphasized its invaluable role as a resource of this Conference. Last but not least, I would like to thank the interpreters for their excellent work. We rarely see them; however, what is certain is that they make it possible for us to communicate. Finally, I thank my colleague, who has given full attention and effort to our work.

This concludes our business for today. The next meeting of the Conference on Disarmament will take place on Tuesday, 19 August.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.