

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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31 August 2009

ENGLISH

FINAL RECORD OF THE ONE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-SIXTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Monday, 31 August 2009, at 10.25 a.m.

President: Mr. Christian STROHAL (Austria)

The PRESIDENT: I declare open the 1156th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament. This plenary has been scheduled to allow us to make the appropriate decision on the way forward. Time is quickly running out. The window of opportunity to achieve a consensual approach on how to implement the programme of work three months after it was adopted in CD/1864 is closing, and I think we all agree that the window of opportunity for this year is closing today.

In order to allow the Conference to proceed with a meaningful implementation of the programme of work, I simply want to briefly recall that the P6 have carried out endless discussions and consultations with all interested parties since 29 May. I salute the Ambassador of Algeria for his achievement on that day. And of course we have conducted during the same period 16 plenary meetings of the Conference. We have intensified our efforts over the past week, not only through consultations with everybody interested but also through two informal presidential consultations open to all interested delegations. We have left no stone unturned to reach a common approach, and I sincerely want to thank all who have participated in these efforts to bring about consensus.

These efforts, as you know, led to the drafting of CD/1870/Rev.2, which was circulated late on Thursday and on which we were supposed to take a decision this morning. With that in mind and against this background, it is with serious regret that I have to inform the Conference that consensus on the modalities for the implementation of CD/1864 still eludes us.

Given this situation and the lack of time remaining, I have had to reach the conclusion that the Conference is now best served by moving on to the remaining tasks the Conference has to tackle this year. We are currently preparing the first draft of the Conference's report and will make it available during the course of this week, in line with rule 44. I hope the Conference will be able to adopt the report by Thursday, 17 September.

That is the state of affairs in the Conference today. Does anyone wish to take the floor at this stage? It appears not.

Before concluding, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you once more that the Austrian foreign minister will address the Conference on Wednesday at 10 a.m. and subsequently launch, together with Handicap International, the ICSC and Norway study on assisting victims of landmines and explosive remnants of war here in this very same room on Wednesday at 11 a.m.

I would also like to announce that we are planning a plenary for Thursday to allow the designated Chairman of the First Committee of the General Assembly, Ambassador Cancela, to address the Conference.

If no one wishes to take the floor, this concludes our business for today.

The plenary is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 10.30 a.m.