
Conference on Disarmament

15 September 2009

English

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

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Tuesday, 15 September 2009, at 10.25 a.m.

President: Mr. Christian Strohal(Austria)

The President: I declare open the 1160th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

I have a statement by the Ambassador of Turkey on my list of speakers to be delivered by Mr. Öskiper.

Mr. Öskiper (Turkey): Mr. President, since this is the first time I am taking the floor, allow me at the outset to take this opportunity to congratulate you on assuming the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. My delegation will extend every possible support during your tenure.

We regret to see that the Conference on Disarmament has not been functioning effectively for years. In May of this year, when we adopted the programme of work, we thought that we had achieved a real breakthrough, which, in our view, should pave the way for real negotiations in the months ahead.

Now we need flexibility by all, to carry the process forward and to bring the Conference back to its fundamental role in promoting global peace and security as an arms control negotiating forum.

We have examined the draft report to be submitted to the First Committee. We believe it is a factual and a well-balanced report. There may of course be certain amendments that would accommodate the concerns of certain countries. However, we believe that our main focus should be to keep the momentum in the Conference on Disarmament and embark on a different phase early next year.

This is particularly important on the eve of the NPT 2010 Review Conference. The constructive atmosphere in the PrepCom in May this year was very promising; and the current international environment is more favourable than ever for the advancement of multilateral arms control and disarmament. We ought to avail ourselves of these opportunities.

We believe that the commencement of negotiations on an FMCT, the entry into force of the CTBT and hopefully a follow-up to START-I, all of which stand among the 13 practical steps of 2000, could play a catalytic role for a successful outcome in 2010. The recent events have reaffirmed the significance of the CTBT. On this occasion, I should like to reiterate the importance that my country attaches to this key treaty, which was successfully negotiated here in this body.

The Conference on Disarmament is able to play a historic role at this juncture, provided that a spirit of flexibility and compromise is there. Progress in our work here will not only provide the much-needed impetus to the NPT regime, but will also have wider implications for other multilateral disarmament activities with the United Nations or elsewhere.

The President: I thank the representative of Turkey for his statement.

There is no further speaker on the list. Is there any other delegation which would want to take the floor at this stage? If that is not the case, let me just briefly inform you of how we would like to proceed today.

I think we can now adjourn this plenary meeting and immediately reconvene in an informal plenary meeting open only to members and observers to continue the consideration of the draft report of this year's session. As you know, a revised version was circulated last Wednesday, Rev.1, and we can then consider this in an informal plenary, which I would suggest should start in five minutes, and hopefully we can come to a successful conclusion as soon as possible so that we can move on to agree provisionally at an informal meeting, and then of course come to a formal plenary, hopefully on Thursday, to conclude this year's session.

If that is agreeable, it is so decided, and we meet again in five minutes in an informal meeting in this room.

The meeting rose at 10.30 a.m.