
Conference on Disarmament

19 February 2013

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Final record of the one thousand two hundred and seventy-seventh plenary meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Tuesday, 19 February 2013, at 10.15 a.m.

President: Ms. Sujata Mehta (India)

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The President: I declare open the 1277th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament. Before I go further, since this is the first time I am speaking as President of the Conference on Disarmament, I would like to make a few remarks.

At the outset I would like to thank my predecessor and friend, Ambassador Dékány of Hungary, for the dynamism with which he approached his responsibilities as the Conference on Disarmament President and the efforts he made in seeking to get the Conference on Disarmament to work.

India will try to show the same spirit and commitment. India's intention as the Conference on Disarmament President is to reinforce the position of the Conference as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. India's national priorities are well known. Nuclear disarmament continues to be our highest priority. We would like to see the Conference on Disarmament return to substantive work on the basis of a consensus programme of work such as CD/1864. We would also like to see the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum upheld and strengthened. We intend to be faithful to and discharge our responsibilities strictly in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference.

My distinguished predecessor's efforts in putting forward a draft programme of work were valuable not only in terms of the focus on the priority issue of getting the Conference back to substantive work, but also in terms of a smooth and substantive start to the 2013 session. We would endeavour to continue in the same vein, consulting widely and listening very intently to all points of view.

I look forward to working with you closely in these four weeks and for the rest of the year in our common task to uphold this forum and advance its work.

I would now like to extend a warm welcome to Mr. Luis Enrique Chávez Basagoitia of Peru, who has assumed responsibilities as representative of his Government to the Conference. On behalf of my own Government and on behalf of the Conference, I would like to assure you of our full cooperation and support.

Before we proceed, I would like to invite you to consider one additional request from a State not member of the Conference to participate in our work during the 2013 session. In addition to those we approved during the 1276th plenary meeting last week, the secretariat has received a request from Kyrgyzstan. This request is now before you in document CD/WP.575/Add.4, which includes requests that the secretariat received before yesterday, 18 February 2013, at 4 p.m. All additional requests from non-member States received after that date will be presented for your consideration and decision at subsequent plenary meetings. Are there any comments on this request? May I take it that the Conference decides to invite the State to participate in our work in accordance with the rules of procedure?

It was so decided.

Mr. Van den IJssel (Netherlands): I have asked for the floor to deliver a statement on behalf of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI). But before I do that, let me, while wearing my national hat, assure you, Madam President, of the support of the Netherlands delegation for your presidency. We are looking forward to working closely with you. Furthermore, I would like to express my great gratitude and deep appreciation to the outgoing Hungarian presidency. I am deeply impressed by the energy, wisdom, your relentless search for compromise and not least by the courage they displayed. We deeply regret that, despite all their efforts, it was not possible to arrive at a programme of work. And lastly, I would like to join you, Madam President, in welcoming our new colleague from Peru, and I hope he brings luck to this room and to this Conference.

The following remarks I make on behalf of the 10 States of the NPDI: Australia, Canada, Chile, Germany, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Poland, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates.

On 14 February, the NPDI issued the following statement in reaction to the nuclear test of 12 February by North Korea:

The Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative strongly condemns North Korea's nuclear test on 12 February 2013, which is an extremely serious violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions 1718, 1874 and 2087. This test, following the launch of a ballistic missile in December 2012, indicates that North Korea continues to develop nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities, contrary to its international obligations and commitments, including those under United Nations Security Council resolutions and the 2005 Six-Party Talks Joint Statement.

This unacceptable nuclear test seriously undermines the peace and security of North-East Asia and the world. It also constitutes a grave challenge to the Treaty Nuclear on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Further action by the international community is imperative in response to North Korea's provocations.

This test is yet another reminder of the urgency of further strengthening the international framework for the non-proliferation and disarmament of nuclear weapons, including the entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the effective implementation of the NPT.

The NPDI calls upon all countries to continue efforts to attain and sustain a world free of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction, and abstain from carrying out any action contrary to the international efforts to promote peace, mutual trust, friendship and cooperation.

The President: I thank the representative of the Netherlands for his statement and for his kind words. I now give the floor to the representative of Nigeria.

Mr. Laro (Nigeria): It is a matter of great regret to the Nigerian delegation that the Hungarian presidency ended without the Conference on Disarmament agreeing on a programme of work. Being the first presidency of the 2013 session, we had really hoped, perhaps against hope, that we could achieve the kind of concrete results that would have set a positive tone for the rest of the year. This has clearly not been the case, and we feel sad to see another opportunity for decisive action missed. We regret that the Conference on Disarmament is not living up to the legitimate expectations of the international community, as were made clear in the relevant resolutions adopted at the sixty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly.

We once again call on all member States to show flexibility and demonstrate the political will that is required to move our work in the Conference on Disarmament forward. We have never downplayed, nor shall we ever downplay, the significance of national interests and especially national security interests in the calculations of member States. Showing flexibility does not amount to giving up or compromising our national interests, and showing a willingness to negotiate is not in any way a sign of weakness or capitulation.

CD/1299 has laid the foundation for each member of the Conference on Disarmament to bring out all issues of interest to them on a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT), be it stockpiles or future production. So whether you view FMCT from a perspective of disarmament or from a perspective of non-proliferation, if we go by the letter and spirit of CD/1299, both perspectives could have been accommodated in the negotiations envisaged in the ad hoc committee on FMCT proposed by Ambassador Shannon, just as they could have been negotiated under CD/1864, CD/1933 and CD/1948.

Finally, Madam President, we commend your predecessor Ambassador Dékány for the honest and untiring effort he put into finding a way out of the stalemate that has paralysed the Conference on Disarmament for far too long. As said earlier, we very much regret that we could not reach a consensus on his proposed programme of work. Nevertheless, we remain committed to working with each and every delegation to chart a way forward for the Conference on Disarmament, and we assure you, Madam President, of our support as you assume the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament.

The President: I thank the representative of Nigeria for his statement and for his kind words. Would any other delegation like to take the floor at stage? I give the floor to the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Mr. Jon Yong Ryong (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Madam President, let me first of all warmly congratulate you on your high assumption of the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. We are confident that your able leadership and your diplomatic skill will guide the work of the Conference to positive progress. You can count on the full support and cooperation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea delegation.

The application of double standards is an expression of extremely arbitrary practice in international relations, and it is not helpful to the development of the world's situation. If the double standards are allowed it will not only make international relations unfair but also make it impossible to fairly settle the world's affairs. It is the view of my delegation that the existing double standards and inequality disturb the Conference on Disarmament's progress as well. We do believe that it is impossible to form confidence among countries and create a true political environment for the start of substantive work of the Conference as long as such an act persists.

Permit me also to say a few words on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's strong counteractions to a foreign aggressor taken successively in the recent days, now that the Netherlands is still crying against our self-defensive countermeasures even in this plenary meeting. As we are alone, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has taken its resolute state for self-defence. The current self-defensive measure is the primary countermeasure taken by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in which it exercised its maximum self-restraint. It is entirely for defending the supreme interest of the country and the dignity of the nation. It is also wholly to cope with the United States' intensified hostile act against it. It is a quite natural, just measure of self-defence to react to the United States' ever-increasing nuclear threat with nuclear deterrence. Having said the above briefly, my delegation takes this opportunity to reiterate that our nuclear deterrent does not pose any threat to all non-nuclear-weapon States, including countries which are friendly to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

My delegation would also like to call upon countries including the Netherlands to take an impartial stance, not following in the wake of others blindly. Those countries will regret their rash actions some time in the future, if they continue to disregard the reality. Those countries should bear in mind that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea does not read others' faces, nor make any empty talk. It will take the toughest measures against foreign aggressors' violation of sovereignty in the future too.

The President: I thank the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for his statement and for his kind words. Would any other delegation wish to take the floor? The United States of America, Ambassador you have the floor.

Ms. Kennedy (United States of America): Madam President, let me first say again how much we welcome your presidency and your efforts to try and find a way forward. Let me also welcome our new Peruvian colleague. Let me just say with regard to the comments just made by the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, since my

country was named, in addition to the statement I made last week from my President, I would just say today that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will achieve nothing by threats or provocations, which will only further isolate North Korea and undermine international efforts to ensure peace and stability in North-East Asia.

There is nothing of defence in setting off nuclear tests in complete violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions. We call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to refrain from additional provocative actions that would violate further its international obligations and run counter to its commitments. The United Nations Security Council resolutions 1718, 1874 and 2087 demand the Democratic People's Republic of Korea not to conduct a further nuclear test. Further, the United Nations Security Council, in resolution 2087, expressed its determination to take significant action in the event of a nuclear test.

The President: I thank the Ambassador of the United States of America for her statement and for her kind words. Would any other delegation wish to take the floor? I now give the floor to the Ambassador of Canada.

Ms. Golberg (Canada): Madam President, I would like in the first instance to congratulate you on assuming your position and look forward to your leadership over the coming several weeks. You can certainly count on Canada to support any efforts which you will be taking in order to move the work of the Conference on Disarmament forward.

I would of course like to associate myself with the remarks made by the representative of the Netherlands on behalf of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative. I had not intended to take the floor, but given the comments that were just made by the representative of North Korea I feel that I must say that we will not be impartial in the face of such provocations. The statement that was made last week by the North Korean representative, where pride was expressed in this forum with respect to the testing of a nuclear device, was deeply troubling, as was the statement that was made that that country intended to continue to flout United Nations Security Council sanctions and resolutions.

The participation of this country in this forum, where it is in violation of United Nations Security Council sanctions, continues to be profoundly contradictory from our position.

The President: I thank the Ambassador of Canada for her statement and for her kind words. I now give the floor to the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Mr. Jon Yong Ryong (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): My delegation would like to very briefly react to those interventions by the United States and Canadian delegations. My intervention was based on the reality – so to speak. I would like to talk to the United States. If the United States of America takes a hostile approach towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, to the last rendering the situation complicated, it will be left with no option but to take the second and third strongest steps in succession. Canadian behaviour will be calculated separately by another occasion.

Mr. Hannan (Bangladesh): Madam President, allow me to begin by mentioning how delighted we are to see our closest neighbour presiding over the Conference on Disarmament. In the absence of meaningful progress in its work for a long time, your able leadership would greatly contribute to revitalizing the Conference on Disarmament and engaging in substantive work. My delegation stands ready to extend all possible support and cooperation in discharging your responsibilities.

Last week we witnessed another disappointment when the Conference again failed to reach consensus on its programme of work for the 2013 session. As a matter of fact, there definitely exists a huge gap among the hopes, aspirations and concerns of member

States in the Conference on Disarmament. To bridge the gap, a real balanced programme of work on the table addressing all core issues on the Conference on Disarmament's agenda would possibly be most essential.

We have spent much of our time in this chamber over the last 16 years focusing on discussions and exchanges of views. It is time to demonstrate our strong political will to come out of our respective comfort zones and reach a consensus decision for the sake of keeping the world's sole multilateral disarmament forum relevant. I hope your wisdom, experience and skilful leadership will be able to give us the much-desired breakthrough in the Conference's work. Our good wishes will always be for you, Madam President.

The President: I thank the Ambassador of Bangladesh for his statement and for his kind words. I now give the floor to the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea.

Mr. Kwon Haeryong (Republic of Korea): I would like to congratulate you, Ambassador Mehta, on the assumption of the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. Along these lines I hope that we will be able to achieve progress in the Conference on Disarmament under your able leadership. Having said that, I would like to support the statement of the Netherlands on behalf of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative.

As outlined in the statement issued by my delegation in the wake of the third nuclear test by North Korea, North Korea's nuclear tests have constituted a flagrant violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions 1718, 1874 and 2087. It is clear that the nuclear tests pose a threat and challenge to the whole international community as well as an unacceptable threat to the peace and security of the Korean peninsula and North-East Asia.

The Republic of Korea once again strongly urges North Korea to take heed of the warning of the international community reflected in the United Nations Security Council resolution and abandon its nuclear weapons and all related programmes.

The President: I thank the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea for his statement and for his kind words. Does any other delegation wish to take the floor at this stage? The representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has the floor.

Mr. Jon Yong Ryong (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): I have taken the floor to react to the atrocities made by the South Korean delegation. As we have declared our position on many occasions, we have never recognized the brigandish resolution on sanctions by the United Nations Security Council. As the saying goes, a newborn puppy knows no fear of a tiger. South Korea's erratic behaviour would only herald its final destruction.

Mr. Wilson (Australia): Madam President, I wanted to just make an arms-trade-treaty-related announcement, so perhaps I could delay my statement for the moment and perhaps make it at the end of the plenary.

Mr. Kwon Haeryong (Republic of Korea): Everybody knows that North Korea is committing enormous resources to developing nuclear weapons and missile capabilities, but it is very regrettable that the chronic food shortage persists and continually threatens people. The North Korean people are in a dire situation because of the bad allocation of their resources, and the North Korean regime has continued asking for humanitarian assistance from the international community. Considering this, we urge North Korea to focus on improving the living conditions for its entire people instead, and ending all its nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes.

Ms. Adamson (United Kingdom): Madam President, may I join others in expressing my pleasure to see you presiding over us in this chamber? And of course you can be assured that we will do whatever we can to help you. I am struck that I think the discussion

on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is heading in the wrong direction. It cannot be allowed that we have expressions which refer to possible destruction of United Nations Member States. I think we should nip this discussion in the bud and move on, but I certainly would like to condemn any expressions in this chamber where people refer to possible destruction of other States. The Security Council is engaged, there have been in the past many efforts through the Six-Party Talks, many countries in this chamber have been exerting efforts to try and find a solution to the issues of the Korean peninsula, but I think it is completely inappropriate to get to language talking about destruction of other States.

The President: I thank the distinguished Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for her statement and for her kind words. I now give the floor to the Ambassador of the United States of America.

Ms. Kennedy (United States of America): I neglected as other States to express my appreciation for the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative statement that our Dutch colleague delivered, although I immediately tweeted it, I would say, but I also particularly had raised my flag along the lines that my United Kingdom colleague just mentioned. The Canadian representative had previously said she found it profoundly disturbing that we hear these threats here in this body. In the actions of this one member State I also was particularly struck by the phrase "heralding the destruction of the Republic of Korea" and find that language incredibly inconsistent with the goals and objectives that this body is intended to pursue. Now my statements have been made in terms of Security Council resolutions, the need to abide by Security Council resolutions and commitments, not hostile rhetoric, and I find it again incredibly, profoundly troubling, to borrow the phrase of my Canadian colleague, that we hear such statements made in this body.

Mr. Jon Yong Ryong (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): As my delegation highlighted, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's nuclear test is just a measure for self-defence to cope with intensified United States nuclear blackmail against it. The nuclear test was conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea against the backdrop of the demonstration of huge military muscle by the United States and their followers, a gruesome war atmosphere created by them and their mobilization of dangerous means for blocking the economic development of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and dishonest elements' gambles threatening its vital right.

It is this position and firm will of the army and the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to counter a high-handed policy with the toughest policy and react to pressure and sanctions with an all-out counteraction.

Mr. Hoffmann (Germany): Madam President, let me, like others before me, congratulate you on the assumption of the presidency, and let me wish you well in your endeavours to take our work forward. My delegation has already made a statement last week on the nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and as such I do not have to add much to that other than to say that I associate myself of course with the statement made by the Netherlands on behalf of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative. I must say that's why I asked for the floor, because I was not sure whether I had heard properly when our colleague from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea took the floor a bit earlier, but it was confirmed by the statements made by our colleagues from the United Kingdom and the United States that there was indeed the word "destruction" of another State contained in it, and I must say I find this indeed deeply troubling and entirely inappropriate, and I just wanted to state that here and associate myself with these statements made by our British and United States colleagues and also by our Canadian colleague.

The President: I thank the distinguished Ambassador of Germany for his remarks and his kind words. I see no other requests for the floor at this stage. No, I see the Ambassador of Spain has asked for the floor. I apologize. I had not seen your flag.

Mr. Gil Catalina (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): Madam President, I would like to echo the congratulations of colleagues who have expressed their pleasure at having you on the Chair, and I am also taking the floor very briefly to express my astonishment at the words we have heard from the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. I have never heard anything like it in a career spanning 30 years, and it seems to me that we are not talking about something acceptable – we are talking about the threat of force, which is prohibited under international law by Article 2, paragraph 4, of the Charter of the United Nations.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): Thank you very much, Mr. Ambassador, for your kind words and your friendship.

(*spoke in English*)

I now give the floor to the Ambassador of France.

Mr. Simon-Michel (France) (*spoke in French*): Madam President, I wished to congratulate you on taking the Chair of the Conference on Disarmament and also to extend our thanks to our former President, Mr. Dékány, Ambassador of Hungary.

To tell the truth, like many colleagues who have just taken the floor, it was not my intention to speak today. Last week I read out the statement by the President of the French Republic on the nuclear test conducted by North Korea, but, like other colleagues, on hearing the statement that has just been made, I should like to say that there are things that we should not hear in this forum. For a country to say that it does not recognize Security Council resolutions is not consistent with its membership of the United Nations Organization or with Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations. Security Council resolutions do not need to be recognized by States, to which they apply automatically. So, to hear threats being made against a Member State of the United Nations, to talk of its destruction is, I think, as many colleagues have just pointed out, going beyond the pale.

Mr. Khelif (Algeria) (*spoke in Arabic*): Madam President, my delegation would first like to express its great pleasure at seeing you, the Ambassador of India — a friendly sister State and partner in the Non-Aligned Movement and in the Group of 21 — presiding over the proceedings of the Conference on Disarmament. We can assure you of our full support in the quest for a solution to the problem facing the Conference on Disarmament. We also wish to thank your predecessor, the Ambassador of Hungary, for all the efforts that he made during his presidency of this forum.

Madam President, last week we were not, in fact, able to reach agreement on a decision concerning the programme of work on the basis of the proposal made by your predecessor, the Ambassador of Hungary. Yet at the same time, we heard no explicit and categorical rejection of that proposal, which is set out in CD/1948. Accordingly, Madam President, we invite you to continue your consultations on the basis of the ideas already tabled, as set forth in decision CD/1864, and of subsequent initiatives and proposals the most recent of which, presented by the Hungarian Ambassador, sought to establish a programme of work responding to the security concerns of all member States that would enable us to formulate international instruments reflecting and embodying the purposes and principles of the United Nations to which some of the delegations here have alluded.

Once again, Madam President, the Algerian delegation would like to assure you of its full support. We remain at your disposal for any collaboration that you might require in order to resolve the problem of the programme of work of the Conference on Disarmament.

The President: I thank the distinguished delegate of Algeria for his statement and for his kind words. I can assure him that I have paid very close attention to his advice and shall endeavour to follow that.

Mr. Lusiński (Poland): Madam President, let me wish you all the best in resolving the current stalemate of the Conference on Disarmament during your presidency. You are among the most able people to do it. I didn't intend to take the floor today, being entirely happy with the joint statement made on behalf of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative delivered by the Ambassador of the Netherlands, though I must say I am deeply embarrassed by the discussion we have now, caused by an infringement of numerous resolutions by one of the States. My delegation and myself personally in the recent past tried to do our best to extend to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea the same kind of treatment as to any other serious State, full of respect and a friendly attitude, and I must say with much regret this has not been appreciated. Threats like we heard today are unsupported. I just would like to ask the question whether in respect of a State that violates United Nations resolutions and then confirms it is going to violate it further and poses a threat to another State much more democratic than the one which is defending its sovereignty and dignity, I wonder whether that means to limit the presence of this State in our deliberations, and I would like to complete my intervention with a confirmation there, but with a lot of sympathy to the entire Korean nation, especially to those starving in the North, but to sit next to the representative of a communist regime of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea gives me an increasing problem.

The President: I thank the representative of Poland for his statement and for his kind words. I now give the floor to the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Mr. Jon Yong Ryong (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Some countries, including France, talked about the so-called Democratic People's Republic of Korea's threat to United Nations Member States. It is quite clear their purpose is to mislead public opinion against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, a dignified Member of the United Nations.

The United States has long – I'm talking about that something to you all. We are in constant nuclear threat from the United States. The United States has long put the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the list of pre-emptive nuclear strikes. There have been on the earth more than 2,000 nuclear tests and at least 9,000 satellite launches in the United Nations history spanning over 60 years, but there has never been a United Nations Security Council resolution on banning any nuclear tests or satellite launch. It is the United States that has conducted more nuclear tests and launched more satellites than any others. It however cooked up the United Nations Security Council resolution banning only the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's nuclear tests and satellite launch. This is a breach of international law and the height of double standards. Had the United Nations Security Council been impartial even a bit, it would not have taken issue with a sovereign State's exercise of the right to self-defence and its scientific and technological activities for peaceful purposes, but with the United States policy for a pre-emptive nuclear strike, a threat to global peace and security to begin with. As I highlighted, our current nuclear test is the primary countermeasure taken by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in which it exercised its maximum self-restraint. Our second and third stronger steps will be in succession.

Mr. Kwon Haeryong (Republic of Korea): The North Korean delegation mentioned United Nations Security Council resolutions. Articles 25 and 48 of the United Nations Charter clearly state that the action required to carry out the decisions of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security shall be taken by all the Members of the United Nations. As to its resolutions, United Nations Security Council

resolutions on North Korea were adopted under Chapter VII, so North Korea should carry out its obligations. And once again my delegation urges North Korea to focus on improving the basic living conditions of its malnourished people instead of conducting nuclear tests and a missile launch and threatening the destruction of a United Nations Member country.

The President: May I seek the indulgence of all members of the Conference to offer a brief personal observation? I do believe that our endeavour in debating discussions here should be to maintain a high level of courtesy in our dialogue, in keeping with the solemn nature and practice of deliberations in this forum.

Mr. Wilson (Australia): Madam President, I congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency and wish you well for your presidency. You will have Australia's support. May I also thank you for the words you have just added on the importance of maintaining a high level of courtesy in this place? We can only agree with that. I have a slightly unusual task here in that I am passing on a message from the New York-based secretariat with the indulgence of the Geneva-based secretariat. I just wanted to pass on some information which should be contained in a note or a communication which will be circulated in New York, and it relates to the Arms Trade Treaty.

During his ongoing consultations as President-designate of the Final United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, Ambassador Woolcott has received a number of comments about the official translations of the draft Arms Trade Treaty contained in document A/CONF.217/CRP.1, which is otherwise known as the "26 July text". As a result of these comments, the secretariat in New York plans to arrange for a technical reissue of the relevant translated versions of the 26 July text ahead of the Final Conference and it has asked me to pass on that it would be grateful for any comments on the official translations of the 26 July text by Thursday 28 February. Now I know these are not comments on the substance of the 26 July text but rather how the 26 July text has been translated into the official languages, and the New York-based contact in the secretariat for submission of comments and suggested technical amendments to the official translations is Mr. Stanislaus Fernandez, and we can provide contact details.

The President: I thank the representative of Australia for his announcement. The secretariat now wishes to make an announcement. Mr. Secretary, you have the floor.

Mr. Fung (Secretary of the Conference): Delegations have before them document CD/2013/MISC.1. This is the provisional list of participants, and we would like to remind all delegations to kindly verify that the information contained in this document is accurate so that we can finalize and issue it.

Another announcement relates to next week. The secretariat is right now finalizing the list of speakers for the high-level segment. If there are any delegations that have not yet confirmed — because we have received a number of requests which have not been confirmed by a note verbale — we would like to remind delegations to confirm these requests for the list of speakers for next week.

The President: That concludes our business for today. The next plenary meeting of the Conference will take place on Monday, 25 February, at 10 a.m. in this chamber.

The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.