

Conference on Disarmament

27 February 2013

English

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


Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Wednesday, 27 February 2013, at 12.05 p.m.

President: Ms. Sujata Mehta (India)

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The President: I declare open the 1280th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our distinguished guest Mr. Eamon Gilmore, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland.

I have the pleasure and the honour to invite Mr. Gilmore to address the Conference.

Mr. Gilmore (Ireland): Madam President, it is a pleasure to address the Conference on Disarmament today.

Over several decades, this Conference has played a central role in promoting the rule of law in disarmament. Among its notable achievements we can count the Biological Weapons Convention, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. These instruments represent significant contributions to international disarmament and non-proliferation. They demonstrate what this Conference is capable of achieving when there is a collective will among its membership to work together for the common good.

Despite these achievements, it has regrettably been clear for some time that the Conference on Disarmament is no longer functioning. Since its last major achievement — the conclusion of negotiations on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in 1996 — the Conference has become a byword for stalemate and failure. We must reverse this trend, and soon.

A growing impatience is evidence that this Conference, which was designed to be the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating body, has for over 15 years been unable to perform its role, despite the many pressing arms control challenges facing us today.

Last November, the United Nations General Assembly expressed very clearly its dissatisfaction with this state of affairs. By overwhelming majority votes, it established two new mechanisms here in Geneva to facilitate discussions on topics which the Conference on Disarmament has been unable to take forward.

The sixty-seventh General Assembly also decided that a high-level meeting on nuclear disarmament should be convened in New York later this year. This meeting will offer the entire United Nations membership the chance to reflect on what has been achieved and what has not.

Ireland supported all three resolutions. I believe they will contribute to global disarmament efforts at a time when these are falling behind and clearly in need of support. We look forward to engaging fully on all three initiatives.

I believe the General Assembly's message is clear: If this Conference continues to ignore its responsibility to address the disarmament agenda before it, ways will be found to address this agenda by other means, if necessary. It is my hope, as my country will hold one of the six Conference presidencies this year, that when we gather in New York later this year we will be able to show that work has been able to begin here in the Conference.

We know that progress is possible on difficult issues when we summon the necessary will. The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Convention) and the Cluster Munitions Convention are examples of how complex issues can be tackled with goodwill and support from civil society. Next month, I hope we can add a robust and comprehensive arms trade treaty to the list of arms control success stories. The negotiation of these instruments in other forums demonstrates that this Conference does not have a monopoly on negotiations in this area.

Ireland views the initiatives by the sixty-seventh General Assembly as an opportunity to inject new life into the Conference. The Conference on Disarmament must be placed back at the heart of global disarmament negotiations.

Some have expressed reservations, including in this chamber, about the creation of an open-ended working group. I hope these reservations can be set aside, and I urge all to engage constructively with these new initiatives.

Let us approach them as opportunities and not threats. Let us look closely at how we do business. Let us look at the composition of this Conference — which reflects only a third of the United Nations membership — as well as at its engagement with civil society. Above all, let us renew our efforts to get this Conference back to work.

It is now 55 years since the first of the Irish resolutions at the General Assembly, and 45 years since the conclusion of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) that these resolutions gave rise to.

Under the NPT bargain, the nuclear-weapon States agreed to disarm, and the non-nuclear-weapon States agreed to forgo the acquisition of these weapons.

While those who framed the NPT did not establish a deadline by which complete disarmament must be achieved, I think that we must assume that they expected, at the very least, significant progress towards this key objective of the NPT within its intended 25-year lifespan. This did not happen. The NPT was extended indefinitely shortly before it was to expire in 1995. And yet, 18 years on from its extension, there are an estimated 19,000 nuclear weapons in the world. This is simply unacceptable.

The NPT has undoubtedly been successful in preventing horizontal nuclear weapons proliferation, but it has not stopped vertical weapons proliferation.

The United Nations Secretary-General noted in his Monterey address last month: “Deferring nuclear disarmament indefinitely pending the satisfaction of an endlessly growing list of preconditions can lead only to a world full of nuclear weapons.”

If progress is not achieved on disarmament, unsustainable pressure will be brought to bear on the NPT’s non-proliferation imperatives, and the Treaty’s bargain will unravel. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was undoubtedly right when he warned that delay comes at a high price.

The NPT offers us a blueprint for a world free of nuclear weapons. It is vital that the entire NPT membership continue to work on delivering the Treaty’s non-proliferation agenda. It is equally important that the nuclear-weapon States acknowledge that only they can deliver on its disarmament agenda. We look to them to show us they are serious about doing so.

A few weeks from now, we will gather here in Geneva for the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference. I hope we will be able to continue the work that was achieved at last year’s meeting in Vienna. There is much for us to do to ensure we have a successful Review Conference in two years’ time. The time to start working towards that goal is now.

Ireland remains strongly supportive of efforts to achieve a zone free of nuclear weapons, as well as of other weapons of mass destruction, in the Middle East. I regret it was not possible to convene a conference in Helsinki last year, as intended, to work towards achieving this important goal. It is my hope that the Helsinki Conference will be able to begin its work as soon as possible this year, and I call on all concerned to create the conditions necessary for this to happen. This was never going to be easy, but that does not mean we should not try. I am always reluctant to draw parallels between complicated negotiating processes, but if one lesson can be taken from the recent history of my own

country, it is that with courage, political will and a commitment to succeed, accommodations can, and will, be found on even the most difficult of issues.

I welcome the ongoing work by the conference facilitator, Ambassador Laajava of Finland, and I urge all States of the region to engage in good faith. I also encourage the United Kingdom, the United States and the Russian Federation, together with the United Nations Secretary-General, to continue their support and engagement with a view to convening this conference as soon as possible this year.

I welcome Norway's initiative to host a conference in Oslo next week on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. This meeting offers a chance to remind ourselves of the calamitous, unmanageable and immoral implications of any use, whether accidental or deliberate, of nuclear weapons. In my mind, it is clear that we would be powerless to respond in any meaningful way to the uniquely destructive power which a nuclear detonation would unleash. We would simply be overwhelmed. The longer-term effects — to health, to the environment, agriculture, commerce — to human life as we know it — are unimaginable.

I believe that the message that will come out of the Oslo meeting will be simple: attempts to respond would be futile; we must instead prevent.

That is why we must redouble our efforts here, in this Conference, to achieve the disarmament that is the only way of ensuring this can never happen.

It has been the consistent position of successive Irish Governments that nuclear weapons can never and will never guarantee the security of any nation. Possession of these weapons entails unacceptable risks, and there is no place for them in any defensive arsenal or security posture. Their very existence threatens international security.

The decision of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to test a nuclear explosive device earlier this month rightly drew condemnation from the international community. This decision is a challenge to us all. The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea must realize that, in defying United Nations Security Council resolutions, by ignoring commitments it made under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and in refusing to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency it only isolates itself further from the international community.

I call upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to cease, immediately and without preconditions, nuclear testing and ballistic missile activities, and to re-engage with the Six-Party Talks on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea must — as we all must — comply fully with Treaty and other international obligations.

In the area of conventional weapons, significant progress has been made in recent decades. Ireland is proud to have played its part in the Ottawa Process, as well as the Oslo Process that led to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. In each case, the contribution by civil society has been indispensable and inspirational.

Ireland is a strong supporter of a robust arms trade treaty, with universal application and the widest possible scope, to regulate the global trade in conventional arms. We need a treaty that will set the highest possible international standards while taking full account of human rights obligations and international humanitarian law. It is my strong hope that next month's negotiations will culminate in the adoption of this critically important new treaty.

We face many disarmament and non-proliferation challenges today.

We need a treaty on fissile materials for nuclear and other explosive devices, which could serve both non-proliferation and disarmament goals. We need the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty to enter into force. We need more progress in implementing

disarmament obligations under the NPT. We are confronted by a number of regional proliferation challenges. Further work is required to achieve universal adherence to the main treaty arrangements – the NPT, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention.

If the list is daunting, let us remember that success is possible.

In the 15 short years since it entered into force, the Chemical Weapons Convention — which was negotiated in this room — has come close to eliminating an entire weapons category from global arsenals. In a few weeks' time, States parties to the Convention will meet at The Hague for the Third Review Conference. They will find a functioning and, for the most part, successful treaty which has contributed to international security. It is already considering the transition from a largely disarmament-focused organization to one which can focus on ensuring that these weapons can never re-enter global arsenals.

This is a success story of the Conference on Disarmament. It is time for us to show again that progress can be achieved in this room.

Madam President, the Conference on Disarmament must get back to doing what it was set up to do. It must resume its role at the centre of global disarmament negotiations. The problems which beset the Conference are not linked to any one issue. We are all the Conference on Disarmament, and it is for us all to work together to get the Conference back to work. Let us start that work today.

The President: I thank Mr. Gilmore for his statement and for his kind words.

Allow me now to suspend this plenary meeting for a moment while I escort our distinguished visitor from the chamber.

The meeting is suspended.

The meeting was briefly suspended.

The President: The plenary meeting is now resumed.

I would like to welcome our distinguished guest Mr. Nidal Alkatamine, Minister of Labour of Jordan, to address the Conference.

Mr. Alkatamine (Jordan) (*spoke in Arabic*): In the name of God the Compassionate, the Merciful. I would like to begin by congratulating you, Madam President, on your assumption of the presidency of the Conference and expressing our confidence in your wisdom and ability to guide and direct its work towards the noble goals to which we all aspire in the interests of our countries and our peoples.

In past decades the Conference on Disarmament has played a successful and important role in multilateral disarmament negotiations. Now, unfortunately, the failure to achieve even a minimum consensus on the programme of work has lasted a number of years despite the good intentions which, alas, are sometimes not enough to achieve true global partnership on that most pressing of international issues: disarmament. Yet, despite this apparently bleak perspective, my delegation still believes that it is possible for the obstacles impeding this forum's work to be overcome through further and serious dialogue, a dialogue which takes account of the interests of all parties and reconciles differing viewpoints in a way that increases the confidence of the international community, and especially of non-member States, in the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral negotiating forum in which to reach agreement on an international disarmament treaty.

The fact that the Conference managed to conclude important treaties in the past, under circumstances in which international tensions were perhaps more complex and polarized than they are today, gives us hope that we may yet achieve the détente needed to increase international peace and security. My Government is still looking forward, in

particular, to another form of détente, namely expansion of the membership of the Conference in order to make it truly representative of the desires and interests of all parties, like all the other main international forums. It is no longer acceptable for this Conference, which is addressing one of the most important international issues, an issue which concerns us all, to remain a private club with its doors closed to most countries of the world, many of which have expressed and continue to express their desire to improve the lot of their peoples and of humanity as a whole. In this context, my delegation renews its call for the appointment of a special coordinator on this issue, relying on your personal support, Madam President, and hoping that the member States will accept this request which thus far has not been given sufficient attention.

Even though my country is not a member of the Conference, it will continue to promote the principle of security for all — yes, security for all — by acceding to existing disarmament treaties and contributing effectively to any disarmament efforts, especially as regards nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, a region witnessing long-standing conflicts and challenges which represent a serious danger not only for the future of the region but also for the future of peace and security throughout the entire world.

From this platform, the delegation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan expresses its regret at the postponement of the conference on the establishment of the Middle East as a zone free of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems which runs counter to the resolution of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. We emphasize the need to hold that conference as soon as possible, with the participation of all the States of the region, since its postponement shakes confidence in the non-proliferation regime which had, with some difficulty, been strengthened at the 2010 NPT Review Conference. In keeping with the principle of security for all, we also invite those parties which refuse or hesitate to participate in the conference to reconsider their position, to ponder on the successes achieved in attempt to establish nuclear-weapon-free zones, and to consider how those zones have helped to obviate nuclear perils and strengthen the non-proliferation system. At the same time, this would prevent an arms race in the region which could threaten the stability of its States, aggravate its current conflicts and make them more likely to explode.

It is perhaps appropriate in this context to emphasize that finding a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through the establishment of an independent, sovereign and geographically contiguous Palestinian State on Palestinian soil with Jerusalem as its capital is a basic premise for the application of the principle of security for all within the framework of a regional and international security regime in which there is no need for weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems.

I wish you all every success in your work, hoping that you will find ways to reach a consensus in keeping with the goals for which the Conference was established and that you will consider full membership for my country, and for all other States desirous of such membership, in the shortest time possible. Thank you, and may the peace and blessings of God be upon you.

The President: I thank Mr. Alkatamine for his statement and for his kind words. I will now suspend the meeting briefly in order to escort our distinguished visitor from the chamber.

The meeting was briefly suspended.

The President: The plenary meeting is now resumed.

I would like to invite Ambassador Matjaž Kovačič of Slovenia, in his capacity as President of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties to the Ottawa Convention, to take the floor.

Mr. Kovačič (Slovenia): It is an honour to address the Conference on Disarmament in my capacity as the President of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Convention).

May I start by congratulating you, Madam Ambassador, on your assumption of the presidency of the Conference and wishing you all success in your efforts in steering this body?

On Friday, 1 March, the international community will celebrate the fourteenth anniversary of the entry into force of this landmark humanitarian, disarmament and development instrument.

Fourteen years is a significant amount of time, and therefore it is timely to step back and take stock of what has been achieved during this period.

As I noted at the closing of last December's Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties, the anti-landmines movement continues to march closer to its goal. With the accession to the Convention of Poland and Somalia last year, there are now 161 States that have made a solemn commitment to end the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines. The accession to the Convention of these two States means that all member States of the European Union and all States in sub-Saharan Africa have forsworn the use of an inhumane and indiscriminate weapon that should have no place in modern defence and national security doctrine.

At the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties, I was pleased to hear that the United States' landmine policy review is ongoing and that the United States expects to be able to announce a decision soon. I would appeal to the United States to conclude its landmine policy review in such a way that it too will soon be a part of this movement.

Of course, ending the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines means more than only achieving universal acceptance of the Convention.

There are still demanding long-term challenges ahead of us. We must clear all mined areas, destroy all stocks and provide for victim assistance.

Again, in 14 years since entry into force, significant progress has been made. At the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties, six States parties declared that they had completed clearance of all mine areas under their jurisdiction or control: the Congo, Denmark, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Jordan and Uganda. There are now 23 States parties that have complied with this obligation. In addition, Hungary confirmed that it will complete its mine clearance activities in 2013, and Mozambique and Venezuela reported that they aim to complete mine clearance by the time of their deadlines in 2014.

With respect to the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines, it is perhaps important to highlight in this forum that, in the time that the Conference on Disarmament has remained in a stalemate and is still looking how to start disarmament and non-proliferation negotiations, real disarmament has proceeded elsewhere.

We can be proud of the fact that since the entry into force of the Ottawa Convention, together the States parties have destroyed more than 45.5 million stockpiled landmines.

At the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties we were pleased to hear that Ukraine would launch a project to destroy 3 million stockpiled mines early this year, and Greece indicated that it would reinitiate its destruction process as soon as possible.

With respect to victim assistance, at the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties, the link between the Ottawa Convention's commitment to assist landmine survivors and the relevant human rights framework was strengthened through the participation of Ms. Navi Pillay, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Moreover, as one of the leaders in this movement, Norway, stated, the situation for the majority of mine victims is significantly better today than it was a decade ago.

In the time when the minority of States which participate in this sole global multilateral forum for negotiating disarmament agreements have been talking about disarmament, the majority of the world's States have been actually disarming, reducing human suffering and making a positive difference in the lives of countless women, girls, boys and men.

I would appeal to all members of the Conference on Disarmament that have not yet done so to join the Convention as soon as possible. In addition, I would ask all States — States parties and others — to renew their efforts to implement the Convention.

Our Convention is historic and our progress has been tremendous, but more work needs to be done. Let us continue to march closer to our goal in greater numbers and with a commitment that will be sustained until the job is done.

The President: I thank Ambassador Kovačič for his statement and for his kind words. I now turn to the list of speakers for today. The delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has requested the floor.

Mr. So Se Pyong (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Madam President, let me at the outset take this opportunity once again to express our warm congratulations to you on your assumption of the presidency of the Conference and to assure you of our full support. I sincerely wish you every success in your endeavours.

Today the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea would like to call the attention of the Conference to the intensified hostile policy of the United States of America towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, for your correct understanding.

The recent nuclear test carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was a resolute step for self-defence to cope with the United States' hostile acts of wanton violation of the legitimate right of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to launch satellites for peaceful purposes.

By nature, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had neither a plan to conduct a nuclear test nor a need to do so.

The United States, however, deterred the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from focusing its efforts on developing the economy and improving the people's living standard under peaceful and stable circumstances.

Such ill intention of the United States was concentrically manifested when the Democratic People's Republic of Korea launched satellite Kwangmyongsong 3, second version, in December last year.

The satellite launch was the exercise of the right of a sovereign State under international law.

But the United States continued to abuse the authority of the United Nations Security Council while pulling up the Democratic People's Republic of Korea only over its satellite launch.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea was compelled to make an important decision in the grim situation where the United States' hostile policy towards the

Democratic People's Republic of Korea entered a grave phase and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was barred from staging in peace a drive for developing the economy and improving the people's standard of living.

This was the very reason why we conducted the nuclear test.

The United States is to blame for the situation on the Korean peninsula, which is inching close to an unpredictable phase now.

It is an illogical nonsense and trick on the international community to assert that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea poses a threat to international peace and security because it used "ballistic missile" technology, as the United States alleges now.

Among United Nations Member States the United States has launched the most satellites, including military satellites. It is also the United States which has launched the most nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missiles in the world. It is in accordance with the United States' logic to assert that the United States is the biggest threat to world peace and security and it should be the first coming into question.

The United States, which has carried out the most nuclear tests and satellite launches in the world, insists on prohibiting the Democratic People's Republic of Korea only from conducting nuclear tests and launching satellites. It is a violation of international law and the height of double standards.

The United States should no longer be allowed to seriously infringe upon the independent right of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to use space for peaceful purposes, nor should it be allowed to abuse the United Nations Security Council as a tool for executing its hostile policy towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The United States, though belatedly, should choose between two options: the option to respect the right of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to launch satellites and open a phase of détente and stability, or to keep to its wrong road leading to an explosive situation by persistently pursuing its hostile policy towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

I would like to make clear once again that the third nuclear test was carried out as part of the practical countermeasures for defending the country's sovereignty and security to cope with ruthless hostile behaviours of the United States, which wantonly infringed upon the legitimate right of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to launch satellites for peaceful purposes.

I am convinced that the Conference will pay due attention to the hard fact that the essence of the situation created on the Korean peninsula is a serious issue of whether the sovereignty of a United Nations Member State is respected or violated.

The President: I thank Ambassador So Se Pyong for his remarks. The Ambassador of the United States of America has asked for the floor.

Ms. Kennedy (United States of America): I wanted to, although they have left the floor, extend our personal appreciation to the representatives of Ireland, Jordan and Slovenia for sharing their views with us today. A lot of good solid thinking there, on which we will certainly reflect and report back to our capitals. I note the Ambassador, who is President, of course, of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties to the Ottawa Convention, took the time to share with us the work being done there. He did, of course, correctly note that my Government is conducting a review on this Convention. I wanted to take the opportunity today to talk briefly about the importance my Government attaches to clearance of landmines and explosive remnants of war. This is something where we put our money where our mouth is, and I can say that we have given more than \$2 billion to efforts

devoted to this, in programmes in some 90 countries around the world. So again, thanks to him for sharing the work that is being done by him personally as the President.

Several of the speakers also, of course, spoke about the establishment of a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction. I would again like to take the opportunity to express the deepest admiration for the work being done by our Finnish colleague, Ambassador Laajava, who has made countless trips to the Middle East, representing a country which is a co-convenor. I can only say that our Government is working with similar zeal with the other convenors, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and Mr. Laajava on this issue. So again, I just wanted to say that my Government, in conjunction with others, is working hard on that topic. I would simply end by saying I have addressed this Conference twice on the issue of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including reading the statement of my President, so I trust the record speaks for itself.

The President: I thank the Ambassador of the United States of America for her statement. The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea has asked for the floor.

Mr. Kwon Haeryong (Republic of Korea): Over the last three days we have heard many statements by ministers condemning North Korea's continuous nuclear tests.

As we are all aware, North Korea's nuclear test is a challenge to peace and security on the Korean peninsula, in North-East Asia and beyond. There should be no mistake that the biggest of victims will be none other than North Korea itself.

North Korea's delegate said that they want to focus on economic development. In a sense, I hope that North Korea will become a responsible member of the international community instead of wasting its resources on nuclear and missile developments and continuing to turn its back to the world in self-imposed isolation.

The President: I thank the representative of the Republic of Korea for his statement. The Ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has asked for the floor.

Mr. So Se Pyong (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): For South Korea, I have to say that it should be very careful about such a reckless reaction, bearing in mind there is a move against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including by the United States, a serious provocative move to drive the situation on the Korean peninsula into a touch-and-go situation. So, taking this opportunity, I would like to give you objective advice that it would be much better for South Korea to keep quiet, paying more attention to its own internal affairs and demonstrating at least a little or great patience instead of making trouble going around and opening Pandora's boxes here and there, and so at last I tell you that, depending on the outsiders, you will never see the peaceful and independent reunification of Korea for yourself.

The President: I thank the Ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for his remarks. I now give the floor to the representative of the Republic of Korea.

Mr. Kwon Haeryong (Republic of Korea): I apologize for taking the floor again, and I shall be brief. Once again my delegation urges North Korea to abandon its nuclear ambitions without delay and embark on the path to peace. I hope that North Korea will abide by international norms and make the right choice.

The President: Is there any other delegation that wishes to take the floor at this stage? That does not seem to be the case.

As all delegations are aware, wide consultations have been under way on the future course of action or steps that may be taken for the Conference on Disarmament to be able to undertake regular work. Various delegations have provided comments and suggestions in this context, and more consultations are still being undertaken.

Even while such discussions are proceeding, as a way to enable members of the Conference on Disarmament and other interested delegations to have an opportunity to share their views on this most vital issue, the next meeting of the Conference will be devoted to the issue of nuclear disarmament. Of course this does not limit in any way the right of all delegations to address other topics as they wish, as set out in the rules of procedure of the Conference.

It is my hope that there will be interest among delegations to elaborate their views on this subject.

This concludes our business for today. The next plenary meeting of the Conference will be held on Tuesday, 5 March, at 10 a.m.

This meeting stands adjourned.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.