

Geneva, 7-17 November 2006

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 8th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Thursday, 16 November 2006, at 4.55 p.m.

President: Mr. RIVASSEAU (France)

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The meeting was called to order at 4.55 p.m.

REPORTS OF THE MAIN COMMITTEES (agenda item 16) (CCW/CONF.III/9 and 10)

1. Mr. BORISOVAS (Lithuania) introduced the report of Main Committee I, issued under the symbol CCW/CONF.III/9, and pointed out that the Conference had yet to settle certain issues relating to the draft decision on compliance (CCW/CONF.III/8).
2. The PRESIDENT said he understood that the Conference wished to take note of the report of Main Committee I.
3. It was so decided.
4. Mr. da ROCHA PARANHOS (Brazil) introduced the report of Main Committee II, issued under the symbol CCW/CONF.III/10, and said that delegations would continue their informal consultations on future work on mines other than anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions.
5. The PRESIDENT said he understood that the Conference wished to take note of the report of Main Committee II.
6. It was so decided.
7. Ms. QUANQUIN (France) read out a message to the Conference from the French Minister for Foreign Affairs. In his message, the Minister welcomed the entry into force of the Protocol on explosive remnants of war, which France had just ratified. He noted in particular the importance of the fact that it imposed an obligation to clear combat zones following conflicts, bearing in mind the impacts on the civilian population and the human, material and financial costs arising from the presence of explosive remnants of war in such zones. In that context, the Minister urged all States which had not yet done so to ratify the Protocol and put it into effect as soon as possible.

PROGRESS OF WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

8. The PRESIDENT invited those assisting the Chair to continue their consultations on the issues which the main committees had not succeeded in resolving. The Bureau of the Conference would work towards solutions which, while consensual, were as ambitious as possible, as regards the issues of compliance, explosive remnants of war, mines other than anti-personnel mines and future work. As for the organization of such work, it now seemed that the Conference was ready to assign the Chair of a meeting of the States parties to a member of the Group of Non-Aligned Countries and Other States, while the work on explosive remnants of war would be assigned to a member of the Eastern European Group and the work on other issues, in particular the first meeting of the States parties to Protocol V, to a member of the Western Group.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.