

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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ENGLISH

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

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 24 February 2009, at 10.10 a.m.

President: Mr. Chitsaka CHIPAZIWA (Zimbabwe)

The PRESIDENT: I declare open the 1126th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament. I have one speaker inscribed to address us today. I give the floor to the Ambassador of the Russian Federation.

Mr. LOSHCININ (Russian Federation) (spoke in Russian): Mr. President, I should like to welcome you to your responsible and important post as President of the Conference on Disarmament and to wish you and the entire Zimbabwean delegation very effective and successful work in carrying out your task.

In this joint effort you can count on the cooperation and support of the delegation of the Russian Federation. We would also like to extend our thanks to the delegation of Viet Nam, which previously performed the function of President of the Conference on Disarmament and did so in a most organized and productive manner.

Mr. President, your predecessors as Presidents of the Conference, acting on behalf of the P-6 and jointly with the Secretary-General of our forum, sent a letter to the capitals of the States members of the Conference inviting representatives of the leaders of these States to address the Conference as part of the high-level segment. This proposal was studied most attentively in Moscow. The Russian delegation attaches great importance to the activities of the Conference on Disarmament, which is the only negotiating forum in this sphere in the world.

In this connection, our Minister for Foreign Affairs is planning to be in Geneva on the afternoon of 6 March, and he would like to address the Conference on Disarmament. In his statement, he intends to touch on relevant international security problems, arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation and to share with the members of the Conference the Russian vision of ways of resolving these issues.

Unfortunately, the Minister's schedule will allow him to address the Conference only on the morning of 7 March. Now the point is that, shortly after noon, he needs to return to Moscow. We do understand of course that this is a Saturday and that organizing such a meeting could be problematic for delegations and for the Conference secretariat. At the same time, I should like to stress that this is indeed the only possibility for Minister Lavrov to be with us, on the morning of 7 March, and we do count on your understanding and support in this matter.

Mr. President, in the light of the foregoing, I would request you, our colleagues and the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament to organize and hold a plenary meeting on 7 March, which could start at 10.30 a.m., and, of course, to ensure that member States and observers at the Conference on Disarmament are notified officially of this address in an appropriate and timely manner.

Once again, I should like to ask you to support this request.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the Ambassador of the Russian Federation for the kind words addressed to the Chair and thank him for his statement.

(The President)

Does any delegation wish to take the floor on this statement? That does not seem to be the case.

May I ask delegations to consider the request by the Russian Federation for us to hold a meeting, as requested, on 7 March at 10.30 a.m. Does any delegation have any contrary view, or may I take it that we shall listen to the distinguished Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, as requested? I take that is our decision. I thank all delegations very much.

It was so decided.

I now give the floor to the Secretary-General of the Conference.

Mr. ORDZHONIKIDZE (Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations): Mr. President, the secretariat will of course inform every delegation of the timing and the venue of the event. I believe that to be this room. As decided, it will be at 10.30 a.m. There will be no financial consequences for the United Nations, since our Conference does not use all the time that is allocated to it for its meetings. That was the case last year and the year before. That is the case this year. So we do not see any financial difficulties in that sense. It is within the budget allocated to the Conference.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you very much for your statement, Mr. Secretary-General.

Does any delegation wish to take the floor at this stage? That does not seem to be the case.

This concludes our business for today. This plenary will be followed in five minutes by the informal debate on agenda items 1 and 2 under the guidance of Ambassador Manfredi. The next formal plenary meeting will be on Thursday, 26 February, at 10 a.m. in this Chamber.

The meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.