
Conference on Disarmament

17 August 2009

English

Final record of the one thousand one hundred and fifty-second plenary meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 17 August 2009, at 10.25 a.m.

President: Ms. Caroline Millar.....(Australia)

The President: I declare open the 1152nd plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

Before turning to our business for today, I would just like to bid farewell to our distinguished colleague, Ambassador Pinter of Slovakia. I understand Ambassador Pinter in fact left on Friday. Is that right? So perhaps I might ask his colleague to pass on the words I am just about to say now to him, if you would be so good.

Ambassador Pinter was, as you all know, extraordinarily professional and had tremendous interpersonal skills which he deployed to great effect in the work of this Conference, including several years ago as President, and also made a terrific contribution to other bodies during his time in Geneva. He will be greatly missed here. I personally will miss him, and on behalf of the Conference I wish him well in his future responsibilities, and please do pass those words on.

Since CD/1864 was adopted on 29 May, successive Conference Presidents have consulted extensively — I would go so far as to say “exhaustively” — with a very wide range of delegations to achieve a decision on its implementation, so that the Conference on Disarmament can get back to work.

In recent weeks we have issued a draft decision, CD/1870, and then a revised version of that decision, CD/1870/Rev.1, which took into account all the issues raised with us by all delegations. I do not pretend that the words were exact from words given to us, but all the issues were addressed. However, as you know, subsequently some additional concerns were raised, and we have worked very closely to try to address those concerns, consistent with the interest of ensuring that we kept all delegations’ interests also in mind.

Many of you will have seen some informal proposals that were circulated late last week, but as of this morning, it seems that consensus is not possible at this stage on a decision to implement CD/1864. Should that decision change, we will of course advise delegations and reconvene. Otherwise, it would be my intention to call a last plenary for the Australian presidency this Thursday, 20 August, at 10 a.m., and delegations may wish to give some statements at that time.

Does any delegation wish to take the floor at this point? I see China.

Mr. Wang Qun (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): The Chinese delegation commends you, Madam President and Ambassador of Australia, for your efforts, especially for conducting the open and transparent consultations aimed at promoting the early agreement by all parties on the programme of work. China hopes that all parties will continue their endeavours in order to reach a common understanding on the programme of work. My delegation will continue to play a constructive role in this process, and we hope that the Conference on Disarmament can soon launch its substantive work.

The President: I thank the Ambassador of China for his statement, and I recognize the distinguished representative of Iran.

Mr. Hosseini (Islamic Republic of Iran): Madam President, I appreciate your efforts, your consultations and your diligence in order to provide the Conference on Disarmament with a decision on the implementation of CD/1864 for its 2009 session. The efforts of your predecessors in the presidency of the Conference are also commendable.

The Conference on Disarmament has achieved greatly this year to agree on a programme of work after more than a decade-long stalemate. It is important to build upon this achievement and provide the ground for the Conference on Disarmament to start its substantive work.

My delegation has always insisted on equilibrium and balance and the need to take decisions by consensus in the Conference on Disarmament. The rules of procedure of the

Conference are the guiding instrument that should be fully observed. We have already recalled the need to move smoothly and make safe and sound decisions acceptable to all members. Due to the nature of the Conference on Disarmament, we need to have all members on board.

Madam President, my delegation supports you in your efforts to bring the Conference to a consensus on the implementation of CD/1864 for the 2009 session. We request you to continue your consultations in order to have all members on board and take the decisions by consensus.

The President: I thank the representative of Iran for his statement. Are there any other delegations that would like to take the floor? I see none.

This then concludes our business for today. The next plenary meeting of the Conference is scheduled for this Thursday, 20 August at 10 a.m. in this chamber.

The meeting rose at 10.32 a.m.