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# Conference on Disarmament

26 August 2014

English

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## Final record of the one thousand three hundred and twenty-sixth plenary meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Tuesday, 26 August 2014, at 10.05 a.m.

*President:* Mr. Mazlan Muhammad.....(Malaysia)

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**The President:** I call to order the 1326th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

Before proceeding, I would like to bid farewell to Mr. Muhammad Abdul Hannan of Bangladesh and Mr. Walid Mahmoud Abdelnasser of Egypt, who will soon be relinquishing their posts as Ambassadors to the Conference on Disarmament. On behalf of the Conference, and on behalf of my own Government, I wish them success in their future assignments.

I would also like to welcome the participants in the 2014 Disarmament Fellowship Programme who are observing our meeting today. I have an interesting story about the Fellowship Programme. I was nominated to participate in 1988: I was the first Malaysian to be nominated. I was supposed to start the disarmament section in my ministry, but at the last minute I was pulled away for another job and, instead of spending nine weeks in Geneva and New York, I spent six weeks travelling around the Pacific. So, Fellowship participants, please pay attention to what is going on today in this chamber. You may one day be sitting in this chair, chairing this meeting; hopefully by that time, things will be different.

As indicated in the plenary session last week, the secretariat circulated the draft text of the Conference's annual report to all delegations on Thursday. I would like to request that any comments on the draft be submitted in writing to the secretariat by Thursday, 28 August, at 3 p.m. The report will be available in all languages and distributed in your pigeonholes on 29 August 2014.

While delegations are free to raise any issue for the attention of the Conference, it is not my intention to negotiate the draft Conference report today. As I mentioned at the previous plenary, I plan to devote next week to the drafting of the report. I hope that delegations can understand that I still have to meet and consult with the regional groups and a number of delegations. As I mentioned earlier, we are also waiting for your comments in writing. This will enable me to have a better understanding of the concerns or views that delegations may have.

On the formulation of the draft report, this is our effort at what we feel to be a balanced and factual report that reflects the work of the Conference, in line with rule 45 of the rules of procedure. As mentioned before, we were guided by the views of member States as well as past reports in preparing this draft. We are of the view that this draft report is balanced and objective in nature, without trying to be prescriptive or judgemental in its content.

I take note that 2014 has been an interesting year for the Conference on Disarmament. Despite the lack of consensus on a programme of work, the Conference was still able to agree on the establishment of an informal working group mandated to produce a programme of work as well as a schedule of activities for informal discussions on all items on the agenda.

In reflecting these two important activities of the Conference, we took note that these initiatives have been conducted in the past in the Conference. The formulation of the report on these two activities has been closely guided by past agreed language of the Conference, which I hope will be acceptable to all. We also highlighted the proposal made by the Acting Secretary-General of the Conference this year, which many of you welcomed. In reflecting this, we tried to be as factual as possible, in line with the requirement of rule 45.

I hope that all delegations will have an opportunity to go through the report. While I understand that certain delegations may have a preference for the inclusion of additional elements in the draft, I hope that member States would provide a degree of flexibility in our effort to produce a consensus document. While the report may not live

up to everyone's expectations, I am of the view that the draft has the elements which would allow everyone to accept it. In shaping the report, we listened to a wide range of views and opinions. Beauty, as they say, lies in the eye of the beholder. While I am sure that not everyone will find this report beautiful, I sincerely hope that no one will find it ugly.

As indicated last week, it is my intention to hear your initial reaction and comments on the draft during the plenary session today. I will now turn to the list of speakers. The first speaker on the list is Ambassador Hannan of Bangladesh.

**Mr. Hannan** (Bangladesh): Since I am speaking for the first time after your assumption of the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament, let me congratulate you, Ambassador Muhammad, and assure you of the full support of my delegation. I strongly believe your stewardship will navigate us towards substantive work in this important multilateral forum.

This morning, I reflect back on my tenure as the first President of the 2010 session of the Conference. The task was definitely challenging. Sometimes it was frustrating, as we could not succeed in adopting a programme of work. Together, we tried hard to find a solution, but to no avail.

After five years in Geneva, I am preparing to leave for my next assignment, as High Commissioner of Bangladesh in London. As an optimist, I would like to hope that the Conference will be fully engaged in starting substantive negotiations soon. The international community is looking at us and undoubtedly questioning the relevance of this multilateral forum, as it has failed to agree even on a programme of work for 18 long years.

As a departing Ambassador, I would like to emphasize from my experience that — although we may consider innovative ideas in the Conference to reinvigorate meaningful substantive dialogue — without true political will it is unlikely that anything will move and we cannot imagine meaningful progress in the Conference. Whatever mechanism we evolve, either formal or informal, all members should be kept on board in a true transparent and inclusive process. Since different countries have different security concerns, confidence-building should be accorded high importance before any substantive negotiations are started with.

The position of Bangladesh on nuclear disarmament is very clear. We understand the complex political realities which are hindering developments in the negotiations on nuclear disarmament. Pending that, why can we not start negotiations on negative security assurances? We strongly believe that non-nuclear-weapon States have a legitimate right to negative security assurances. During the high-level meeting on nuclear disarmament in 2013, our Prime Minister said: "Living in close proximity to three nuclear-weapon States, Bangladesh has good reasons to worry about these vicious weapons."

We all agree on and realize the danger of nuclear weapons. Why, then, are some States still maintaining, modernizing and spending so much money on nuclear weapons when we know that no country in the world is capable of facing the devastating catastrophe caused by nuclear detonations? Is this not a suicidal psyche? I leave the question to the nuclear-weapon States. The money spent on maintenance for these vicious weapons could be used to reduce poverty to a large extent, and we could leave a better world for the generations to come.

Finally, allow me to add that I had the great honour to represent Bangladesh in the Conference. I enjoyed the company of an outstanding group of highly professional diplomats. We had differences in our views. Despite that, our deliberations have always been in a congenial environment. I particularly thank all my colleagues — Ambassadors,

delegates and colleagues in the Conference secretariat — for their support and cooperation during our presidency in 2010. Personally, it has been an enriching experience and learning curve for me. I also take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to Mr. Michael Møller, the Acting Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament, for his support during my stay in Geneva.

I will be very happy to know from outside Geneva that the Conference could start substantive negotiations soon. I wish all of you good health and a prosperous future.

**The President:** Thank you, Ambassador, and as I said before, good luck on your future assignment. Next on the list is the Ambassador of Switzerland, Mr. Schmid. You have the floor.

**Mr. Schmid (Switzerland) (*spoke in French*):** Mr. President, as I am taking the floor for the first time under your presidency, allow me to say how pleased I am to see you assume the leadership of our work. The last presidency of the session is certainly not the easiest, and I assure you of the full support of my delegation in the discharge of your duties. These duties have largely to do with the adoption of our annual report, and I am grateful to you for the draft report that you have submitted for our consideration.

Rather than discuss any details of the report at this stage, I would like to touch on some broader issues. The 2014 session of the Conference on Disarmament is coming to a close. As this body was once again unable to fulfil its negotiating function, the year's performance has clearly been unsatisfactory. Overcoming the deadlock that has beset this forum must be an ongoing priority; otherwise, the reputation of the Conference, which has already been damaged, will only suffer further. In this context, I would like to refer to some of the issues that have made a mark during this year's session of the Conference.

The Conference worked mostly in two areas, namely the schedule of activities and the informal working group. Work on the schedule of activities resulted in sustained and substantial discussions of good quality. In some cases, those discussions helped to clarify national positions. It will be important to build on these discussions when we resume our efforts next year.

The informal working group similarly made it possible to delve into a number of issues that it will be important to build on next year. In particular, the discussions revealed prospects for focusing negotiations in the short term on an alternative to the four core issues on the Conference agenda. Although the members of the Conference wish to see progress on the four core issues as a priority, there are indications that this alternative approach has received a degree of support. Our delegation shares the view that the commencement of negotiations on an alternative issue could give the Conference added momentum.

In this regard, we see merit in exploring further the issue put forward by the coordinators: radiological weapons or weapons linked to radioactive sources. However, other alternative issues on which consensus could be possible may arise in the future. Some of the discussions held in the context of the schedule of activities, including on item 5 of the agenda, are potentially instructive in this respect.

This situation highlights the relationship between discussions under the schedule of activities and those of the informal working group, and it shows that the connection between these two types of meeting could be reworked to have the former support the latter.

In the light of the foregoing, we feel that it would be advisable to pursue further efforts in the context of the informal working group and the schedule of activities in 2015. Doing so would also ensure that we would be building on the experience of the current session rather than starting from scratch.

This session of the Conference has also seen some important proposals made by the Acting Secretary-General, Mr. Møller. Our delegation has already had the chance to underscore the value that we see in devoting further consideration to the possibility of negotiating framework conventions. Because of the flexibility of such an approach — insofar as it makes it possible to set a common objective and then move forward in a flexible and gradual way and, in so doing, address the concerns of all delegations — it could in some cases facilitate the beginning of negotiations. We are thinking in particular of the issue of nuclear disarmament, where an approach built around a framework convention could serve as a middle ground between the idea, supported by some, of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons and the possibility, preferred by others, of making progress through building blocks or in stages.

Another important proposal made by the Acting Secretary-General was that the Conference begin negotiations on a politically binding rather than legally binding instrument. Discussions have already shown that there is nothing to prevent the Conference from negotiating such instruments, if it so wishes. It was mentioned that a number of non-legally binding instruments have made a considerable contribution to international security, such as the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the Hague Code of Conduct against the Proliferation of Ballistic Missiles. Several aspects of this proposal would still need to be studied, however, including the issues or cases that could lend themselves to this kind of approach. It would therefore be good to continue discussions on this during the Conference's 2015 session.

Although these two proposals warrant further elaboration, it seems to us more urgent to follow up on the suggestion to undertake a substantive review of the Conference's working methods. Such a review is long overdue, since the Conference last addressed this issue as part of a specific process back in 1994. While it is true that the deadlock in the Conference is due primarily to a lack of political will and that adjusting its working methods cannot in itself cure all the ills affecting the Conference, the fact remains that the Conference should have procedures that help make the search for consensus easier, not more complicated. We therefore support the idea of establishing an organized process, led by a coordinator, to examine the different facets of this issue. This area of work should be a priority from the outset of the 2015 session.

Our main focus, however, needs to be the revitalization of the work of the Conference. Clearly, this is a process that will require intense action over time and on multiple fronts. We have been able to delve more deeply into different approaches this year and identify new options that merit consideration. Moving forward on the basis of these elements should, in our view, be a shared priority.

**The President:** I thank Ambassador Schmid of Switzerland for the kind words addressed to me. I now invite Ambassador Abdelnasser of Egypt to take the floor.

**Mr. Abdelnasser (Egypt):** I am pleased at the outset to express my pleasure at seeing the Permanent Representative of Malaysia, a brotherly country, presiding over the Conference on Disarmament. You are undertaking this responsibility at a time and in a context, Mr. President, which is both delicate and difficult for the Conference and for the whole multilateral disarmament machinery. This calls for all of us to extend to you the support and assistance you require in order to enable the Conference to carry out the mission devolved upon it.

I would also like to thank you for the first draft of the Conference's 2014 report that you circulated recently. After a preliminary study, we are confident that under your able leadership we will complete this task in an effective manner.

As this will be my last plenary, since I will be leaving Geneva in a few days' time, allow me to share some reflections with you and with the distinguished and dear

colleagues here. Egypt, as one of the original members of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament, established in 1961, continues to attach the utmost importance to the Conference on Disarmament. We are very concerned that for the past 18 years the Conference has failed to adopt and operationalize a programme of work to commence its substantive negotiations. We trust that, in order to overcome this stalemate, we ultimately will be able to demonstrate the political will needed to take forward the negotiating mandate of the Conference.

Out of this conviction, I assumed the coordination of the Conference's informal discussions on nuclear disarmament which were held in May 2014. I believe that these discussions assisted a lot in promoting better knowledge and understanding of the different aspects of nuclear disarmament, and they allowed an opportunity for member States to engage in an interactive dialogue and brainstorming exercise on how to address the elements and approaches needed to achieve nuclear disarmament.

I also participated in the informal discussions on the core issues on the Conference's agenda, which proved to be a useful exercise since it provided member States with a renewed opportunity to discuss in depth their views on different matters related to these issues. The atmosphere during the meetings was positive and constructive. The debates were rich, focused and interactive. This was indicative of the extent of work that awaits the Conference once it assumes its substantive work on the issues.

Egypt considers nuclear disarmament a top priority, as clearly underlined through the very first United Nations General Assembly resolution — resolution I (1) of 1946 — and later reiterated through the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. We have also been very supportive of the idea of concluding a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other explosive devices, as long as such a treaty — in the words of the 13 practical steps adopted at the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons — would serve the objectives of both nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation.

We are also interested in promoting and maintaining outer space as a peaceful environment that should serve as a common heritage of humankind. It is essential therefore that we further develop the legal regime governing outer space and prevent an arms race in outer space. We also look forward to the Conference dealing with effective international arrangements for the five nuclear-weapon States to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Such an assurance is a legitimate demand of the non-nuclear-weapon States and is long overdue.

We welcome the re-establishment in 2014 of the informal working group to produce a programme of work, and we still hope that this group will fulfil its mandate and help to bring the Conference back on track to start the negotiations it has been mandated for. In this context, I would like to thank both Ambassador Gallegos of Ecuador and Ambassador Woolcott of Australia for their relentless efforts and skilful leadership. The adoption of a programme of work could not be an objective in itself, but it would be an important step towards the commencement of treaty negotiations.

Our disappointment at the failure to hold the 2012 conference on the establishment of a Middle East free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction is no secret. This delay in convening the postponed conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction raises serious concerns regarding the undertakings we assume in multilateral disarmament forums and the commitment of the parties to fulfil those undertakings.

Finally, permit me to add that, during the time I had the great honour to represent Egypt in this Conference, I enjoyed the company of an outstanding group of highly

professional diplomats. Despite differences in views, our deliberations have always taken place in a friendly, cooperative and constructive atmosphere, contrary to the situation prevailing in other forums where discussions tend to be politicized and where tension prevails.

I take this opportunity to salute the representatives of civil society who follow our deliberations and express their commitment to the cause of disarmament and world peace. I hope the Conference will open up more in the future to non-governmental organizations and can be inspired by their contributions.

Last but not least, I want to express my sincere thanks to Mr. Møller, the Acting Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament, and all the members of the Conference secretariat for the invaluable support given to our work. I would like to extend my thanks also to the translators and interpreters, who provide a bridge permitting us to connect and to engage in dialogue despite our different languages.

Mr. President, dear colleagues, I bid you farewell and wish you good luck in all your future endeavours.

**The President:** Thank you, Ambassador Abdelnasser of Egypt, for the kind words addressed to me, and good luck in your future endeavours.

I now invite Ambassador Heredia of Mexico to take the floor.

**Mr. Heredia Acosta** (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): As I am taking the floor for the first time since you assumed your duties, Mr. President, my delegation wishes to join the Ambassadors who spoke before me in congratulating you and wishing you success in the complex task before you. I assure you of my delegation's full backing in this task in which we will surely maintain a constructive and positive attitude. Allow me also to say that it will be an honour to take over from you in a few months' time.

We are grateful for the draft report that was circulated and we will submit our observations in the coming days. We appreciate the effort that went into what is no easy task. However, we agree with a number of other delegations that, despite the President's reference to beauty being in the eye of the beholder, the results are not satisfactory and we are still at an impasse that is recognized by all.

We would like to take advantage of this opportunity to express our gratitude for the support shown by the Acting Secretary-General and in particular for the proposals he submitted to the Conference, which we feel have potential and should be explored.

As I said, we will have a few observations to make later on. For now, I would just like to raise something that may be a simple formality. One of the observations we will make is that — and with all due respect — the paragraphs about the schedule of activities, which are currently in the chapter on the Conference's substantive work, might be better placed in section 2, which is about the organization of the Conference's work, since — and we say so respectfully — we believe that the substantive part of this Conference should be the negotiations.

**The President:** Thank you, Ambassador Heredia of Mexico. I now invite Ambassador Rodríguez of Cuba to take the floor.

**Ms. Rodríguez** (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): Allow me to express our pleasure at seeing you, Mr. President, a representative of a friendly country such as Malaysia, presiding over the work of the Conference on Disarmament. We wish you success in this important undertaking and assure you of our delegation's support. We also thank you for your presentation of the draft annual report, which we see as a good basis for swift progress towards its consideration and ultimate adoption.

We have requested the floor on this occasion to bring up a subject of great importance to my country and to the international community in general. Outer space is the common heritage of humankind and should be explored and used only for peaceful purposes and for the benefit of and in the interest of all humankind in a spirit of cooperation. With space technology playing an increasingly indispensable role in our daily lives, efforts to ensure that outer space is used only for those purposes are crucial to preserving international peace and security.

Cuba attaches great importance to this issue. On 11 July 2014, on the occasion of an official visit of the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Vladimir Putin, to Havana, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of our two countries signed a joint statement on no first placement of weapons in outer space. The statement reiterates our two countries' commitment to the principle enshrined in article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, including in outer space activities. It emphasizes as well the need for a multilateral treaty that prevents an arms race in outer space and prohibits the deployment of arms in outer space, with countries declaring that they will not be the first to take such steps and will work multilaterally to prevent them.

In view of the importance of this statement, the delegations of Cuba and the Russian Federation have asked the Acting Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament for it to be distributed as an official document to raise awareness among member and observer States of the Conference.

**The President:** Thank you, Ambassador Rodríguez of Cuba. The next speaker on the list is the delegate of Kyrgyzstan.

**Mr. Kabaev** (Kyrgyzstan) (*spoke in Russian*): Mr. President, as this is the first time our delegation is taking the floor under your presidency, allow me to congratulate you on your assumption of this position of responsibility. At our last plenary meeting, on 19 August, the delegation of the Russian Federation observed that the report lacked information on the informal consultations around agenda item 3 of the Conference on Disarmament, which took place from 11 to 13 June, as well as any reference to the discussions that took place on the issue of no first placement of weapons in outer space. In this regard, allow me to state that Kyrgyzstan believes it is necessary to reflect in the Conference's report all the key aspects that were addressed during consultations. We are of the opinion that a comprehensive summary of the consultations will contribute to objective reflection on our past discussions and to the future development of good-faith dialogue at the Conference.

**The President:** I thank the representative of Kyrgyzstan. That was the last speaker on the list. Does any other delegation wish to take the floor at this time? I recognize the representative of Indonesia.

**Ms. Djajaprawira** (Indonesia): Mr. President, allow me to express appreciation to you and your team for the tremendous effort in preparing the draft annual report of the Conference on Disarmament to the United Nations General Assembly, which you have circulated to the member States of the Conference. After an initial reading of the draft report, I am confident that, under your able leadership, we will be able to conclude this task in an effective manner.

At the current 2014 session of the Conference, the dual-track approach was undertaken to resolve the stalemate in the Conference. Both the work of the Co-Chair and the Vice-Co-Chair of the informal working group and the informal meetings based on the schedule of activities aimed to find common ground so as to be able to adopt a programme of work, but as yet to no avail. In addition, the Acting Secretary-General of the Conference, Mr. Møller, on 20 May 2014, put forward valid proposals which unfortunately did not reach consensus for further discussion at the current session.



Success is going from failure to failure without losing enthusiasm. So, if we continue with this spurt of enthusiasm, flexibility and compromise, we still can find ways and means for the Conference to make progress. It is imperative that the Conference resume its original function as the world's single multilateral body for negotiating disarmament treaties. At the same time, we need to place it within the context of a changing world. Therefore, in my view, for the forthcoming 2015 session of the Conference, we should give consideration to re-establishing the informal working group. Moreover, we can revisit and discuss in depth the proposal of the Acting Secretary-General of the Conference. There is merit in establishing a subsidiary body on the working methods of the Conference and holding a Conference on Disarmament/civil society forum. We need to make the process more inclusive through possible expansion of the membership of the Conference.

**The President:** I thank the representative of Indonesia. Does any other delegation wish to take the floor? I recognize the Russian Federation.

**Mr. Deyneko** (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Allow me to begin by wishing the Ambassadors of Bangladesh and Egypt success in their new postings. Secondly, I wish to state my agreement with the Ambassador of Switzerland that reaching a consensus on a programme of work for the Conference on Disarmament should be the priority for all of us.

We acknowledge and respect the right of all delegations to raise at the Conference any issues within its remit. We are, however, surprised that the Ukrainian delegation has circulated a document at the Conference containing comments from its Ministry of Foreign Affairs on issues that are not directly related to our work. We are therefore obliged to take the floor in order to set forth our position.

With regard to the legal status of nuclear facilities in new Russian entities — the Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol — we wish to make the following comments. In accordance with the free and voluntary expression of the will of the people of Crimea in the Crimea-wide referendum of 16 March 2014 and the agreement on the accession of the Republic of Crimea to the Russian Federation of 18 March 2014, the Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol are an integral part of the Russian Federation. Acting within its jurisdiction, the Russian Federation has assumed full responsibility for the nuclear facilities located in its new entities. Since 18 March 2014, the scope of the Agreement of 21 February 1985 between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Additional Protocol thereto of 22 March 2000 includes the entirety of the territory of the Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol. If IAEA wishes to implement safeguards at nuclear facilities on the territory of the Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, we are willing to give the Agency every opportunity to conduct the necessary inspections at such sites.

As for the “profound concern” expressed by the Ukrainian delegation at supposed violations by Russia of the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-range and Shorter-range Missiles, Russia considers such statements to be unsubstantiated. No evidence whatsoever has been presented to support those claims. Reference is made instead to certain information that has emerged, but one can only speculate what that information is and where it comes from. We would like to recall that there is a relevant Treaty mechanism for dealing with specific concerns: the Special Verification Commission.

In its remarks concerning the Treaty, the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs again accused Russia of supposed non-compliance with its obligations under the Budapest Memorandum of 1994 on security assurances to Ukraine in respect of its accession to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. This is not the first time we are hearing this, as similar public insinuations have been made in the past — again, without

any solid evidence. We wish to address this issue briefly. Russia has not violated its obligations towards Ukraine concerning the non-use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear States. That is an undisputed fact. The other provisions of the Budapest Memorandum essentially replicate the political principles of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which have nothing to do with the mandate of the Conference on Disarmament. I would note simply that what is currently occurring in Ukraine is a consequence not of external influence but of complex internal processes that began with the actions by ultranationalist forces at Maidan Square. Anyone interested in a detailed Russian assessment of the current situation may read yesterday's interview with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Russia, Mr. Sergey Victorovich Lavrov. If I am not mistaken, foreign journalists never once used the word "aggression", which is used by Ukrainian diplomats.

In conclusion, I repeat that we respect the right of all delegations to raise at the Conference any issues within its remit. We however would like once again to call upon all colleagues to refrain from politicizing the work of the Conference and to concentrate on relevant issues, the first being to agree on a programme of work.

Lastly, I wish to express our support for the request made by the Cuban Ambassador that the joint statement by the Russian Federation and Cuba on no first placement of weapons in outer space be circulated as an official document of the Conference.

**The President:** I thank the delegate of Russia. I now invite Ambassador Wood of the United States to take the floor.

**Mr. Wood** (United States of America): Let me just make clear from the outset that the United States applauds the long-standing commitment of Ukraine to nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear security. Our partnership with Ukraine and support of that commitment dates back to that country's decision in 1994 to remove all nuclear weapons from its territory and accede to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as a non-nuclear-weapon State. At the NPT Preparatory Committee meeting in April, we joined Ukraine in commemorating the twentieth anniversary of this important milestone for the NPT and for the global nuclear non-proliferation regime.

Let me be clear: the United States does not recognize the illegal attempt by Russia to annex Crimea. Crimea remains part of the territory of Ukraine and subject to Ukrainian jurisdiction. I would also like to add that the United States has stood by its commitments in the Budapest Memorandum of 1994 to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act and condemns the failure of Russia to abide by those same commitments.

As my last point, the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mr. Amano, informed the Board of Governors that the Agency would continue to implement safeguards in accordance with the IAEA Statute and with international law.

**The President:** I recognize the representative of the Russian Federation.

**Mr. Deyneko** (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): I am not going to enter into a debate on political issues that are not within the Conference's remit and that delegations are, obviously, not prepared to discuss. I will simply note that the accession of Crimea to Russia took place subsequent to a Crimea-wide referendum in which a vast majority of the population voted in favour of such a move, which was then legally formalized by way of a separate agreement.

**The President:** Thank you. Does any other delegation wish to take the floor at this time? I recognize the representative of Pakistan.

**Mr. Qureshi** (Pakistan): Mr. President, since this is the first time that my delegation is taking the floor under your presidency, allow me to congratulate you on the assumption of this responsibility and also to assure you of our cooperation and support.

As already conveyed to you, we have two comments on the Conference on Disarmament report. At the outset, it looks very factual and objective. On paragraph 18 and paragraph 32, which deal with the schedule of activities, we will provide you with written comments before the due date. However, I just wish to inform you that these comments are driven by our desire that the language should be close to the decision contained in document CD/1978.

**The President:** I thank the representative of Pakistan. Before we end, I think the secretariat has some announcements to make.

**Mr. Fung** (Secretary of the Conference on Disarmament): Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to refer delegations to the advance copy of the draft report which we circulated last week to indicate that in paragraph 6, in the sentence starting from the bottom of the paragraph, line 7, please add “of Qatar”; the text will thus read “Mr. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani, Minister’s Assistant for International Cooperation Affairs of Qatar”. In paragraph 8, line 3, towards the end of that line, the text should read “CD/1967” instead of “CD/1966”.

As you stated, Mr. President, copies of the draft report contained in document CD/WP.581 will be placed in your pigeonholes on Friday in all the languages of the Conference.

**The President:** Thank you, Mr. Fung. That concludes our business for today. I wish to remind delegates that we would like your written comments on the draft by 3 p.m. on 28 August, this Thursday. The next meeting of the Conference on Disarmament will take place on Tuesday, 2 September 2014.

*The meeting rose at 10.55 a.m.*