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# Conference on Disarmament

2 September 2014

English

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

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Tuesday, 2 September 2014, at 10 a.m.

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



**The President:** I call to order the 1327th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

I would like to inform you that one State, Saudi Arabia, has requested to participate in our work during the third part of the 2014 session as an observer. Its request is contained in document CD/WP.577/Add.5, which includes all the requests received by the secretariat until yesterday, 1 September 2014, at 4 p.m. Are there any comments on this request? May I take it that the Conference decides to invite Saudi Arabia to participate in our work in accordance with the rules of procedure?

*It was so decided.*

**The President:** It is my pleasure now to update you on the status of the consultations that I have been carrying out since our last meeting. As you may recall, I consulted member States on the best way forward in dealing with the report of the informal working group with a mandate to produce a programme of work as mandated by the decision contained in document CD/1974. In this regard, I would like to thank the Co-Chairs of the informal working group for their valuable contributions to our deliberations. Notwithstanding their commendable efforts, no consensus emerged on a programme of work.

In the light of the Co-Chairs' report and my consultations with delegations on this matter, and without prejudice to the authority and responsibility of the presidency under rule 29 of the rules of procedure, I do not intend to propose a draft programme of work. Instead, I will seek to focus our work in what remains of this 2014 session on the completion of the Conference on Disarmament annual report to the General Assembly. Moreover, it is clear to me from my consultations with regional groups that the preference is for the Co-Chairs' report to be documented as having been presented in the Co-Chairs' personal capacities rather than seeking adoption of the report by the Conference.

In view of this, I propose that the Conference take note of the report, which I would, in my own capacity as President of the Conference and Chair of the informal working group, submit to the secretariat with the request that it be distributed as a Conference document, with the understanding that the Co-Chairs' report was presented in their personal capacities and without prejudice to the national positions of member States. May I take it that this course of action is acceptable to the Conference? I do not see any objection; I will proceed in the manner which I have highlighted earlier.

I will now turn to the list of speakers. I give the floor to the representative of Kazakhstan. Ambassador Tileuberdi, you have the floor.

**Mr. Tileuberdi (Kazakhstan):** Mr. President, at the outset, since it is my first time speaking at the plenary under your presidency, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. In this regard, let me assure you of my delegation's support and readiness to cooperate with you closely.

Today I take the floor to extend my heartfelt felicitations to all of you on the occasion of the International Day against Nuclear Tests, which was observed last week on 29 August. It was on 2 December 2009, at its sixty-fourth session, that the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 64/35 declaring 29 August as the International Day against Nuclear Tests. Given the fact that this document was unanimously supported, I would say that members of the international community are committed to taking resolute action against nuclear tests. We should always keep in mind that a journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step. In other words, we

consider this initiative as one more step towards our common objective: to live in a world without fear and threat, a world free from nuclear weapons.

From my country's perspective, resolution 64/35 is meant to integrate the efforts of all stakeholders — including civil society, public diplomacy and the media — in promoting awareness and education about the terrifying consequences of nuclear explosions. It keeps our memories fresh about the great tragedy and suffering of the victims of weapons of mass destruction. The date of 29 August is yet another reminder to us that peace and security are very fragile and our world is still under the great danger posed by nuclear weapons. We should learn from past lessons so as to avoid any missteps in the future that could destroy the whole planet.

The objective of Kazakhstan is to work out additional means to further consolidate multilateral efforts to ban any type of weapon of mass destruction, first and foremost nuclear weapons, and seek broader support for the nuclear-test-ban process. I count on the solidarity of the esteemed audience presiding in this historic hall at the Palais des Nations.

Today it is important to create an authoritative and powerful global anti-nuclear movement. The main goal is not only to deal with the nuclear threat. It is important to consistently foster the anti-nuclear consciousness of humankind and the absolute rejection of all forms of nuclear weapons.

It was also very symbolic that 18 years after the closure of the Semipalatinsk site by decree of President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, 29 August was acknowledged by the United Nations as the International Day against Nuclear Tests. Over four decades the Semipalatinsk test site had seen more than 456 explosions, a third of all nuclear tests carried out since 1945 by all nuclear States. Their total capacity was enough to destroy 2,500 Hiroshimas. Nearly one and a half million people were affected by consequences of nuclear testing, and an immense territory has been contaminated with radiation.

Kazakhstan is an ardent supporter and advocate of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The decision by President Nazarbayev, upon gaining our independence, to renounce nuclear weapons and to destroy or have removed the nuclear weapons from our territory is indicative of my country's full commitment to this end.

The dismantling of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site and the establishment of Central Asia as a nuclear-weapon-free zone are also testament to the country's leadership and ongoing commitment to eradicate these weapons. Furthermore, the population of the Semipalatinsk test site has directly experienced and suffered from the medical and environmental consequences of nuclear tests.

Creating with neighbouring countries a zone free of nuclear weapons in Central Asia, Kazakhstan also warmly welcomed the signing in New York of the Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia on 6 May 2014. This signifies a major positive development in global non-proliferation efforts for security assurances to be provided by nuclear Powers to countries without nuclear weapons. Such assurances can be the only way to effectively counter the aspirations of certain non-nuclear States to acquire nuclear weapons, which they view as a guarantee of their own security. Central Asian States expect that the signed Protocol will be ratified by nuclear-weapon States in the near future, which will complete the process of institutionalization of the area and will be a significant contribution to the overall strengthening of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons regime and regional and international security.

Kazakhstan has consistently called for an enhanced nuclear weapons non-proliferation regime. This position is supported by my country's historic decision to

voluntarily renounce its nuclear arsenal, which used to be the fourth largest in the world. The example of Kazakhstan shows that a world free from weapons of mass destruction is feasible when there is a will and wisdom of political leaders. It shows that States can refuse nuclear weapons without consequences for their safety. It is time to move from a voluntary moratorium or ban on nuclear tests to legally binding global standards.

However, the contribution of Kazakhstan to the non-proliferation regime is not limited to the closure of the nuclear test site and the liquidation of weapons of mass destruction. In 2006, Kazakhstan became one of the founders of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism jointly launched by Russia and the United States. In 2007 Astana hosted the third meeting of the member States of this Initiative.

Kazakhstan, which possesses some of the world's largest reserves of uranium and is the leader in its extraction, stands for the development of the peaceful atom under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency and supports international efforts to strengthen the security of the nuclear fuel cycle and eliminate the risk of proliferation of fissile materials. In this regard, in April 2009 President Nazarbayev declared our country's readiness to host an international nuclear fuel bank under the auspices of the Agency. Today this esteemed organization is considering our proposal, and we believe our candidature fully complies with all possible requirements as the country that the world community can entrust with such a bank. We are convinced that, with the goodwill of all States interested in the secure development of peaceful atomic energy, this idea will be implemented and the international community will obtain another effective non-proliferation mechanism.

Now is the time to further strengthen the non-proliferation regime and reduce the number of weapons of mass destruction. Today, the whole set of agreements regulating this sphere should address current global events, and the responsibility of all States — primarily the nuclear States — should be to reduce nuclear weapons with a view to the gradual and final elimination of nuclear arsenals.

I would like also to recall that on 22 August 2012 the Government of Kazakhstan launched a new international campaign entitled ATOM. This acronym stands for "Abolish Testing — Our Mission". As you may know, the main objective of this campaign is to reduce the nuclear threat, to create awareness about the devastating consequences of nuclear explosions and to consolidate all nations against nuclear tests. A special website and social media offer relevant documents and short television commercials as well as other information, articles and links. Through various existing social networks we will provide for direct dialogue between the victims of nuclear tests, NGOs and millions of ordinary people.

Supporters and followers of the ATOM project are urged to sign an online petition to stop nuclear weapon tests. This petition will be presented to the Heads of nuclear States as well as to the Governments of countries that are not yet parties to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty or the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The number of signatories on the petition has reached the benchmark of almost 100,000 people. Under this initiative all peoples of the world were invited to observe a minute of silence in memory of those who have been victims of nuclear tests — at 11.05 a.m. on 29 August, when clocks marked symbolically the Latin letter V, which stands for victory. We hope that our joint efforts will lead to victory over fear and the threat of force. We also hope that our joint efforts will help the early deliverance of humankind from nuclear weapons.

With your support, the ATOM project can become an influential campaign to change the world and secure the future for subsequent generations. We urge all of you to sign on for a nuclear-safe world.

Today the challenges before the international community are as important as the opportunities for success are unique. In this regard, let me underline that Kazakhstan joins the appeal made by the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, on 29 August 2014, to put an end to all nuclear testing, and will continue to work towards achieving a world free of nuclear weapons.

We urge the governments of those States that have not yet signed or ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty to display political will and genuine commitment to the cause of nuclear disarmament. States should reaffirm their commitment to a moratorium on nuclear test explosions and work to ensure the entry into force of the Treaty.

**The President:** I thank the Ambassador of Kazakhstan for his statement and for the kind words addressed to me. I now invite Ms. Rodríguez Camejo of Cuba to make a statement on behalf of the Group of 21.

**Ms. Rodríguez Camejo (Cuba)** (*spoke in Spanish*): Mr. President, as you said, I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the Group of 21.

(*spoke in English*)

At the outset, the Group wishes to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament.

The Group of 21 reiterates that the Conference on Disarmament is the single multilateral negotiating body on disarmament and, in that context, the Group stresses that its highest priority on the Conference agenda is nuclear disarmament. The Group reiterates its deep concern at the danger posed to the survival of humankind by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and their possible use or threat of use. As long as nuclear weapons exist, the risk of their use and proliferation will remain.

The Group reiterates its position as conveyed in its previous statements to the Conference and recalls the final documents of the tenth special session of the General Assembly, which was the first special session on disarmament, and the very first resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, resolution 1 (I) of 1946, adopted unanimously, which called for the elimination of nuclear weapons from national arsenals.

The Non-Aligned Movement members of the Group recall the 2012 Tehran Summit Declaration and the final document of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Declaration of the Seventeenth Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Algeria on 28 and 29 May 2014.

Furthermore, the International Court of Justice, in its advisory opinion of 1996, concluded that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects, under strict and effective international control. In this regard, the Group recalls its strong support for General Assembly resolution 68/42 entitled “Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons”.

The Millennium Declaration in 2000 also reaffirmed the commitment of Member States of the United Nations to strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons.

The Group, while noting the steps taken by nuclear-weapon States for the reduction of their arsenals, reiterates its deep concern over the slow pace of progress towards nuclear disarmament and the lack of progress by nuclear-weapon States towards accomplishing the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals. The Group stresses the importance of effective implementation of concrete measures leading to a

nuclear-weapon-free world. This requires renewed political will by the international community towards accelerated progress on nuclear disarmament. We hope that all States will seize all opportunities towards this end.

The Group welcomes the convening and results of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament on 26 September 2013 and reaffirms its related resolution 68/32 to follow up this meeting. As the Secretary-General of the United Nations rightly mentioned in the Conference on Disarmament this year, “the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament demonstrated that this issue remains a major international priority and deserves attention at the highest levels”. In this vein, the Group fully supports the goals of this resolution, in particular its call for an urgent decision by the Conference to commence negotiating nuclear disarmament, particularly a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use and to provide for their destruction. The Group also welcomes the decision to convene, no later than 2018, a United Nations high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament to review the progress made in this regard.

The Group reaffirms the importance of the multilateral disarmament machinery. It notes the report of the Open-ended Working Group mandated by the General Assembly to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons, and hopes that it will contribute towards negotiations on nuclear disarmament in the Conference, in particular a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use and to provide for their destruction. To this end, the Group of 21 welcomes General Assembly resolution 68/46, which recognizes that the Working Group engaged in an open, constructive, transparent and interactive manner to address various issues related to nuclear disarmament.

In this context, the Group expresses its deepest concern over the immediate, indiscriminate and massive death and destruction caused by any nuclear weapon detonation and its long-term catastrophic consequences on human health, environment and other vital economic resources, thus endangering the life of present and future generations. In this regard, the Group believes that a full realization of the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons must underpin all approaches, efforts and international commitments towards nuclear disarmament, through an inclusive process involving all States.

The Group concurs with the United Nations Secretary-General that there is a growing understanding of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, and in this regard welcomes the hosting of the conferences on this subject as convened in Mexico on 13 and 14 February this year, in Oslo last year, and also the initiative of Austria to host the third one.

The Group, stressing its strong commitment to nuclear disarmament, underscores the urgent need to commence negotiations on this issue in the Conference without delay. In this context, the Group reaffirms its full readiness to start negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, including a nuclear weapons convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and on their destruction, leading to the global, non-discriminatory and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons, with a specified framework of time.

In this regard, the Group emphasizes that the fundamental principles of transparency, verification and irreversibility shall be applied to all nuclear disarmament measures.

The Group reaffirms that nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are substantively interrelated and mutually reinforcing.

The Group emphasizes that progress in nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects is essential to strengthening international peace and security. The Group reaffirms that efforts towards nuclear disarmament, global and regional approaches and confidence-building measures complement each other and should, wherever possible, be pursued simultaneously to promote regional and international peace and security.

The Group reaffirms that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Pending the achievement of the complete elimination of such weapons, the Group of 21 reaffirms the urgent need to reach early agreement on a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

The Group expresses its concern about strategic defence doctrines of nuclear-weapon States and a group of States which set out rationales for the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and in this regard, there is therefore a genuine and urgent need to eliminate the role of nuclear weapons in strategic doctrines and security policies to minimize the risk that these weapons will ever be used again and to facilitate the process of their elimination. In this regard, the Group recalls its strong support of the objectives of General Assembly resolution 68/40 of 31 October 2013, entitled "Reducing nuclear danger", as well as Assembly resolution 67/46 of 4 January 2013, entitled "Decreasing the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems".

The Group of 21 stresses the significance of achieving universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, including by all nuclear-weapon States, which, *inter alia*, should contribute to the process of nuclear disarmament. The Group reiterates that if the objectives of the Treaty were to be fully realized, the continued commitment of all States signatories, especially the nuclear-weapon States, to nuclear disarmament would be essential.

The Group reaffirms the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, and expresses its determination to promote multilateralism as the core principle of negotiations in these areas. In this regard, the Group strongly supports the objectives of General Assembly resolution 68/38 of 5 November 2013, entitled "Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation".

The Group of 21 States that are parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) recall the deliberations of the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT that took place from 28 April to 9 May 2014 in New York. The Group of 21 States that are parties to the NPT call for the full implementation of the recommendations for follow-on actions adopted at the 2010 NPT Review Conference on all three pillars of the Treaty, including those related to the work of the Conference on Disarmament and the Middle East, particularly the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East. The Group of 21 States that are parties to the NPT re-emphasize the importance of the commitment of nuclear-weapon States to accelerate concrete progress on the steps leading to nuclear disarmament contained in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference and take note of the reports submitted by the nuclear-weapon States to the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference. In

this regard, the Group of 21 States that are parties to the NPT would like to express their concern over the slow pace of progress towards nuclear disarmament and the lack of progress by the nuclear-weapon States towards accomplishing the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, and stress the importance that the 2015 Review Conference should take stock and consider next steps for the full implementation of article VI of the Treaty.

The Group of 21 States that are parties to the NPT express their serious concern over the long delay in the implementation of the 1995 NPT Review Conference resolution on the Middle East and urge the three co-sponsors of the resolution to take all necessary measures to fully implement it without any further delay. In this context, the Group of 21 States that are parties to the NPT recall the consensus decision contained in the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference on taking practical steps towards implementation of the 1995 NPT Review Conference resolution on the Middle East and express their deep concern that this decision was also not implemented. In this regard, the Group strongly rejects the alleged impediments presented by the conveners for not implementing the decision of the 2010 Review Conference on schedule. The Group reaffirms that the 1995 NPT Review Conference resolution on the Middle East was an integral part of the package of agreements of the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference, which enabled the indefinite extension of the NPT. The Group of 21 States that are parties to the NPT also recall in this context the reaffirmation by the 2010 NPT Review Conference of the urgency and importance of the accession by Israel to the Treaty as a non-nuclear-weapon State and the placing of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards.

The Group also wishes to reaffirm the inalienable right of each State to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination.

The Group reiterates its readiness to make constructive contributions to the work of the Conference, and in this regard wishes to recall the contents of documents CD/36/Rev.1, CD/116, CD/341, CD/819, CD/1388, CD/1462, CD/1570, CD/1571, CD/1923, CD/1938 and CD/1959, presented by the Group of 21 towards this end.

The Group takes note of the substantive and interactive informal discussion on nuclear disarmament held in the Conference on Disarmament from 21 to 23 May 2014 in pursuance of the schedule of activities of the 2014 session contained in document CD/1978.

In view of its strong commitment to nuclear disarmament and a world free of nuclear weapons, the Group reiterates the following concrete steps:

- Reaffirmation of the unequivocal commitment of the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the complete elimination of nuclear weapons;
- Elimination of the role of nuclear weapons in their security doctrines;
- Adoption of measures by nuclear-weapon States to reduce nuclear danger, such as de-alerting of nuclear weapons and decreasing the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems;
- Negotiation of a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;
- Negotiation of a convention on the complete prohibition of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

- Negotiation of a nuclear weapons convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and on their destruction, leading to the global, non-discriminatory and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time.

To conclude, let us express that the Group of 21 welcomes with satisfaction the forthcoming commemoration of 26 September as the first International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, devoted to furthering this objective, including through enhancing public awareness and education about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons and the necessity of their total elimination, in order to mobilize international efforts towards achieving this.

**The President:** I thank the Ambassador of Cuba for her statement. That was the last speaker on my list. Does any other delegation wish to take the floor at this moment? I recognize the Ambassador of India.

**Mr. Varma (India):** Mr. President, we would like to convey our very warm congratulations on your assumption of the presidency and also our deep appreciation for the manner in which you have been conducting our work. You can be assured of the full support of the Indian delegation.

India associates itself with the statement made by the Ambassador of Cuba on behalf of the Group of 21. India attaches the highest priority to nuclear disarmament, and therefore we have joined the call made by the Group of 21 today and in the statement made on behalf of the Group of 21 by the Ambassador of Chile on 26 March 2014, calling for the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention, in pursuance of United Nations General Assembly resolution 68/32.

Without prejudice to the priority we attach to nuclear disarmament, we support the negotiation in the Conference of a non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices that meets the national security interests of India. India is convinced that the goal of nuclear disarmament can be achieved by a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and in an agreed multilateral framework that is global and non-discriminatory. There is a need for meaningful dialogue among all States possessing nuclear weapons to build trust and confidence and for reducing the salience of nuclear weapons in international affairs and security doctrines.

The resolution on the negotiation of a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons, submitted by India in the United Nations General Assembly and contained in resolution 68/58, has been supported by a large number of States as an important step for the progressive delegitimization of nuclear weapons and in raising barriers against their use, which could have catastrophic humanitarian consequences. My country's working paper contained in document CD/1816 enumerated a number of steps for achieving nuclear disarmament. India also supported the Group of 21 working paper on nuclear disarmament (CD/1959) submitted in September last year.

India considers the Conference of Disarmament as the appropriate forum for the commencement of negotiations on nuclear disarmament through the establishment of a subsidiary body with a mandate agreed by consensus as part of a comprehensive and balanced programme of work. We attach importance to interaction with academics and non-governmental organizations active in the disarmament field, taking into account the Conference as a negotiating forum of its member States.

We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the participants in the 2014 Disarmament Fellowship Programme and extend to them our very best wishes for a successful programme here in Geneva and in other cities.

**The President:** As no other delegation wishes to take the floor, and in keeping with the message which the secretariat circulated last week regarding my intention to hold an informal plenary meeting to examine the draft report of the Conference on Disarmament, I wish to confirm that the meeting will be taking place in this chamber immediately following the adjournment of this plenary meeting.

I therefore invite you to stretch your legs for about five minutes before we convene in an informal setting. This short break will allow the conference officers to prepare the room as appropriate.

This concludes our business for today. The next plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament will take place on Tuesday, 9 September 2014.

*The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.*