

Conference on Disarmament

English

Final record of the one thousand four hundred and twentieth plenary meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Tuesday, 6 June 2017, at 10.10 a.m.

President: Mr. Fedor Rosocha (Slovakia)

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The President: I call to order the 1420th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

Excellencies, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to start by conveying our sincere condolences to the delegation of the United Kingdom. We are shocked by the terrifying events that happened during the weekend in London. We are deeply saddened by the loss of innocent lives and injuries caused by this horrible attack. Slovakia strongly condemns this act of terrorism. Our prayers and thoughts are with the victims of this barbarous act.

Dear colleagues, let me thank you all for your active participation last week in the meetings of the working group on the way ahead. As you know, I am working closely with Ambassador Lynn and all of you to bring this Conference back to substantive work. As the President of the Conference, I will continue to give support to and facilitate the existing process. Taking into account the remaining time that we have in the 2017 session of the Conference, I think it is a matter of urgency that we reach a solution on how we can move forward. If we are serious about the Conference and its substantive work, then it is our shared responsibility to show maximum flexibility and cooperation towards the working group, as its establishment was our common decision made by consensus. The working group and its Chair need our support.

At the same time, as I already stated in the plenary meeting last week, Slovakia is committed and dedicated to fulfilling its mandate as the President of the Conference. We will live up to our determination to identify possible elements and to examine possibilities for the adoption of a programme of work. Last week, we started consultations with member States which allowed us to have a very useful discussion not only concerning developments in the working group on the way ahead, but also on the state of play in the Conference. I will continue reaching out actively to the Conference members and I will keep on arranging consultations in bilateral or multilateral formats aimed at contributing to finding a consensual solution on a programme of work.

Let me also reiterate that we are open to any suggestions from any member State — of either a procedural or a substantive nature — which could help us to move forward in the right direction. My door is open to all member States.

Let me now say a few words about today's order of business. As was the case last week, the working group on the way ahead will be meeting right after this plenary meeting, as communicated to all delegations by the secretariat. We will need to have a break of a few minutes to allow the technicians to make the necessary changes in the information technology system.

Furthermore, I would also like to follow up on the suggestions made by delegations to address issues related to rule 2 of the rules of procedure. I therefore intend to hold an informal meeting on Tuesday, 13 June 2017, which will take place immediately after the formal plenary meeting of the Conference.

At this time, I would like to turn to the list of speakers for today. Are there any requests for the floor? I give the floor to the United States.

Mr. Wood (United States of America): Mr. President, let me start off by expressing my condolences to the people of the United Kingdom for the heinous terrorist attack that took place Saturday night. The United States stands with the United Kingdom at this very difficult time, and we will certainly provide whatever assistance, if any, is requested from the United States to help get to the bottom of this horrible terrorist attack.

Mr. President, the United States welcomes the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 2356 (2017), which not only condemned repeated North Korean violations of previous Security Council resolutions but also sanctioned additional North Koreans and North Korean entities affiliated with the regime's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes. We hope Pyongyang will take serious note of the unanimous passage of this resolution and begin to come into compliance with its international obligations and end its provocative and dangerous behaviour.

We call on all member States to join us in fully and transparently implementing the obligations required by all Security Council resolutions dealing with North Korea.

The President: I thank the representative of the United States. Are there any further requests for the floor? I give the floor to the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Mr. Ju Yong-chol (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Mr. President, I would like to respond to the statement just made by the United States by reading out some key points from the latest statement of the Foreign Ministry spokesman of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with regard to the United Nations Security Council resolution.

Our spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued a statement on Sunday, 4 June, as regards the fact that hostile forces are getting hell-bent on sinister moves for sanctions and pressure on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The United Nations Security Council produced yet another fabricated sanctions resolution, taking issue with the launch of a ballistic rocket by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as part of its regular activities for bolstering up its nuclear forces.

This resolution, which is said to have been drafted after long consultations between the United States and China, listed several entities and individuals related with the nuclear and rocket programme of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as a target of additional sanctions. Earlier, the United States announced its own unilateral sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which included a secondary boycott, targeting companies and individuals of third countries, including Russia, which are alleged to have links with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea expresses its strong condemnation and rejection of the fresh campaign of sanctions by the United Nations Security Council, as it is a hostile act with the purpose of disarming the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and economically suffocating it. The United States is stepping up its military build-up, including the modernization of nuclear weapons, in order to secure supremacy with the most sophisticated weapons system in the world. However, it believes that any other country is not allowed to test or launch any object with the words "nuclear" or "ballistic". This is an extreme manifestation of arrogance, self-righteousness and double standards.

Those two countries drafted the resolution in the back room of their own interests and forced its adoption. Now they are pressuring other countries to accept it as the general will of the international community. This is a clear expression of high-handedness and an arbitrary act in pursuit of their own interests while ignoring international justice. The build-up of the nuclear forces by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a natural exercise of its sovereignty to cope with United States nuclear threats against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. It is also to achieve genuine international justice and ensure peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and in the region.

It is a big miscalculation if the countries which framed the sanctions resolution think that they can delay or somehow block the development of the nuclear forces of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea even for a moment. They keep talking about dialogue, but it does not make any sense to advocate dialogue while placing unreasonable preconditions accompanied by maximum pressure. No matter what others say, whatever sanctions and pressure may follow, we will not stand back from the path of building up nuclear forces that was chosen to defend the sovereignty of the country and the right to exist.

The President: I thank the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for his statement. I now give the floor to the representative of the Russian Federation.

Mr. Deyneko (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Mr. President, may I first of all express our condolences and sympathy to the delegation of the United Kingdom in connection with the terrorist acts in Great Britain, as a result of which innocent people have been killed or injured. This is a stark reminder that terrorism knows no geographical or moral bounds. Only by acting together can we vanquish the common foe.

Mr. President, please accept our congratulations on the assumption of your office and allow me to wish you every success in this post. For our part, we are ready to share our experience and render all possible assistance in your endeavours. We welcome the atmosphere of continued efforts to build consensus on the programme of work of the Conference on Disarmament. We believe that your work will be facilitated by the sustained efforts of Ambassador Htin Lynn of Myanmar, Chair of the working group on the way ahead, to launch the substantive work of the group. We assume that the schedule of meetings of the group is indicative and not subject to mandatory agreement, since it relates to procedural matters and is the responsibility of its Chair. Nonetheless, we are ready to discuss alternative variants, but we need to act quickly, bearing in mind the fact that there is not much time left before the closure of the 2017 session of the Conference on Disarmament.

The President: I thank the representative of the Russian Federation. I now give the floor to the representative of the Republic of Korea.

Mr. Kim In-chul (Republic of Korea): Mr. President, let me start by expressing our sincere and deepest condolences to the victims of the terrorist attack in London over the weekend. We would like to express our solidarity to the Government and people of the United Kingdom in these difficult times. We condemn terrorism in all its forms in the strongest terms possible, and we would like to reaffirm our commitment to the participation of the Republic of Korea in the international community's efforts to combat terrorism.

Regarding the new Security Council resolution adopted last Friday, I would like to tell North Korea to think about the meaning of three Chapter VII resolutions in the time period of a year and a half. This is nothing new, because the international community has been saying that North Korea should not keep on with its provocation. Accordingly, the resolution last week is in the continuum of what the international community has already made clear to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

We support this resolution. We support it because it is a clear warning to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that there is only one way out from the threat that they are posing to the international community. Therefore, we once again urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to give up its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes and cease all provocations. The Republic of Korea will act firmly with every means, including sanctions and dialogue.

Let me conclude by saying that as often as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has invoked sovereignty to justify their unacceptable programmes, no other country in the world with sovereignty is doing that, so it is not persuasive. It does not convince anyone, and I urge them to rethink what they are doing.

The President: I thank the representative of the Republic of Korea. I now give the floor to the representative of China.

Mr. Fu Cong (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): Mr. President, the Chinese delegation wishes to begin by condemning in the harshest terms the terrorist attack perpetrated on 3 June in London and by expressing our deepest condolences to the families of the innocent victims and our sincere sympathy to the wounded and their families. Terrorism is the common enemy of every country in the world and China resolutely opposes it in all its forms. China stands united with the United Kingdom and the international community and is ready to strengthen cooperation to together respond to the threat and challenge of terrorism and to defend international peace and security.

Mr. President, the Security Council resolution relating to the firing of a missile using ballistic missile technology by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is quite clear. China opposes this launch. The resolution adopted by the Security Council last Friday clearly expressed the unanimous position of the international community against the development of nuclear missile technology by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. At the same time, the resolution reaffirms the need to defend peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in North-East Asia and includes a commitment to resolve the issue through peaceful diplomatic and political means, emphasizing that it is important for all sides to reduce tensions. China calls on all sides to fully and completely implement the

Security Council resolution regarding the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and calls for a peaceful resolution of the nuclear problem on the Korean Peninsula through both non-proliferation and the encouragement of bilateral discussions.

The situation on the Korean Peninsula is now both complex and sensitive. For the nuclear question on the peninsula, we now have a key window of opportunity for a return to the right track, towards a resolution through negotiations and consultation. All parties must show restraint and do everything possible to reduce tensions and to strengthen mutual trust, not the contrary.

The President: I thank the representative of China for his statement. I now give the floor to the United Kingdom.

Mr. Rowland (United Kingdom): Mr. President, let me congratulate you on the assumption of your role and assure you of my delegation's full support for your efforts. I would also like to thank the delegations who have expressed their condolences for the brutal terrorist attack that took place in my capital over the weekend.

Defeating the ideology that creates or connects such attacks is one of the great challenges of our time. It cannot be defeated through military intervention alone; it will not be defeated through the maintenance of a permanent defensive counter-terrorism operation, however skilful its leaders and practitioners. It will only be defeated when we turn people's minds away from this violence and make them understand that our values are superior to anything offered by the preachers and supporters of hate.

Mr. President, on the subject of the Security Council resolution on North Korea, I would note that the Security Council resolution was unanimously adopted and that it extends sanctions against the illegal nuclear and ballistic missile programmes of North Korea to more individuals and organizations. With this resolution, the international community has sent a clear message. We are united against the dangerous behaviour of North Korea and its continuing disregard for international security. The United Kingdom calls on North Korea to return to the negotiating table and halt all activity that breaches United Nations Security Council resolutions. This is the only way to reduce tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

The President: I thank the representative of the United Kingdom for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Mr. Ju Yong-chol (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Mr. President, my delegation would like to express its strong rejection of the United Nations Security Council resolution. It is a clear manifestation of the practice of double standards within the Security Council. This year alone, many countries test-fired various types of missile, including intercontinental ballistic missiles: the permanent member States of the Security Council conducted more than 2,000 nuclear tests and over 7,000 satellite launches. If nuclear and missile tests and satellite launches are a threat to global peace and security, the above-mentioned test cases should also be addressed at the Security Council. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is only exercising its just right to self-defence to respond to the threat from the United States.

The Security Council is not a legislative body that can formulate international law. It does not have any right to do so.

I would like to conclude my statement by joining others in expressing my deep condolences and sympathy to the victims of the latest recent terrorist attack in London.

The President: I thank the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for his statement. Would any other delegation like to take the floor? That does not seem to be the case.

This concludes our business for today. The next plenary meeting of the Conference will be held on Tuesday, 13 June, at 10 a.m., and it will be followed by an informal meeting of the Conference. As mentioned already, an organizational meeting of the working group on the way ahead under the chairmanship of Ambassador Lynn of Myanmar will now take

place. We will have a break of a few minutes to allow the technicians and the conference officers to prepare the Council Chamber.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.