

Conference on Disarmament

English

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


Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Thursday, 13 September 2018, at 10.35 a.m.

President: Ms. Beliz Celasin Rende(Turkey)

GE.18-22830 (E) 220319 250319



* 1 8 2 2 8 3 0 *

Please recycle 

The President: I call to order the 1472nd plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

Distinguished colleagues, thank you all for being here this morning. Before we proceed, I would like to remind you that, after the formal plenary meeting, we will have an informal plenary meeting to continue the work on the annual report. We have made some progress but there are still several paragraphs that need our attention. The secretariat will circulate in the course of the day, or perhaps right away, the third amendment to our draft report, contained in document CD/WP.610/Amend.3.

Before we proceed with our order of business for the day, it is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to our colleague, His Excellency Mr. Esmail Baghaei Hamaneh, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Conference on Disarmament. On behalf of my own Government and on behalf of the Conference, I would like to take this opportunity to assure him of our full cooperation and support in his new assignment. Let me now turn to the list of speakers. I give the floor to the representative of Iran.

Mr. Baghaei Hamaneh (Islamic Republic of Iran): Thank you, Madam President. Since this is the first time that I have appeared before this august body, allow me to take the opportunity to offer my greetings to you and to the distinguished delegates present in the room and express my readiness to work with you and other delegations to further advance the important work of the Conference on Disarmament.

I should also congratulate you on your able leadership during the past month in your capacity as President of the Conference on Disarmament. I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation and I encourage other delegations to do likewise in the interests of a successful conclusion of your tenure by producing a balanced, factual report free from any politicized precedents that could tamper with the Conference on Disarmament's long established procedures and practice, and adversely affect the overall functioning of the Conference.

As stated on different occasions, the Islamic Republic of Iran firmly believes that the Conference on Disarmament is the unique multilateral negotiating body to address disarmament and, in particular, nuclear disarmament as the single most critical and immediate item on its agenda. We need to break the existing deadlock in the Conference on Disarmament's programme of work and, in so doing, we need to demonstrate collective courage, insight and dedication to the cause of global peace and security.

The President: I thank the representative of Iran for his statement. Are there any other delegations wishing to take the floor? I give the floor to the representative of the United Kingdom.

Mr. Liddle (United Kingdom): Thank you, Madam President, and let me extend a warm welcome to our new colleague, the distinguished Ambassador of Iran.

In connection with our work on the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament, I should like to draw the attention of colleagues to the text of a joint statement in the name of 23 member States of the Conference concerning the presidency of the Syrian Arab Republic of the Conference on Disarmament in view of its repeated violations of international law, including the Chemical Weapons Convention and United Nations Security Council resolutions. This joint statement reiterates the concerns that many delegations have expressed in the course of our business in 2018 and expresses the wish that these concerns be reflected in the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament to the United Nations General Assembly.

This text was submitted recently to the secretariat and we ask that it be registered and circulated as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

The President: I thank you for your statement. Does any other delegation wish to take the floor? I give the floor to the representative of Syria.

Mr. Aala (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): Thank you, Madam President. I would like to comment on the joint statement mentioned by the Ambassador of the United Kingdom which, in our view, contains politically motivated accusations against Syria that

fall outside the agenda of the Conference and that are related to issues on which there is no agreement among the competent international bodies in which such matters are discussed. This is as an attempt to harm a presidency that fulfilled its duties under the Conference's rules of procedure, with great transparency and professionalism. The aim is to deface the image of that presidency, and that is unacceptable. It also opens the way for any State or group of States to criticize any State holding the presidency, which would draw the Conference into a bottomless vortex, and all for political reasons and agendas of which everyone is well aware. Thank you, Madam President.

The President: Thank you. I now give the floor to the representative of Zimbabwe.

Mr. Chigiji (Zimbabwe): Thank you, Madam President. Yesterday, I took the floor during the informal session of the Conference on Disarmament and made an intervention in my capacity as coordinator of the Group of 21. I am taking the floor again on behalf of the Group to make the same statement for the record.

The Group of 21 would like to reiterate its support for the work of all the subsidiary bodies of the Conference on Disarmament and, in this regard, we would like to stress the importance of having the views of all member States of the Conference on Disarmament reflected.

The President: Thank you. Are there any requests for the floor? I see none. This concludes our business for this morning. The next plenary meeting of the Conference will be held tomorrow. As mentioned earlier, we will meet in an informal meeting after the conclusion of this formal meeting to continue our work on the annual report.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.