
Conference on Disarmament

English

Final record of the one thousand four hundred and ninety-third plenary meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Thursday, 7 March 2019, at 3.10 p.m.

President: Mr. Aidan Liddle..... (United Kingdom)

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The President: I call to order the 1493rd plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament. Distinguished colleagues, I have three more speakers on the list from our informal session this morning, so with your indulgence I will suspend this formal meeting and switch to an informal setting. The meeting is suspended.

The meeting was suspended from 3.10 p.m. to 4.20 p.m.

The President: Distinguished colleagues, thank you once again for your views expressed today in our informal meeting. First of all, I want to echo those delegations who commended the constructive attitude with which we have been conducting these conversations. It is very much my impression that the mood of the room is that we want to move back to work and to find a way of structuring our discussions this year so as to facilitate substantive discussions on the items on our agenda. So I want to thank the delegations for the attitude and the approach with which they have conducted these conversations.

At the same time, I wish to recall that this is a procedural decision that we are taking. We are talking about a way of structuring and allocating our time and resources to the discussions that we want to have. We have taken some time over this because it is important that we get that right, but we are not discussing a treaty, we are not discussing a move on any of the substantive issues of our agenda in this. So I do appeal to all delegations to bear that in mind as we try and finalize the text of our draft decision. While we will, of course, endeavour to make sure that this is a balanced text which meets the concerns of delegations and can command consensus, we do ask for flexibility in discussing what is, after all, a procedural timetabling decision.

Having listened to the discussion today, I will reflect carefully on what has been said and the proposals that have been made, both orally and in writing. I remain at the disposal of any delegation who wishes to consult us bilaterally or make their views known either orally or in writing. I propose to issue a new revision of the text tomorrow that will incorporate the names of the coordinators and the timetable, which I hear is important to delegations in considering this discussion. I will, to the best of my ability, ensure that the new text reflects the balance, as I see it, of the views expressed today and in previous sessions.

As many other delegations have pointed out, time is short. We do not see the utility of continuing this conversation ad infinitum. We do need to use the remainder of this session to discuss the substantive issues on our agenda, which are important issues. I therefore propose to take action on this decision next week and I will communicate through the secretariat the exact plans for how we use our time next week.

I see no more requests for the floor. I therefore thank my distinguished colleagues for their time and their views once again. Correction. I recognize the distinguished representative of China.

Mr. Ji Haojun (China): Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to clarify whether the new version of the text you are going to distribute tomorrow will be the final one or something in between. Thank you.

The President: That rather depends on the Conference. If the text that we circulate tomorrow is acceptable to everyone, then it will indeed be the final one. But at some point in the next week, we do have to take a view, as a Conference, on whether this is the way we want to move forward or not.

Again, I thank delegations for their time and their views. The next plenary will take place on Tuesday, 12 March, at 10 a.m. The meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 4.25 p.m.