



General Assembly

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Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects Second session

Summary record of the 38th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 30 March 2001, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. dos Santos (Mozambique)

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01-31263 (E)



The meeting was called to order at 3.50 p.m.

Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee
(A/CONF.192/PC/L.12)

1. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to consider the draft decision dated 30 March 2001 proposed by the Netherlands on behalf also of Brazil, Mali and the United Kingdom.¹

2. **Mr. Meerburg** (Netherlands) said that the following changes had been made to the text of the draft decision: the two preambular paragraphs had been deleted; the words “Decides to proclaim” at the beginning of paragraph 1 had been replaced by “Recommends to consider”; and the word “decision” in paragraph 3 had been replaced by “recommendation”.

3. **Mr. Zhang** Shen (China), supported by **Mr. Khan** (Pakistan), **Mr. Maandi** (Algeria) and **Mr. Khairat** (Egypt), said that he had received the draft decision only a few hours earlier and, although he envisaged no substantive difficulties with the text, he would need time to obtain instructions from his Government.

4. **Mr. Orlov** (Russian Federation) supported the idea of the “Small Arms Destruction Day” and pointed out that the decision was phrased as a recommendation and would therefore not commit any State to do anything.

5. **Ms. Marcaillou** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the draft would be issued as an official document by the following Monday. She suggested that the Committee might wish to include the following text in its report: “At its 38th meeting on 30 March 2001, the representative of the Netherlands introduced a proposal for a recommendation. It was agreed that, should the Secretariat not receive any objection by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, 4 April 2001, the recommendation would be reflected in the report of the Committee.”

6. **The Chairman** said that he took it that the Committee wished to adopt the solution suggested by the Secretary.

7. *It was so decided.*

8. **Ms. Marcaillou** (Secretary of the Committee) introduced the draft report of the Preparatory

Committee (A/CONF.192/PC/L.12) and announced some changes to the text.

9. In paragraph 3, Burundi and Lebanon should be added to the list of States participating in the third session of the Preparatory Committee: in paragraph 7, the names of the representatives of Belarus, Kenya and Norway should be changed. The following sentence should be added at the end of paragraph 9: “During plenary meetings, delegations made general statements and presented proposals on the Chairman’s working paper. The Committee considered the Chairman’s working paper paragraph by paragraph, in closed meetings.” The following new paragraph 10 should be added: “The Committee agreed that the Chairman’s working paper be the basis for its substantive consideration of the draft programme of action.”

10. In paragraph 18, the following documents should be added: A/CONF.192/PC/40 (Letter dated 28 March 2001 from the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the secretariat of the Preparatory Committee, transmitting, on behalf of the European Union, drafting proposals on the revised draft Programme of Action); A/CONF.192/PC/41 (Letter dated 29 March 2001 from the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the secretariat of the Preparatory Committee, transmitting drafting proposals on the revised draft Programme of Action); A/CONF.192/PC/42 (Letter dated 29 March 2001 from the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the secretariat of the Preparatory Committee, transmitting a working paper on the revised draft Programme of Action); A/CONF.192/PC/43 (Letter dated 29 March 2001 from the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the secretariat of the Preparatory Committee, transmitting, on behalf of Mexico, Switzerland and the United States, a working paper on the revised draft Programme of Action); A/CONF.192/PC/44 (Letter dated 29 March 2001 from the Permanent Mission of Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the secretariat of the Preparatory Committee, transmitting, on behalf of the League of Arab States, a working paper on the revised draft Programme of Action); A/CONF.192/PC/45 (Letter dated 29 March 2001 from the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the secretariat of the Preparatory Committee, transmitting drafting proposals on the revised draft Programme of Action); A/CONF.192/PC/46 (Letter dated 29 March

¹ The draft, as orally revised, was subsequently issued as A/CONF.192/PC/L.13.

2001 from the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the secretariat of the Preparatory Committee, transmitting drafting proposals on the revised draft Programme of Action); A/CONF.192/PC/47 (Letter dated 29 March 2001 from the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the secretariat of the Preparatory Committee, transmitting drafting proposals on the revised draft Programme of Action).

11. The words “for further consideration” should be added at the end of paragraph 24. In paragraph 27, the words “and as amended by the Chairman’s proposals for changes as contained in document A/CONF.192/PC/L.11” should be deleted. Paragraph 28 should be replaced with the following: “At its 39th meeting, the Preparatory Committee recommended that the Chairman’s working paper entitled ‘Draft Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects’, as contained in document A/CONF.192/PC/L.4/Rev.1, be forwarded for further consideration at the Conference.” The following new paragraph 30 should be added: “At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee recommended that the duration of each statement made in the general debate of the Conference be limited to seven minutes.” Accordingly, the paragraphs should be renumbered to take into account the addition of two new paragraphs.

12. **Mr. Douangthongla** (Lao People’s Democratic Republic) requested that the Lao People’s Democratic Republic should be included in the list of States participating in the Preparatory Committee in paragraph 3 of the report.

13. **Mr. Sandage** (United States of America) noted that “L” documents were listed in paragraph 18 and wondered whether that was intentional. He asked whether all the amendments by the various delegations would be transmitted to the Conference, or whether it was necessary for each delegation to submit such amendments directly to the Chairman in a note verbale, and how long it would be possible to do so.

14. **Ms. Marcaillou** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the documents submitted by the delegations in the previous two days would be added to the list in paragraph 17. Paragraph 18 listed a separate category of documents.

15. After a discussion in which **Ms. Arce de Jeannet** (Mexico), **Mr. Bar** (Israel), **Mr. Du Preez** (South

Africa) and **Mr. Sandage** (United States of America) participated, **the Chairman** suggested that only those proposals submitted to the Secretariat in a note verbale within one week would be considered as formal documents of the Conference.

16. *It was so decided.*

17. **Mr. Meyer** (Canada) said that the phrase “together with various proposals” should be added to the end of paragraph 9. The following sentence should be added to the end of paragraph 28: “The Committee also welcomed the intention of the Chairman to produce, on his own authority, an information sheet on the status of negotiations at the end of the third session of the Preparatory Committee to supplement his working paper.”

18. **Mr. Danielson** (Sweden) suggested that the Secretariat should adjust the text of the English version of paragraphs 9, 28 and 29 to the French version, which was the most correct.

19. **Ms. Sampan** (Brazil) said that the last sentence of paragraph 9 should remain the same and the following sentence should be added: “Amendments and additional proposals to document A/CONF.192/PC/L.4/Rev.1 were also considered.”

20. **Mr. Khairat** (Egypt) said that it was his understanding that the Chairman’s information sheet was an informal document; therefore, any reference to it should be made in paragraph 17.

21. **Mr. Zhang Shen** (China) said that his delegation supported the suggestion of Egypt. Concerning the amendment to paragraph 28 proposed by Canada, since the information sheet was only for reference purposes and had no official status, his delegation would prefer to delete the phrase “to supplement his working paper”.

22. Concerning paragraph 17, his delegation would like to send a note verbale to the Secretariat and requested that it should be circulated as a document of the Preparatory Committee.

23. **Ms. Arce de Jeannet** (Mexico) said that her delegation supported the amendment to paragraph 9 proposed by Brazil. The Canadian proposal on paragraph 28 was simply an acknowledgement of the intentions of the Chairman and not a decision of the Preparatory Committee; it might better be incorporated as a new paragraph in section II.

24. Finally, the document mentioned in paragraph 18 (f) had been withdrawn, and therefore the reference should be deleted.

25. **Mr. Du Preez** (South Africa) agreed with Brazil that the amendment proposed by Canada should form a new paragraph in section II, and suggested that it should follow paragraph 18. He also suggested that, in what was currently the last sentence of paragraph 9, the word “mostly” should be deleted.

26. **Mr. Khairat** (Egypt) said that his delegation supported the suggestions of Mexico regarding paragraph 18 and of South Africa regarding paragraph 9.

27. **Mr. Osei** (Ghana) said that he favoured the amendment to paragraph 28 proposed by Canada.

28. **Mr. Meyer** (Canada) said that the main point of his amendment was to recognize that other proposals had also been considered. He could support the wording proposed by Brazil and the suggestion of Mexico to insert the reference after paragraph 18.

29. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to adopt the draft report section by section.

Section I

30. *Section I was adopted as amended.*

Section II

31. *Section II was adopted as amended.*

Section III

32. *Section III was adopted as amended.*

Draft report as a whole

33. *The draft report, as a whole, was adopted as amended.*

34. **The Chairman** said that, after intensive consultations, Japan and the United Kingdom had withdrawn their candidates for President of the Conference and had joined other delegations in endorsing the candidacy of Mr. Camillo Reyes of Colombia. Mr. Donowaki of Japan would preside over the high-level segment, and Sir Michael Weston of the United Kingdom would chair a committee to be established under rule 46 of the rules of procedure.

Closure of the session

35. After an exchange of courtesies, in which **Mr. Danielson** (Sweden), on behalf of the European Union, **Mr. Benitez Versón** (Cuba), on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries, **Mr. Du Preez** (South Africa), on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, **Mr. Valdivieso** (Colombia), **Mr. Al-Shamsi** (United Arab Emirates), on behalf of the League of Arab States, **Mr. Zhang Shen** (China), **Mr. Hoang Chi Trung** (Viet Nam), on behalf of the Association of South-East Asian Nations, **Mr. Diakite** (Mali), on behalf of the Economic Community of West African States, **Mr. Orlov** (Russian Federation) and **Mr. Hovhannisyan** (Armenia), on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States, participated, **the Chairman** declared the session closed.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.