

# CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/PV.1044  
14 September 2006

ENGLISH

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## FINAL RECORD OF THE ONE THOUSAND AND FORTY-FOURTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Thursday, 14 September 2006, at 4.15 p.m.

President: Mr. Anton PINTER (Slovakia)

The PRESIDENT: I declare open the 1044th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

I have the following speaker for this afternoon's plenary meeting, Ambassador Itzhak Levanon of Israel.

Mr. LEVANON (Israel): Mr. President, I am sorry to take the floor again, but I wish I should not do what I am doing here because, sincerely, I think that we have good chances of adopting the draft that we discussed this morning. But I am compelled to do what I am going to say. I would like to advise the members of our august body that we have deposited two documents in the secretariat. One of these documents is the executive report of the seminar on MANPADS, held in Israel in April 2006, and a second document, entitled "The transfer of weapons to terrorists. The role of Syria in the current escalation in the Middle East". I will request that these two documents be included in the reports under rule 45.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the Ambassador of Israel for his statement. I recognize the delegation of Algeria asking for the floor.

Mr. KHELIF (Algeria) (translated from Arabic): The delegation of Algeria had no desire to take the floor at this stage, but the situation has become rather more complicated and it has no other option. I think we need to consider the following question: "Why are we in this situation?" The answer is clear; we have opened Pandora's box.

The delegation of Algeria has often made the point that we ought to stick to the agenda and not introduce so-called new issues. We should not open up the discussion to new issues including, inter alia, critical civilian installations, which have nothing to do with the agenda. However, in an effort to show flexibility and not obstruct the work of the Conference, we accepted the inclusion of a reference to them in the annual report in the framework of a group of agreements, as well as what are known as MANPADS. All these are new issues, which all States are entitled to raise at the Conference, and on which they may also present papers. But then other States also have the right to raise issues which they believe are important. Any delegation has the right to raise an issue and submit working papers on it. The Conference has to deal with all these documents on an equal footing; this is the minimum right of any State member of the Conference.

It seems to me that the Conference is at a critical juncture. Allow me to quote a saying by a philosopher, and I will do so in French:

(continued in French)

"It is as if men were together in a boat and some of them were putting all their weight on one side; the others would tip it just as much to the other side. A third option may exist - that of those who believe that things would go just as well if the boat were to stay on an even keel."

(Mr. Khelif, Algeria)

(continued in Arabic)

The “even keel” is what we achieved with the adopted agenda. If we want to make progress, we should stick to the agenda, and if some delegations want to open the debate, then other delegations will also have proposals, ideas and issues which are important to them. It is in the interest of the Conference and of each and every one of us to stick to the agenda and maintain the delicate balance that we struck when we adopted the agenda. It is not necessary for all of us here to have ...

(continued in French)

... two mandates: a national mandate - everyone here represents his country and has an obligation to uphold the security interests of his country - and another mandate, that of the Conference on Disarmament, which was conferred upon us by the international community, the mandate of disarmament, and particularly nuclear disarmament.

(continued in Arabic)

In this case, we have to strike a balance between our national requirements and the requirements of the international community in terms of disarmament and negotiations on issues that affect us all and serve the cause of security and peace.

I ask you, Mr. President, and your successors to bear these comments in mind, because we are on a slippery slope with very negative consequences for the future of the Conference. We must not open doors which we cannot close again. It is dangerous to divert the Conference’s attention away from the concerns on which we agreed by consensus by introducing new issues that may be important, but could be discussed elsewhere.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the distinguished representative of Algeria for his statement. I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Syria.

Mr. ALI (Syrian Arab Republic) (translated from Arabic): Of course, we at the Conference unfortunately are used to seeing certain delegations raise spurious issues that are not grounded in reality. We, for our part, have raised real problems and issues which are familiar to everyone. They have been discussed in the media and in the Security Council, the Human Rights Council and elsewhere. Of course, any member State of the Conference on Disarmament has the right to raise any subject. Any State has the right to ask the Conference to have documents circulated as official documents of the Conference.

At the plenary meeting held on 12 September 2006, i.e. the 1042nd session, I raised some issues of relevance to the Conference’s work. I would now like to reiterate some of those issues.

Firstly, there is the issue of Israel burying nuclear waste in the occupied Syrian Golan. Then, there is the question of Israeli nuclear facilities which are supposed to be subjected to comprehensive IAEA safeguards. There is also the question of the use, by American forces, of phosphorus bombs against the city of Falujah in Iraq. I mentioned other issues as well.

(Mr. Ali, Syrian Arab Republic)

In exercise of our right as a member of the Conference on Disarmament, we shall be submitting a letter to you, Sir, through the secretariat, concerning all these subjects. We ask that the Conference discuss the letter, which should be circulated as an official document of the Conference and included in the 2006 report.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you for your statement. Are there any other delegations wishing to take the floor at this stage? That does not seem to be the case.

This concludes our plenary meeting. This meeting will be followed in 10 minutes by an informal one during which we will continue the consideration of the Conference's draft report.

The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.