

# CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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20 September 1988

ENGLISH

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FINAL RECORD OF THE FOUR HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THIRD PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Tuesday, 20 September 1988, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Ali Shams Ardakani (Islamic Republic of Iran)

The PRESIDENT: I declare open the 483rd plenary meeting on the Conference on Disarmament.

In accordance with the programme of work, the Conference is to adopt today the reports of two subsidiary bodies, as well as its annual report to the forty-third session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. As I announced at our plenary meeting last Thursday, we shall first take up for adoption the report of the ad hoc committees on the prevention of an arms race in outer space and chemical weapons. We shall now deal with the report of the Ad hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, contained in document CD/870. That document was circulated at our previous plenary meeting. If there is no objection, I shall take it that the Conference adopts the report of the Ad hoc Committee.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The report of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons is contained in document CD/874, which was also circulated at our last plenary meeting. I put before the Conference for decision the report of the Ad hoc Committee. If there is no objection, I shall consider that the Conference adopts the report of the Ad hoc Committee.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We shall now turn to the draft report of the Conference to the forty-third session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. The secretariat distributed the relevant document, CD/WP.348/Rev.1, in the delegations' pigeon-holes yesterday, and a second distribution has been made today in the conference room. The document issued by the secretariat contains the technical parts of the annual report, as well as the substantive paragraphs relating to agenda items on which no subsidiary bodies were established during the 1988 session of the Conference. The reports of the ad hoc committees will be included in the text once this document has been adopted by the Conference and issued later as an official document.

The blank spaces appearing in the draft report will be filled in by the secretariat at the time of processing the relevant CD document. As usual, members finding any errors of an editorial or technical nature in the various languages should transmit the observations directly to the secretariat, as there is no need for us to take up these minor questions. This also applies to slight corrections to maintain harmony in the text in the various official languages. In connection with the annual report, I should also like to inform you that the secretariat will circulate at the end of this week the index of the verbatim records of the Conference for the 1988 session which must be attached to the report of the Conference to the General Assembly in accordance with rule 45, paragraph (e), of the rules of procedure. The index to be circulated by the secretariat covers the period up to and including the 480th plenary meeting, since it had to be submitted at that stage to the technical services for processing. The final text will also include the remaining plenary meetings, in particular the last plenary devoted to substantive questions, which was held last Thursday. The secretariat would be grateful to receive any corrections to the index not later than Thursday 29 September at noon, so that the annex may be submitted for translation and processing immediately afterwards.

(The President)

I now turn to the text of the draft annual report, contained in document CD/WP.348/Rev.1. As I mentioned earlier, there is no need for us to deal with minor editorial points. In fact, the secretariat has already noted some technical errors which will be corrected. There is, however, a minor addition to be made in paragraph 7 of the document, which could not be included earlier as the question of the closing date of the 1988 session was still open when this document was being processed. That addition would read as follows:

"At its 482nd plenary meeting, the Conference also decided to close its annual session on 20 September 1988."

I trust that this is acceptable. I see no objection.

We shall now proceed to the adoption of the annual report to the forty-third session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, as contained in document CD/WP.348/Rev.1 and as orally amended by me by the addition made in paragraph 7. If there is no objection, I shall take it that the Conference adopts its annual report to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: May I now make my closing statement as President of the Conference during the month of September?

I would like to thank you all for giving me the honour of co-operation in bringing this year's work of the Conference to a conclusion. Special thanks are due to our ad hoc committees, sub-committees and working groups and those who chaired them, as well as their members. I should specially name His Excellency Mr. Miljan Komatina, the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as well as the Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference, His Excellency Mr. Vicente Berasategui, notwithstanding the great appreciation we all have for the work of the secretariat, the staff and the interpreting team.

My country is proud to be a member of the Conference on Disarmament and takes great interest in the work of this august body. Regular appearances of our Foreign Minister before this Conference to share his views and those of our Government attest to this. We think that in a world which still accommodates aggressors, ideals of disarmament raise hope for humanity. My country, which has been the victim of the bloodiest aggression of modern time, stands as a manifestation of the need for the implementation of these ideals. However, we are glad that disarmament's traditional hall was designated for the peace talks. We hope that all efforts to achieve a comprehensive, just, honourable and durable peace will bear fruit and that the chance denied to our nation during many years of foreign domination, followed by years of imposed war, will be restored so that our nation can play its deserved role in promoting international peace and security.

(The President)

It is most unfortunate that we have been victim of the most vicious and barbaric forms of weapons, i.e. chemical weapons. We have seen the extent of genocide by Iraqi forces not only against Iranian military and civilian targets but also against the Kurdish population of Iraq as well. More unfortunate than the crime is the inability of the international community to move against those who are committing these crimes. As my President in his message to the Conference has mentioned, we hope that shortcomings in international regulations governing the use of chemical weapons, genocide and all crimes against humanity and peace will be worked out so as to contribute to our resolve to finalize the convention concerning a ban on the production, storage, transport, transfer and use of chemical weapons.

As my President said in his message of 2 September 1988, "the Islamic Republic of Iran assesses the new developments in bilateral talks to eliminate intermediate-range nuclear missiles positively and hopes that this step will lead to new and concrete measures for general and comprehensive disarmament." This is to say we welcome the INF Treaty of 7 December 1987, hoping it will be implemented fully by the signatory parties.

Even though the third special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations devoted to disarmament, a significant step in the direction of disarmament, did not succeed in formulating a workable final document, it was however able to address the areas of divergence of views impeding its successful conclusion. These efforts keep all of us hopeful that our ideals and goals are achievable, thus enabling us and all other soldiers of peace to work for a better world, free from threats of mass destruction and genocide. Any further delay in creating ad hoc committees on the first three priority items on the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament will not be considered a step "not taken" by the Conference, but a backward step.

I hope our shortcomings will not lead us to face other grim realities in the same way as in the case of the use of chemical weapons, where even the recognition and condemnation of the crime, let alone its punishment, is hostage to short-sighted and self-serving petty economic and political concerns. This inaction remained even after special technical teams dispatched by the Secretary-General of the United Nations verified the extensive and frequent use of chemical weapons. To prevent a repetition of such horrors, the Conference as the sole international body responsible for multilateral negotiations on disarmament should be empowered to finalize expeditiously a comprehensive convention. A world free from threats of nuclear, chemical, biological and radiological weapons, and the threat of war in general. May future generations remember us as those who chose and achieved real progress in this area over and above exchanges of diplomatic niceties! Insha-Allah (God willing).

I thank all of you again.

That concludes my statement. I have no other questions to consider during this annual session of the Conference on Disarmament. Before adjourning this plenary meeting, I wish to announce that the next plenary meeting of the Conference will be held on Tuesday, 7 February 1989 at 10 a.m., in conformity with rule 7 of the rules of procedure.

(The President)

As agreed by the Conference today in adopting the report of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons contained in document CD/874, and in accordance with paragraph 11 (d) of that report, the Ad hoc Committee will hold a session of limited duration during the period 17 January to 3 February 1989 and, in preparation for the resumed session, open-ended consultations of the Ad hoc Committee will be held between 29 November and 15 December 1988.

This plenary meeting stands adjourned and the 1988 session of the Conference on Disarmament is closed.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.