

Conference on Disarmament

English

Final record of the one thousand four hundred and twenty-sixth plenary meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Friday, 25 August 2017, at 10.05 a.m.

President: Mr. Julio Herráiz España..... (Spain)

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The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I call to order the 1426th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament. Excellencies, dear colleagues, Ms. Kaspersen, ladies and gentlemen: before we begin our work today, I would like to inform you that the Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, Mr. Ahmet Üzümcü, has asked to address the Conference at our plenary meeting to be held on 11 September 2017. Is there any objection to this request? I see none.

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): As I stated last Tuesday, I would like to give delegations the opportunity to make some initial comments of a general or political nature or, if they so wish, more specific comments on the draft report of the Conference on Disarmament to the General Assembly — which has been circulated in document CD/WP.602 — in addition to any written comments, which should be submitted by the end of today, Friday. I wish to thank the delegations that have already conveyed their valuable and constructive comments and proposals to us through the secretariat.

This plenary meeting will be followed by a meeting of the working group on the way ahead, chaired by Ambassador Lynn.

As there are no names on the list of speakers, I will now open the floor to any delegation that wishes to speak at this point.

Allow me, first, to say that traditionally the sixth presidency of each annual session of the Conference begins with a plenary meeting at which general responses to the draft report are formulated. It was not possible to do this last Tuesday because many delegations wanted to take the floor on a number of important issues and we did not have time for a task which, I repeat, is traditionally undertaken by the sixth presidency. For that reason, we thought that today we could hold, even if briefly, a preliminary discussion on initial reactions to the draft report so that we might — without prejudice to any written comments that may be submitted — look at what course we might follow in the forthcoming talks, bearing in mind the opportunity provided by the meeting that will be chaired later by Ambassador Lynn. That is the spirit in which we have convened this plenary meeting.

I see, however, that no delegation wishes to take the floor to make a statement at this time. I stand corrected. I recognize the delegation of Belarus.

Mr. Nikolaichik (Belarus) (*spoke in Russian*): Mr. President, allow me first of all to congratulate you on assuming your duties as President at a very critical period for the Conference on Disarmament, namely the adoption of the report. We wish you every success. You may count on the full support of the Belarusian delegation.

I would like to make a brief announcement. At the plenary meeting on 29 August, the delegation of Belarus will take the opportunity to make a presentation, in a national capacity, on the topics of new types of weapons of mass destruction, transparency in armaments and a comprehensive programme of disarmament. We hope that this will be of interest to all colleagues but, in any event, wish to invite you for a coffee beforehand.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank you for that information and for your kind words. It is my understanding that the presentation in question will be made during a formal plenary meeting in which the delegation of Belarus will take the floor in a national capacity and the presentation will not involve any specific proposal requiring action by the Conference on Disarmament.

Mr. Nikolaichik (Belarus) (*spoke in Russian*): That is correct, Mr. President. Our presentation will be made during the plenary meeting, when we will ask for the floor in our national capacity, and that will be at the morning plenary meeting of the Conference on 29 August. There will be no need for the Conference to take any decisions following the presentation.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of Belarus for that information. I now recognize the delegation of China.

Mr. Ji Haojun (China): Mr. President, I have just one small question. Would you issue a revised version of the draft report before we start discussion of it next week?

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank you for that question. Normally, the first thing that the secretariat will do — working with the presidency, of course — is to circulate two lists of the amendments received in writing: one list describes, country by country, what each country has submitted, and the other indicates in order, paragraph by paragraph, the amendments submitted. After this process and a further formal or informal plenary discussion, we will circulate a second draft report, having by then taken concrete decisions about which amendments will be included in the draft.

Does any other delegation wish to take the floor? That does not seem to be the case. I thank you for your brief comments. We hope that the discussions and talks will gradually take shape in the course of the next few days. In any case, we would be grateful if any amendments could be forwarded to the secretariat.

As I mentioned earlier, the working group on the way ahead, chaired by Ambassador Lynn, will meet after a short break.

That concludes our business for today. The next plenary meeting will take place in this chamber on Tuesday, 29 August, at 10 a.m.

The meeting rose at 10.15 a.m.