

SPECIAL CONFERENCE OF THE STATES  
PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE  
PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT,  
PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING OF  
BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) AND  
TOXIN WEAPONS AND ON THEIR  
DESTRUCTION

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 1st MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Monday, 19 September 1994, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. TOTH (Hungary)

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Appointment of the Credentials Committee

Consideration of the report of the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts to Identify and Examine Potential Verification Measures from a Scientific and Technical Standpoint and decision on any further action with a view to strengthening the Convention

The meeting was called to order at 11.10 a.m.

OPENING OF THE SPECIAL CONFERENCE BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE  
(item 1 of the provisional agenda)

1. Mr. TOTH (Chairman of the Preparatory Committee) declared the Special Conference open. The Special Conference was being convened at the request of the majority of States parties, in accordance with the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference.

SUBMISSION OF THE FINAL REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE (item 2 of the provisional agenda)

2. Mr. TOTH (Chairman of the Preparatory Committee) said that, in accordance with the provisional agenda (BWC/SPCONF/L.1), he would now submit the report of the Preparatory Committee (BWC/SPC/PC/6), which had been adopted by consensus. It had been decided that the Preparatory Committee would deal mainly with organizational matters, on the understanding that substantive issues would be discussed at the Special Conference itself.

3. The report of the Preparatory Committee contained recommendations concerning, inter alia, the dates and duration of the Special Conference, participation, financial arrangements, the distribution of posts among the various groups, the draft rules of procedure and background documentation. The Preparatory Committee had confirmed the understanding reached on the presidency of the Conference, and agreement had been reached on the distribution of the posts of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the subsidiary bodies and the posts of 20 Vice-Presidents of the Conference. The Preparatory Committee, taking into account the estimated cost and other factors, had decided that the session in Geneva should last for two weeks instead of three, as had been suggested earlier. It had also agreed to recommend for consideration and adoption by the Special Conference the rules of procedure of the Third Review Conference, mutatis mutandis. Those rules, together with the provisional agenda, constituted two annexes to the report of the Preparatory Committee. It had been decided that the VEREX report (BWC/CONF.III/VEREX/9), the report of the Preparatory Committee and the Final Document of the Third Review Conference should constitute the main documentation before the Special Conference. The matter of financial arrangements for the Special Conference had also been discussed and it had been decided to recommend that the Special Conference should adopt the same cost-sharing formula as the Preparatory Committee. The document containing cost estimates (BWC/SPC/PC/4/Rev.1) had been made available to delegations at the end of the Preparatory Committee's session. Under rule 10 of the rules of procedure, the Preparatory Committee had requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to nominate an official to act as the Provisional Secretary-General of the Special Conference; that matter would be taken up later under item 6 of the provisional agenda. The Preparatory Committee had also briefly discussed the issue of the content of the Final Document. He thanked delegations for the cooperation, constructive attitude and readiness to compromise which they had displayed during the Committee's session.

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE SPECIAL CONFERENCE (item 3 of the provisional agenda)

4. Mr. TOTH (Chairman of the Preparatory Committee) requested the Provisional Secretary-General of the Conference to conduct the proceedings relating to that item.
5. Mr. KHERADI (Provisional Secretary-General of the Conference) said that the Preparatory Committee had agreed to recommend to the Special Conference that Mr. Toth (Hungary) should act as President of the Special Conference. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Special Conference wished to elect Mr. Toth President by acclamation.
6. It was so decided.
7. Mr. Toth (Hungary) took the Chair.
8. The PRESIDENT thanked delegations for the confidence they had expressed in him. The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) had been the first international legal instrument to eliminate one component of the weapons of mass destruction. It had created favourable conditions for negotiations of the prohibition of chemical weapons and the destruction of stockpiles of those weapons, and had thus been an early precursor of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Since the conclusion of the BWC, the notion of security had been considerably enlarged and become more complex. Verification had been given the highest priority and security had become a kind of watchword for subsequent disarmament negotiations. That had been the genesis of the Special Conference, which, he was convinced, would be successful.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (item 4 of the provisional agenda) (BWC/SPCONF/L.1)

9. The provisional agenda was adopted.

ADOPTION OF RULES OF PROCEDURE (agenda item 5) (BWC/SPC/PC/6 (annex II))

10. The draft rules of procedure were adopted.

CONFIRMATION OF THE NOMINATION OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE SPECIAL CONFERENCE (agenda item 6)

11. The PRESIDENT said that, as stated in paragraph 26 of the report of the Preparatory Committee and in accordance with rule 10 of the rules of procedure just adopted, the Preparatory Committee had decided to invite the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with States parties, to nominate an official to act as Provisional Secretary-General of the Special Conference, the nominee to be confirmed by the Special Conference. Mr. Kheradi, Deputy Director of the Centre for Disarmament Affairs, had been nominated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to act in that capacity. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Special Conference wished to confirm the nomination of Mr. Kheradi as Secretary-General of the Special Conference.

12. It was so decided.

ELECTION OF THE VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE SPECIAL CONFERENCE AND THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE AND THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE (agenda item 7)

13. The PRESIDENT read out the distribution of posts recommended by the Preparatory Committee:

Vice-Presidents of the Special Conference:

West European and other States: France, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States of America;

Non-Aligned Movement and other States: Brazil, China, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Zimbabwe;

East European States: Belarus, Bulgaria, Romania, Russian Federation.

14. If there was no objection, he would take it that those nominations were acceptable to the Special Conference.

15. It was so decided.

16. The PRESIDENT read out the following further recommendations:

Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Committee of the Whole:

Chairman (West European and other States): Mr. Wesdal (Canada);

Vice-Chairman (Non-Aligned Movement and other States): Mr. Fasehun (Nigeria);

Vice-Chairman (East European States): Mr. Demyanenko (Ukraine);

Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Drafting Committee:

Chairman (Non-Aligned Movement and other States): Mr. Berguño (Chile);

Vice-Chairman (West European and other States): Mr. Starr (Australia);

Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Credentials Committee

Chairman (Non-Aligned Movement and other States): Mr. Eksteen (South Africa);

Vice-Chairman (East European States): Mr. Dembinski (Poland).

17. If there was no objection, he would take it that those nominations were acceptable to the Special Conference.

18. It was so decided.

APPOINTMENT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE (agenda item 8)

19. The PRESIDENT suggested that the question of the composition of the Credentials Committee should be taken up at a later stage.

20. It was so decided.

CONSIDERATION OF A REPORT OF THE AD HOC GROUP OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS TO IDENTIFY AND EXAMINE POTENTIAL VERIFICATION MEASURES FROM A SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STANDPOINT AND DECISION ON ANY FURTHER ACTION WITH A VIEW TO STRENGTHENING THE CONVENTION (agenda item 9) (BWC/CONF.III/VEREX/9)

21. The PRESIDENT said that no delegation expressed an intention to make a statement in the general debate at the present meeting. On the basis of informal discussions there was a general understanding that the general debate should be kept relatively short. He therefore suggested that the first three meetings of the Special Conference should be devoted to the general debate, which would be followed by discussions in the Committee of the Whole, when delegations could explain their positions and make proposals. The secretariat had informed him that it had prepared a draft programme of work (BWC/SPCONF/L.2) which reflected the understanding that had just been reached. The draft programme would be applied in a flexible manner.

22. Mr. BAIDI-NEJAD (Islamic Republic of Iran) asked for confirmation by the President that, in accordance with rule 42 of the rules of procedure, summary records of the proceedings of the Special Conference would be prepared by the secretariat.

23. The PRESIDENT gave the confirmation requested.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.