

# CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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## FINAL RECORD OF THE ONE THOUSAND AND NINETY-THIRD PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Tuesday, 26 February 2008, at 10.15 a.m.

President: Mr. Ahmet ÜZÜMCÜ (Turkey)

The PRESIDENT: I declare open the 1093rd plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

I have the Syrian Arab Republic and Indonesia on the speakers' list for today. I now give the floor to the distinguished Permanent Representative of Syria.

Mr. HAMOUI (Syrian Arab Republic): Mr. President, allow me at the outset to congratulate you on behalf of the Group on assuming the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. The Group stands ready to cooperate fully with you.

We thank the distinguished Ambassador of Tunisia for the great work accomplished during the Tunisian presidency, and the distinguished Ambassador of Sri Lanka and his colleagues for their devotion to the work of our Group.

I have the honour to deliver the following statement on behalf of the Group of 21.

“1. The G-21 expresses concern at the threat to humanity posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible use or threat of use. As long as nuclear weapons exist, the risk of their proliferation will remain.

“2. We would like to recall in this regard that the very first resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, adopted unanimously, called for the elimination of nuclear weapons from national arsenals.

“3. We would also like to recall that the Final Document of the United Nations General Assembly special session on disarmament in 1978 accorded the highest priority to the goal of nuclear disarmament.

“4. Furthermore, the International Court of Justice, in its advisory opinion of 1996, concluded that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

“5. The Millennium Declaration in 2000 also reaffirmed the commitment of the Member States of the United Nations to strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons.

“6. Therefore, the Group, as it stated in its statement to the Conference on Disarmament on 29 January 2008, reiterates that ‘achieving total nuclear disarmament remains [its] highest priority’.

“7. The G-21 would like to draw attention to the following contributions of the Group to the deliberations on nuclear disarmament in this Conference:

- Working paper on cessation of nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament, submitted on 12 July 1979 (CD/36/Rev.1)

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- Working paper on the cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament, submitted on 9 July 1980 (CD/116)
- Working paper submitted on 4 February 1983 (CD/341)
- Draft mandate for an ad hoc committee on item 2 of the agenda, submitted on 18 March 1988 (CD/819)
- Proposal for the establishment of an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament, submitted on 14 March 1996 (CD/1388)
- Proposal on the programme of work, submitted on 5 June 1997 (CD/1462)
- Proposal on the programme of work, submitted on 4 February 1999 (CD/1570)
- Draft decision and mandate of an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament, submitted on 18 February 1999 (CD/1571)

“8. Stressing its strong commitment to nuclear disarmament, the Group reaffirms its readiness to start negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, with a specified framework of time, including a nuclear weapons convention.

“9. Therefore, we are of the view that an international convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons would be an important step in a phased programme towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, with a specified framework of time.

“10. In this regard, the Group stresses that the fundamental principles of transparency, verification and irreversibility be applied to all nuclear disarmament measures.

“11. While noting the measures taken by the nuclear-weapon States for nuclear arms limitation, and encouraging them to take further such measures, the Group reiterates its deep concern over the slow pace of progress towards nuclear disarmament and the lack of progress by the nuclear-weapon States towards accomplishing the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals.

“12. The G-21 reaffirms that nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are substantively interrelated and mutually reinforcing.

“13. The G-21 States parties to the NPT remain concerned about the lack of progress in the implementation of the relevant decisions and the resolution on the Middle East of the NPT Review and Extension Conference in 1995 and the outcome of the 2000 NPT Review Conference. The G-21 States parties to the NPT also remain particularly concerned about the lack of progress regarding the unequivocal undertaking by nuclear-weapon States to

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accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, and urge the nuclear-weapon States to abide by their legal commitments established under article VI of the NPT.

“14. The G-21 emphasizes that progress in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects is essential to strengthening international peace and security. The Group reaffirms that efforts toward nuclear disarmament, global and regional approaches and confidence-building measures complement each other and should, wherever possible, be pursued simultaneously to promote regional and international peace and security.

“15. There is also a genuine and urgent need to eliminate the role of nuclear weapons in strategic doctrines and security policies to minimize the risk that these weapons will ever be used and to facilitate the process of their elimination.

“16. Pending the achievement of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, the Group reaffirms the urgent need to reach an early agreement on a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. In this context, the Group recalls paragraphs 32 and 59 of the Final Document of the tenth special session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, which underscored the need for effective arrangements, as appropriate, to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

“17. The G-21 stresses the significance of achieving universal adherence to the CTBT, including by all NWS, which, inter alia, should contribute to the process of nuclear disarmament. The Group reiterates that if the objectives of the Treaty were to be fully realized, the continued commitment of all States signatories, especially the NWS, to nuclear disarmament would be essential.

“18. The G-21 reaffirms the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, and expresses its determination to promote multilateralism as the core principle of negotiations in these areas.

“19. Therefore, the G-21 calls for renewed efforts to resolve the current impasse in achieving nuclear disarmament, particularly in the adoption of a balanced and comprehensive programme of work of the Conference on Disarmament.

“20. In view of the Group’s strong commitment to nuclear disarmament, the G-21 suggests the following concrete steps to promote the goal of nuclear disarmament:

- Reaffirmation of the unequivocal commitment of nuclear-weapon States to the goal of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons
- Elimination of the role of nuclear weapons in the security doctrines

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- Adoption of measures by nuclear-weapon States to reduce nuclear danger, such as the de-alerting of nuclear weapons and decreasing the operational readiness of nuclear-weapons systems
- Negotiation of a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons
- Negotiation of a convention on the complete prohibition of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons
- Negotiation of a nuclear weapons convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and on their destruction, leading to the global, non-discriminatory and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time”.

The PRESIDENT: I thank Ambassador Hamoui of the Syrian Arab Republic for his statement on behalf of the Group of 21. I now give the floor to the distinguished Ambassador of Indonesia, Ambassador Puja.

Mr. PUJA (Indonesia): Mr. President, like the Group of 21, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your assumption of the CD presidency. Let me assure you of Indonesia’s full cooperation and support in discharging your duties. Indonesia associates itself with the statement made by Syria on behalf of the Group of 21.

Indonesia attaches great importance to the total elimination of nuclear weapons. We underscore the need to continue dialogue and negotiations at all levels in order to achieve the objectives of the total elimination of nuclear weapons as well as other weapons of mass destruction. We should further recall that nuclear disarmament has been discussed extensively for a very long time and that efforts are still ongoing in this regard.

The Final Document of the United Nations General Assembly special session on disarmament in 1978 gave the highest priority to the goal of nuclear disarmament. In other forums, the States parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty also agreed to the action plan for the systematic and progressive efforts to achieve nuclear disarmament, which is also known as the 13 practical steps.

In addition, as has been underlined in the G-21 statement, we have innumerable working documents from the Conference which contain proposals related to all aspects of nuclear disarmament, including a timetable and practical measures. We could always revisit these working documents, since most of them are still relevant to our work today. We believe that these proposals and the existing agreements will help to further advance the negotiations on nuclear disarmament through this august body.

(Mr. Puja, Indonesia)

Nuclear disarmament is not an option; it is an obligation. This obligation was further strengthened by the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the NPT, under which the nuclear-weapons States should fulfil an unequivocal undertaking to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals.

We agree that we need to create an environment conducive to nuclear disarmament. However, we also believe that the international security environment and nuclear disarmament efforts should reinforce each other. Nuclear disarmament will in fact greatly contribute to international security. The fear of nuclear proliferation and the possibility that these weapons may fall into the hands of terrorists will remain as long as nuclear weapons continue to exist.

We also believe that non-proliferation in all its aspects is highly important, but it will not necessarily solve the problem if it is not accompanied by sufficient disarmament measures. The only guarantee to avoid this disastrous scenario is to get rid of these horrendous weapons.

The non-nuclear-weapons States, for their part, have played an important role that supports the aim of eliminating the risks of nuclear weapons. Indonesia and other non-nuclear-weapons States have adhered to their commitments under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. We have also undertaken other measures, such as complying with the IAEA Additional Protocol, for the creation of a nuclear-weapons-free zone.

Therefore, we urge nuclear-weapons States to take the necessary action towards further advancing their nuclear disarmament efforts, and for them to do so in a manner that is both verifiable and irreversible.

International security is not the concern of a particular State; it is the concern of all countries. It is in this connection that a strong call for nuclear disarmament has been put forward in all parts of the world. We have heard pleas from civil-society bodies, NGOs, academics, city mayors, lawyers, scientists, men's and women's coalitions and different groups encompassing all elements of society.

In this spirit, my delegation looks forward to working with other delegations in trying to find a common and sustainable approach for the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

The PRESIDENT: I thank Ambassador Puja of Indonesia for his statement and for the kind words he and, in fact, Ambassador Hamoui previously addressed to the Chair.

I have no more speakers on my list. Does any delegation wish to take the floor at this stage? That does not seem to be the case.

I have some announcements to make as far as our schedule is concerned.

With respect to the high-level attendance next week, the Secretary-General and myself are pleased to see the high number of dignitaries who have confirmed their intention to address the Conference so far: a Vice-President, seven Ministers of Foreign Affairs, four Deputy Foreign Ministers and a State Secretary for Foreign Affairs are on the speakers' list of next week. This is not final yet. Therefore, we prefer to wait until our next plenary to distribute the final list.

(The President)

But as of now I can already announce that we shall have two sessions on Tuesday, 4 March, one in the morning and another one in the afternoon, and probably another short session on Wednesday, 5 March.

I also wish to inform delegations of some changes to our schedule of meetings. During yesterday's Presidential consultations, I already briefed regional group coordinators about them. The first one is related to the informal debate on agenda item 5. Ambassador Petko Draganov had to go to his capital; therefore, due to his absence, this debate is being rescheduled for Friday, 29 February, at 10 a.m. instead of this afternoon.

The second change relates to the informal meetings foreseen to take place on 11 and 12 March. These meetings are aimed at enabling agenda item coordinators to share orally the main elements of their reports that they will present to the presidency. Colleagues will have another opportunity to express their views and positions after having listened to the coordinators. These are purely informal sessions of approximately half an hour each. They will be chaired by coordinators. The goal is in fact to enhance transparency. The initial dates were too close to the evaluation which will take place on 13 March. Therefore, as the P-6, we thought that it would be more sensible to organize them a bit earlier on Thursday, 6 March. Agenda items 1-4 will be dealt with in the morning, and items 5-7 in the afternoon of that day. Agenda coordinators will then finalize their reports and present them to the presidency on Monday, 10 March. The secretariat has prepared a revised version of the calendar for weeks 6, 7 and 8. They will be distributed now.

I believe this concludes our business for today. The next formal meeting of the Conference will be held on Thursday, 28 February 2008, at 10 a.m. in this chamber.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.