



General Assembly

Official Records

Disarmament Commission

298th meeting

Monday, 20 April 2009, 10 a.m.
New York

Chairman: Mr. Towpik (Poland)

The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

Organization of work (*continued*)

The Chairman: I have received nominations for two vice-chairmanships of the Disarmament Commission, which are positions that include membership of the Bureau of the Commission. Both of these candidates are from Africa. One, Mr. Jean-Francis Zinsou, is from Benin, and the other, Mr. Johann Paschalis, is from South Africa.

If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Commission wishes to elect Mr. Jean-Francis Zinsou and Mr. Johann Paschalis as Vice-Chairmen of the Disarmament Commission.

It was so decided.

The Chairman: On behalf of the Commission and the other members of the Bureau, I warmly congratulate the two new Vice-Chairmen of the Disarmament Commission and wish them every success in discharging their difficult tasks.

The next question is that of the election of Chairpersons of the Working Groups.

I have been informed that the Group of African States has nominated Mr. Johann Paschalis of South Africa for the chairmanship of the Working Group on elements of a draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade.

If I hear no objection, I shall take it that it is the Commission's wish to elect Mr. Johann Paschalis as Chairman of the Working Group on elements of a draft declaration.

It was so decided.

The Chairman: Again, allow me on behalf of the Commission to congratulate Mr. Paschalis and to wish him every success in discharging his very difficult duties, which I would also say are crucial for this session.

We still have to finalize consultations with regard to the candidature for the chairmanship of Working Group I, on nuclear disarmament. May I remind the members of the Commission that the first meeting of the Working Group on nuclear disarmament is scheduled for this afternoon. If we do not elect a candidate this morning, we will have to cancel the 3 p.m. meeting today, in which case the work of the Working Group on nuclear disarmament will begin tomorrow.

As members are aware, immediately following the adjournment of this meeting, the first meeting of the Working Group on elements of a draft declaration will be held in this room.

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.

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