
Conference on Disarmament

English

Final record of the one thousand three hundred and ninety-second meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Tuesday, 21 June 2016, at 10.10 a.m.

President: Mr. Luis Enrique Chávez Basagoitia(Peru)

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The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I call to order the 1392nd plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

As this is the last week of the presidency of Peru, I would like to give a brief summary of the work that I have been carrying out. Since my assumption of the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament, I have focused my efforts on an informal consultation process in the hope that that would enable us to reach an understanding on a proposal for a programme of work for this year.

Without prejudice to those ongoing efforts, last week we gave delegations that wished to do so the opportunity to express their views on any of the items on the agenda. I think that was a useful exercise and would like to thank the delegations that shared their views with us.

I wish to inform you at this point that my consultations on the programme of work are ongoing. In the framework of these consultations, I have formulated a proposal aimed at reconciling the various viewpoints expressed. I am convinced that this is the best way of trying to find a compromise among the different views. The fact is, however, that I am as yet unable to report on whether consensus has been achieved on any of the proposals submitted to date, nor am I in a position, today, to present a proposal for a programme of work under my own responsibility.

Having said that, I am still awaiting a response to the initiative that I have been promoting in the framework of my consultations. I will continue to pursue attempts to reconcile positions on an informal basis until the last day of my presidency, which is this Friday. If there is any significant progress made that I would need to inform you of, which I hope will be the case, I will convene a plenary meeting in a timely manner in order to give you an account of what has been done. That is all I can tell you for the time being about developments concerning my consultations.

I would now like to know whether any delegation wishes to take the floor, as is customary in our plenary meetings, because now would be the time.

The Russian Federation has the floor.

Mr. Deyneko (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Mr. President, first of all, allow me to express our gratitude to you and your colleagues from the Permanent Mission of Peru. With your support, there have been encouraging developments towards mutually acceptable solutions regarding the programme of work of the Conference on Disarmament. At one point, it even seemed as if the compromise for which the overwhelming majority of delegations have been striving was not entirely out of reach.

However, for reasons beyond our control, we were unable to sustain the positive momentum, and we are now essentially back to where we started a few months ago. This is the reality, one that the Conference, including the upcoming Polish presidency, will have to take into account to formulate a new algorithm of actions but within a different, tighter time frame.

Distinguished colleagues, today's meeting is an opportunity to analyse what has happened and identify the best way forward for our collective efforts to agree on a programme of work, which should meet a number of criteria.

Firstly, the programme of work should be comprehensive: it must include the key items on the Conference's agenda, if not all of them. The Russian delegation has stuck firmly to this principle, refusing to allow this or that issue to dominate, let alone to exclude all others. We will continue to be guided by this principle.

Secondly, the programme of work should be balanced: it should be focused not only on the discussion mandate for a single agenda item, but also on negotiations or, at the very

least, the real prospect of launching them in the near future. If it is not, the Conference will be condemned to circulate perpetually between the well-known priorities of individual nations and groups, as key issues are taken over, one after another, by parallel conferences and forums. Unfortunately, a precedent has already been set, and it would be greatly preferable if it did not become a rule.

In this connection, it might be prudent to review the remaining proposals on the table to see whether they satisfy the above criteria and, on that basis, to decide on our best option. It is of no less importance that we should attempt to come to a common understanding of the intended aim of the process initiated by the programme of work. The main thing is to ensure that the efforts to agree on a programme of work — and, even more so, those made at the implementation stage — unite the members of the Conference rather than divide them further. We look forward to a substantive and constructive conversation.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the representative of the Russian Federation for his statement.

I see no other requests for the floor, so I think we can conclude today's meeting. Thank you very much for your participation.

The next plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament will, in principle, take place next Tuesday, 28 June, at 10 a.m. I say "in principle" because, as I stated earlier, I do not exclude the possibility that, should there be any progress in my consultations between now and Friday, I might have to convene another plenary meeting. If this does not happen, the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 28 June, at 10 a.m. Thank you all for being here and, if I do not see you again, thank you in particular for the support that you have all given me during my time as President. A special thanks goes to the secretariat for its support, to Mr. Møller, to Ms. Soliman, to Mr. Kalbusch and to everyone else.

The meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.