

# Conference on Disarmament

English

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## Final record of the one thousand three hundred and eighty-fourth plenary meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Tuesday, 22 March 2016, at 10.05 a.m.

*President:* Ms. Tehmina Janjua .....(Pakistan)

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**The President:** Ladies and gentlemen, I call to order the 1384th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

Excellencies, dear colleagues, Ms. Soliman, ladies and gentlemen, it is a matter of great honour for Pakistan — and for me personally — to assume the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. I would like to begin by complimenting the Ambassadors of Nigeria and Norway for the manner in which they conducted their respective presidencies. They held extensive consultations and played the role of honest brokers. I would like to emulate their work and follow in their footsteps. I look forward to all of your and the member States' and the secretariat's continued support and cooperation to me and my delegation.

Pakistan joined the Conference on Disarmament right at its inception in 1979. Pakistan was also a member of the Conference's predecessor body — the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament — since its establishment in 1969. Pakistan participated actively in the negotiations on the Biological Weapons Convention and later the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. We view the Conference on Disarmament as an integral and indispensable part of the United Nations disarmament machinery that needs to be preserved and strengthened. We are committed to the effective functioning of the Conference and value its immense potential for the promotion of international peace and security as well as regional stability.

The Conference has very important issues on its agenda pertaining to nuclear disarmament, prevention of nuclear war, prevention of an arms race in outer space, negative security assurances, new types of weapons of mass destruction, comprehensive programme of disarmament and transparency in armaments — the entire agenda of the Conference.

The state of play in the Conference is as it always was: a reflection of the prevailing strategic realities. There is a world outside that prevails and comes to the Conference's work as well.

The differing priorities of Conference member States have prevented the adoption of a programme of work that would allow the start of negotiations on any issue on the Conference's agenda. Yet, the Conference has not remained idle. Over the years, it has undertaken extremely valuable and substantive work in the form of in-depth discussions, both in formal and informal settings. These have been of great utility in developing a better understanding of the various perspectives and for appreciating the security concerns of each other.

As I mentioned in my statement on the opening day of our 2016 session, the Conference has lately been the target of some misguided criticism — and I underline "misguided". We understand and share the frustration emanating from the lack of progress on nuclear disarmament, which is the Conference's *raison d'être*, as that lack of progress is the direct cause of most of the criticism. We however realize that the Conference does not operate in a vacuum. Simply condemning the Conference or trying to find ways around it only amounts to addressing the symptoms without tackling the root causes. However painstaking and time-consuming, there is simply no shortcut to building consensus-based cooperative and non-discriminatory approaches that lead to equal and undiminished security for all.

Let me say a few words on the concrete work of the Conference. Since the start of this year, we have seen four proposals for a programme of work. Three of these proposals were submitted as Conference documents while one remains informal. We have also had a proposal by the Group of 21 to commence negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention in the Conference.

My predecessor conducted extensive consultations in various formats and concluded that there was no consensus on any of these proposals. I will continue the process of consultations on the programme of work to explore the prospects for progress. Tomorrow and the day after tomorrow, I intend to meet with the three regional groups and China for informal consultations, followed by bilateral meetings with the delegations that have offered proposals for a programme of work.

I also intend to hold open-ended informal consultations on Thursday afternoon in the Council Chamber at 3 p.m. The process of informal consultations on a programme of work cannot be an endless affair. We are already in the ninth week of the current Conference session and have to take a decision soon regarding how we wish to organize our work for the rest of the year. Without prejudging the outcome of my informal consultations, I invite you to share your views on how we can best utilize the given time, especially if consensus on a programme of work continues to remain elusive.

Before turning to the substantive part of today's plenary meeting, I will open the floor for comments. I wish to share with you that Ambassador Kim In-chul of the Republic of Korea has joined us as his country's representative to the Conference on Disarmament. Please join me in warmly welcoming Ambassador Kim in our midst.

I will now turn to the list of speakers for today. I have, for now, only one speaker. That is Ambassador Kim In-chul of the Republic of Korea. You have the floor, Excellency.

**Mr. Kim In-chul** (Republic of Korea): I thank you, Madam President, for your warm welcome and your kind introduction to the Conference on Disarmament. At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Conference. It is our sincere hope that the Conference will take a step forward under your able leadership. Acknowledging the difficulty and complexity of this task, I would like to assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation in your efforts.

Amid multiple geopolitical tensions and global challenges, the Republic of Korea believes that the Conference has an important role to play in promoting international peace and security in fulfilment of its mandate. In this regard, the Republic of Korea believes that it is vital that the Conference agrees on a programme of work and moves forward as soon as possible. We take note of all the draft programmes of work currently on the table. Each proposal has its own merits. We are looking closely at those drafts and are open to considering any constructive suggestions in this regard.

As one of this session's six Presidents, and the last President of the year, the Republic of Korea will also make every effort to develop a comprehensive and substantive annual report based on agreed work and consensus. I look forward to working with all our colleagues in this room in this regard.

Madam President, regrettably at this first plenary meeting chaired by you, I cannot omit mentioning that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is flagrantly violating relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2270 (2016), one of the most robust sanctions resolutions in United Nations history.

The series of missile launches — four in this month alone — is a serious provocation against the united determination of the international community and threatens peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and beyond. We believe that the full implementation of Security Council resolution 2270 (2016) in an exhaustive and thorough manner by the international community is called for more than ever before. Such united action would make it resonantly clear to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that it must abandon its nuclear and missile programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner.

In concluding, I am very honoured and privileged to represent the Republic of Korea at the Conference on Disarmament, given the serious challenges of non-proliferation as well as nuclear disarmament just ahead of us. To this end, I look forward to working closely with all the members and I hope to benefit from the collective wisdom in the coming months.

**The President:** We look forward to working closely with you, Ambassador Kim, as one of this session's Presidents and as a member of the Conference.

Next on the list is Ambassador Sano of Japan. Ambassador, you have the floor.

**Mr. Sano** (Japan): As this is my first time taking the floor under your presidency, I would like to congratulate you, Madam President, on your assumption of this high post of the Conference on Disarmament. I assure you of the full support and cooperation of my delegation throughout your tenure.

Japan commends the tireless efforts by the current and previous Presidents towards the adoption of a programme of work during this year's session. Although we have not reached agreement on any proposal to date, we should continue our efforts to adopt a meaningful programme of work that will lead to early commencement of negotiations.

Madam President, on 18 March, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea once again launched a missile, which, according to our estimations, flew a distance of around 800 km. This is in clear violation of relevant Security Council resolutions, including the recently adopted resolution 2270 (2016). Japan strongly condemns the launch and urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to comply with the relevant Security Council resolutions and other international commitments without taking further provocative actions.

**The President:** Thank you for your kind words, Ambassador Sano. The next speaker on the list is Ambassador Wood of the United States. You have the floor.

**Mr. Wood** (United States of America): First, let me congratulate you, Madam President, on assuming the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. My delegation looks forward to working with you and your delegation and I assure you of my delegation's full support during your tenure as President.

I just want to say very briefly a few words on the reported missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We have seen reports that North Korea has launched a ballistic missile or missiles into the Sea of Japan. We are closely monitoring the situation on the Korean Peninsula, and we call again on North Korea to refrain from actions that further raise tensions in the region and to focus instead on taking concrete steps towards fulfilling its international commitments and obligations.

The United States remains steadfast in its commitments to the defence of its allies, including the Republic of Korea and Japan. We will continue to coordinate closely with our allies and partners in the region.

**The President:** Thank you for your kind words, Ambassador Wood. Next on the list is Poland. Mr. Broilo, you have the floor.

**Mr. Broilo** (Poland): First of all, let me congratulate you, Madam President, upon your assumption of the post of President of the Conference on Disarmament. We wish you success in bringing the Conference back to its statutory, fully fledged activity, and please be assured of our close cooperation in this endeavour. This is indeed a nice coincidence with your national holiday — Pakistan Day — tomorrow: please accept, Madam President, also our congratulations on that occasion.

I would like also to express our sincere gratitude to Ambassador Kongstad and his team for their tireless efforts and excellent work during the Norwegian presidency.

As recent days have been very tragic, let me address our sincere condolences and words of sympathy to our Russian colleagues and to the families of the victims of the tragic plane accident in Rostov, some of whom came from other countries as well. Our warm thoughts are also with our Turkish — and now also Belgian — colleagues after the series of bloody terrorist attacks, as well as with the Spanish delegation after the tragic bus accident.

Madam President, we are almost at the midterm of this year's session of the Conference, so it is vital, in our conviction, to look at the issues at stake in a more pragmatic way. We thank, in that context, the Russian delegation for its recently circulated non-paper and further explanations, which are helpful in better understanding the nature of its proposal on chemical terrorism. Nonetheless, there are still questions to be answered, among others: What would be the main elements of the proposed convention? How would it be constructed and placed within the existing framework? Where should it be negotiated?

We agree with those delegations who have indicated that this issue needs further and deeper analysis, not only here in Geneva but foremost in The Hague and New York, not to mention our capitals. We can assume that it will be quite a lengthy process.

At the same time, we want the Conference to get back to work; and there is readiness to consider other proposals, including the most open and well-balanced one from

the United Kingdom. What is important is that it is flexible enough to incorporate any part of the existing ones and also new ideas, if agreed by consensus.

It seems, as the Swiss delegation proposed at the plenary meeting a week ago, that at this stage the most practical step would be to try to separate the two issues, namely the convention on chemical terrorism and the programme of work, in order to let them each live independently. This way we can enable the Conference to work and prove its flexibility in tackling important political issues.

We do hope, Madam President, that there is a will within the Conference not to miss this precious opportunity.

**The President:** I thank the representative of Poland very much for his kind words.

I, also, would like to take this opportunity to express sincerest condolences on the part of my delegation, and stand also on the part of the Conference, for the bomb blast that took place this morning in Brussels. We wish safety for all our friends and colleagues and the people of Brussels and Belgium.

Our sincerest condolences also go to the people of Turkey, Russia and Spain for the accidents and the terrorist attacks that they have suffered. We stand in solidarity with them as well.

The next speaker on the list is Norway. Ambassador Kongstad, you have the floor.

**Mr. Kongstad** (Norway): I must admit, Madam President, that I am very happy to see you and not me in the Chair, but I also wish to thank you for all your support and encouragement during the Norwegian presidency. We certainly look forward — both I and my delegation — to continued close cooperation during your presidency.

I also wish to take the opportunity to welcome our new colleague from the Republic of Korea, Ambassador Kim In-chul. We very much look forward to working closely with him on various issues, also outside this room.

I will come back later with the Norwegian positions on the various issues before us.

**The President:** I can tell you that I used to feel very assured when you were sitting here, Steffen — not so much now that I am sitting here, but it is an interesting place to be. We can share notes later.

I have no other speakers on the list now. Does anyone wish to take the floor? The Ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, you have the floor.

**Mr. So** Se-pyong (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Let me first of all express my congratulations to you, Madam President, on your assumption of the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. I assure you of the full support and cooperation of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

I am confident that your diplomatic skills and able leadership will generate tangible results in taking the work of the Conference forward. I also would like to take this opportunity to commend the previous Presidents — Nigeria and Norway — for their outstanding contribution and utmost efforts made in connection with the programme of work during their presidencies.

Madam President, you have taken over responsibility for a task at a very critical juncture. The responsibility is all the greater given the fact that several proposals have been submitted thus far for consideration. This is a manifestation of the willingness of Conference member States to break the long-standing deadlock and move the Conference forward. In this regard, we are in favour of your intention to conduct open, informal consultations on the various draft proposals with the members of the Conference. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea stands ready to endorse any comprehensive and balanced programme of work which is qualified to gain consensus among Conference member States.

On the statements made by the United States, South Korea and Japan, I have to clarify that — as I have mentioned on many occasions — my delegation can also give

clarification on the position and principle of my country's policy towards the nuclear programme.

Last year, on the first day of the year, my supreme leader made the gesture to the United States that if the United States and South Korea temporarily stopped the military exercise against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, then we would follow a moratorium on any kind of tests. But they refused. After that, we requested the United States to come to the table for the conclusion of a peace treaty. They also refused to do so. What does this show? It means their intention is not stability and security on the Korean Peninsula. They continue their pressure on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

As to South Korea, it has not changed in any way from following the United States policy — the hostile policy towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. As I mentioned last time, there are some weak points in South Korea: the Achilles' heel of South Korea is that they do not have any right to decide and determine. If they are asked by the United States to stage a military exercise against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, then they have to do so. But they are going — as I noted strongly and highlighted last time — to open Pandora's boxes here and there.

Japan is the same. If the peace treaty is concluded, it is 100 per cent sure that the United States have to withdraw their military equipment as well as their soldiers from South Korea.

So, we are now at a critical juncture. The military exercise is ongoing in South Korea now. I therefore ask all the delegations, all the States members: at this juncture, should we do nothing, even though they are conducting a military exercise against us and they are talking about an attack on Pyongyang?

If they stop their military exercises and come to a peace treaty agreement or conclusion, we will then think something. If the military exercises continue and the military bases in South Korea, in Japan and in the Pacific area remain, there will be no peace or stability in the Korean Peninsula.

**The President:** Thank you for your kind words to the Chair, Mr. Ambassador. Next on the list of speakers is the Russian Federation, Mr. Deyneko. I know him as Alexander, so, Alexander, you have the floor.

**Mr. Deyneko** (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Allow me at the outset, Madam President, to express our most heartfelt thanks to your predecessor, Mr. Steffen Kongstad, Permanent Representative of Norway, and his team. Our Norwegian colleagues have made every effort to assist delegations to the Conference on Disarmament in finding a much needed compromise on the programme of work. Unfortunately, the Conference has yet to arrive at one, but clear progress has been made.

Under the leadership of Norway, groundwork has been laid that might enable us to make real headway towards mutually acceptable outcomes. We expect that we will manage to successfully accomplish the remaining, although no less complex, share of the work during the new Pakistani presidency. In this regard, it is a great pleasure to welcome you, Madam Ambassador, to this important post.

Madam President, you may rest assured of our readiness to engage in constructive cooperation in the general interest of all participants in the Conference. For our part, we will try to contribute further to the common cause and introduce the main elements of the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of chemical terrorism and the text of the relevant explanatory notes before the close of the first part of the 2016 session for consideration by the Conference.

**The President:** Thank you, Mr. Deyneko, for your comments. Next on the list is the United States. Ambassador Wood, you have the floor.

**Mr. Wood** (United States of America): My apologies for requesting the floor again, Madam President. I need to respond to the comments made by the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

First and foremost, with regard to the military exercises, as we have said before and I think it is clear to just about everyone in this room, the exercises that we have been participating in with our allies have long been scheduled. They pose no threat to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We have made that very clear from the beginning. And I might remind the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that with regard to the so-called proposal for halting the exercises in return for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea halting these missile launches, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is required by United Nations Security Council resolutions to halt this type of missile activity. So, it needs to live up to its obligations, particularly to denuclearization of the Peninsula.

And to be clear, with regard to the peace treaty, this was a proposal made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We carefully considered their proposal and made clear that denuclearization had to be a part of this type of a discussion. The North rejected our response. And so, the onus is on North Korea to show — through actions and not words — that it is committed to living up to its international obligations, to fulfil the requirements of Security Council resolutions and to commit, as it did in the 2005 Joint Statement, to eliminating its nuclear weapons programme. I think, as we have seen over the weeks, there has been a course of condemnation of the nuclear tests that the North undertook in January followed by the subsequent rocket launches. The onus is on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to live up to its obligations and not to use excuses in other activities as a cover for not fulfilling its international obligations.

**The President:** Ambassador Kim of the Republic of Korea, you have the floor.

**Mr. Kim In-chul** (Republic of Korea): I apologize for taking the floor again, Madam President. I just wish to respond to what the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea said.

We all know that the military exercises in the southern part of the Korean Peninsula are — and always have been — defensive in nature and transparent. It is a regular exercise. We notify in advance all the relevant parties involved, including the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, of this exercise.

Secondly, no pretext can justify the continued violation by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of the decision of the international community that has been made through the Security Council. We want to make that point clear. By no means can we accept the remark by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that South Korea has an Achilles' heel. No one in this room will consider that of any value.

**The President:** Next on the list is Japan. Ambassador Sano, you have the floor.

**Mr. Sano** (Japan): Thank you, Madam Chair, for giving me the floor again.

We have just heard a statement in which the Ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea justified the nuclear testing and series of missile launchings. But we have to recall that it is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that continues to violate the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six Party Talks. Therefore, it is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that should take concrete action towards complete denuclearization and return to compliance with the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards agreement.

**The President:** The Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ambassador So, has the floor.

**Mr. So Se-pyong** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Thank you, Madam President, for giving me the floor again.

Regarding the military exercise, they brought in all the nuclear-powered fighters and bombers, aircraft carriers and submarines. So, as I mentioned, if we stand still, it is 100 per cent certain that something will happen. Those are just the circumstances in the Korean Peninsula now.

They speak only about Security Council resolutions, but the facts are different. The fact is that they are looking forward to having an opportunity. If we do nothing, as I

mentioned before, who knows what will happen? This is a juncture for another, second Korean War. If they listen to us and if they agree to come to the table for the peace agreement, as I mentioned, we will think of something else. But they refuse. They continue and they ask us to be fully naked — then, they will do what they want.

Now, due to the strong defence of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, it is a problem for the United States to finalize their strategies towards the world. If the peace treaty is concluded, their strategies will be totally finished. This is very clear. Everyone knows it, but they disguise it and they are trying to disguise here also.

South Korea, as I mentioned, does not even have commanding rights over their own South Korean Army. The current President of South Korea — actually her predecessor — postponed the right of transfer to the South Korea side to after 2015. But the current President postponed this permanently, so it is just a modern colony of the United States. That is South Korea. That is why they have to follow.

As I have repeated again and again, if the United States changes their hostile policy towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, then we will think it over or something. And, if they continue, then this kind of situation will be continued also.

**The President:** Does anyone else wish to take the floor at this time? I see no one. This concludes our business for today. As announced to the regional coordinators at yesterday's consultations, I will hold open-ended informal consultations on Thursday, 24 March, at 3 p.m. here in the Council Chamber. Our next plenary meeting will be held on Tuesday, 29 March 2016, at 10 a.m.

The meeting is adjourned.

*The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.*