

Conference on Disarmament

English

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

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Tuesday, 23 August 2016, at 10.10 a.m.

President: Mr. Kim In-chul(Republic of Korea)

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The President: I call to order the 1398th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

I would like to begin by recognizing the Ambassadors of Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru and Poland for the manner in which they conducted their respective presidencies. It is a great honour for the Republic of Korea to assume the final presidency of the Conference on Disarmament for 2016 and we would like very much to follow in their steps for a successful conclusion to this year's session.

Please allow me also to welcome this year's participants in the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme who are with us today.

Since this is the first plenary meeting under the presidency of the Republic of Korea, please allow me to brief you about my plans for the presidency.

One of the tasks that we have to carry out before the end of the session is to finalize the report on our work for submission to the General Assembly. I have asked the secretariat to circulate informally, via e-mail, the first draft of the report; it is currently available in English only. Clerical errors and inconsistencies in the advance copy that were noted by colleagues at the meeting yesterday of the 2016 session's six Presidents have been corrected in the version that is currently being processed by the United Nations Office at Geneva conference services for translation and reproduction. The secretariat has taken the necessary steps to have it circulated as document CD/WP.596 in all official languages as soon as possible.

Now, I would like to briefly outline the draft report that has been circulated. The draft follows the structure, format and language of past reports adopted by the Conference. Accordingly, while the draft does not go into great detail, it intends to faithfully record on a factual basis the actions taken and the views expressed by the members. I also should not fail to recognize and express our thanks for the valuable contribution and advice offered to us by the members as well as the secretariat during our informal bilateral consultations; they were very helpful in drafting the document before us.

I would like to point out that we will continue to work with all delegations in an open and transparent manner, and our team will remain available throughout the process. I would be grateful if delegations could send their written comments to the secretariat by this Friday, 26 August, at noon. In the meantime, I look forward to meeting with any delegation to discuss the draft report. Of course, I also welcome any comments from you at our plenary meeting this morning.

Would any delegation like to take the floor at this point? I recognize the representative of Pakistan. Ambassador Janjua, you have the floor.

Ms. Janjua (Pakistan): Mr. President, I warmly congratulate you on assuming the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. We have complete confidence in your diplomatic abilities and skills for leading our work on the finalization of the Conference's 2016 annual report. We also welcome the presence of the Director-General and the Secretary-General of the Conference with us, as well as Ms. Soliman.

We thank you for the excellent draft report that you circulated on Friday, 19 August 2016. We deeply appreciate your professional approach: you carried out extensive informal consultations at the bilateral level before circulating the first draft. We appreciate that. It follows the established pattern of previous annual reports and records the relevant details in a concise and factual manner. Its early availability leaves us with ample time to study the report in detail and seek instructions from our capitals. I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation in our common endeavour towards the smooth adoption of the annual report.

Before concluding, we wish to welcome and acknowledge the presence of the United Nations disarmament fellows among us today. We welcome their presence at this plenary meeting of the Conference. I wish them all the best for their fellowship and their future careers in the field of disarmament. Let me say that, as someone who has been part of the foreign service for many decades, I can assure you that being a disarmament fellow is a really lucky thing that has happened to you. When we were younger, we all wanted to be

disarmament fellows, but it did not happen for all of us. So, congratulations and all success. I hope that you have a great visit to Geneva and to other parts of the world where you have to go for the programme.

The President: I thank the Ambassador for her statement and her kind words addressed to the presidency. Does any other delegation wish to take the floor? I recognize the representative of Australia.

Mr. McConville (Australia): Mr. President, allow me also to extend the full cooperation of the Australian delegation to you as you assume this final presidency of the year. You can be assured of our full support. We welcome the text that you have put before us and I think this is certainly a text that we will be working on closely with you and can support. I am sure, as we head towards the First Committee, we can make this task as painless and as cooperative as we can.

We also extend a warm welcome to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament, and I particularly want to welcome the disarmament fellows who are here today representing their own countries. You are entering into the interesting world of the disarmament global community, and I think you will find, even if we are at the tail end of our Conference on Disarmament year, that we can — in the context of not just the work in the Conference but also more broadly in Geneva — undertake some very important work. We wish you all the best and we hope that your stay in Geneva and beyond is a fruitful and productive one.

The President: I thank the representative of Australia. Does any other member wish to take the floor? That does not seem to be the case. This then concludes our meeting of today. The next formal meeting of the Conference on Disarmament will be held on Tuesday, 30 August, at 10 a.m. This meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.