
Summary record of the 16th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Saturday, 20 May 2000, at 11 a.m.

President: Mr. Baali (Algeria)

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Review of the operation of the treaty as provided for in its article VIII, paragraph 3, taking into account the decisions and the resolution adopted by the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference (*continued*)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.45 a.m.

Review of the operation of the treaty as provided for in its article VIII, paragraph 3, taking into account the decisions and the resolution adopted by the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference (continued)

(c) Implementation of the provisions of the treaty relating to non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, safeguards and nuclear-weapon-free zones (continued)

(iii) Article VII (continued)

1. **Mr. Westdal** (Canada), reporting on his consultations with key parties with a view to coming up with a consensus on the text of the regional issues paper, said that significant progress had been made. The key parties were actively engaged in good faith negotiations concerning the last few phrases and words of key texts with an eye to a larger goal that everyone shared. Participants would betray their responsibilities if they did not make one final effort to complete that vital work.
2. **Mr. Widodo** (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, called on all the countries most directly concerned to reach an agreement in order to achieve a historic and successful outcome of the 2000 Review Conference, an objective that was cherished by the entire international community.
3. **Mr. Soutar** (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the Western Group, said that the tremendous progress achieved over the course of the Conference had led to the development of agreed language covering all aspects of the Treaty and the strengthened review process. If agreement could be reached on that basis, it would not only demonstrate that the Conference had responded positively to the aspirations of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, but it would also send a clear message to the international community that the nuclear non-proliferation regime remained vibrant and relevant. For that reason, the Western Group would like to call on the parties most intimately concerned to intensify their consultations with a view to reaching consensus within the next few hours. The international community would not readily understand if the Conference stumbled at that last fence.
4. **Mr. Bingre do Amaral** (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the international community must not let the current historic opportunity slip from its grasp. In that regard, the European Union would back any efforts aimed at ensuring smooth negotiations between the key parties concerned. The final step must be taken in order to bring the Conference to a successful conclusion.
5. **Mr. de Icaza** (Mexico), speaking on behalf of the New Agenda Coalition, said the agreed language that the Conference had endeavoured to forge over the previous four weeks had brought together nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States on many fundamental issues. Those agreements could be built upon in the near future. Unfortunately, all those efforts could come to naught should the Conference fail to resolve the one pending issue. That would be unacceptable. He therefore appealed to the two States concerned in the matter to be more flexible and bear in mind the real priorities of the Conference.
6. **Mr. Noburo** (Japan) read out a message from his country's Minister for Foreign Affairs stressing the critical importance of the Conference's discussions to international peace and security, as well as to nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, and expressing the hope that the negotiations between the parties concerned would bear fruit as soon as possible.
7. **Mr. Chomicki** (Poland), speaking on behalf of the countries associated with the European Union, endorsed the statement of the European Union and expressed the hope that the parties concerned could achieve a compromise that was satisfactory to all States parties to the Treaty.
8. **Mr. Sanders** (Netherlands) said that his delegation fully supported the ongoing efforts to reach agreement on the one remaining paragraph and called on the parties directly concerned to bridge the remaining gap.
9. **Mr. Kapralov** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation, too, was deeply concerned about the situation which had developed in the Conference and welcomed the appeals to the parties most intimately involved in the discussion of the remaining unresolved issue to come to an agreement and thus ensure the success of the Conference.
10. **The President** said that he would suspend the meeting for an hour in order to allow the representative