

ADOPTION OF THE FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE TO THE REVIEW CONFERENCE (continued)

8. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the draft report of the Preparatory Committee on its first session (NPT/CONF.2000/PC.I/CRP.1) and pointed out that in chapter I, paragraph 3, Benin should be added to the list of participants; and in chapter II, paragraphs 6 and 7, "the Group of European and other Western States" should be changed to "the Western Group". The last sentence of paragraph 7 should read: "At its 15th meeting, on 18 April, the Committee also decided that Mr. Tadeusz Strulak (Poland) would be Chairman of the second session. It was also decided that when not serving as Chairman, the Chairmen of the first and second sessions of the Preparatory Committee would serve as Vice-Chairmen of the Committee. It was further decided that a representative of the Group of Non-Aligned and other States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons should be proposed to serve as Vice-Chairman of the second session."

9. He proposed that the Committee should take a decision, which would then be reflected in paragraphs 9 (a) and 14 (a), of the draft report, to the effect that the second session of the Preparatory Committee would take place in Geneva from 27 April to 8 May 1998; that, on the basis of rotation, the third session would be held in New York; and that the provisional dates of the session would be 12 to 23 April 1999. He further proposed that the Committee should provisionally decide that the 2000 Review Conference would be convened in New York and would provisionally take place during the period from 24 April to 19 May 2000.

10. Mr. GARCÍA (Colombia), speaking on behalf of the Group of Non-Aligned and other States parties to the Treaty, said that the Group would have preferred the second session of the Preparatory Committee to be held in New York, but in a spirit of flexibility it could agree to hold the second session in Geneva, on the understanding that the third session and the Conference itself would be held in New York. The Group maintained that the decision on the venue of the Conference could not be provisional and it would not be able to accept any partial agreement regarding the choice of venues.

11. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee would revert to that question. He invited the Committee to consider paragraphs 15 and 16 of the paper he had circulated to members under the heading "Proposed language for the draft report".

12. Ms. ARCE de JEANNET (Mexico) said that her delegation agreed that at the current session the Preparatory Committee should identify those issues which should be considered for inclusion in the draft recommendations to be submitted to the 2000 Review Conference. It could not, however, join in the consensus on the current wording of draft paragraph 15 of the Chairman's paper and wished to propose the following two amendments. In the second sentence, the words "a paper" should be replaced by the words "an unofficial paper". In addition, the last sentence of the paragraph should be redrafted to read: "The Committee recommended that, at its second session, the official documents and other proposals submitted by delegations as contained in annex (...) during the first session of the Preparatory Committee will be taken into account for further work