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# Conference on Disarmament

English

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## Final record of the one thousand four hundred and nineteenth plenary meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Tuesday, 30 May 2017, at 10.10 a.m.

*President:* Mr. Fedor Rosocha..... (Slovakia)



**The President:** I call to order the 1419th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

Excellencies, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, it is an honour for Slovakia to take over the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. I would like to propose that the order of business for our meeting this morning be as follows: introductory remarks from the President to present the vision and plans of Slovakia for the fourth presidency of the 2017 session; and then statements by delegations who wish to take the floor. I also wish to remind all delegations that following this plenary meeting an organizational meeting of the working group on the way ahead will take place, as communicated yesterday to all delegations by the secretariat.

Before we proceed with the order of business for today, it is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to the Permanent Representative of Indonesia, Ambassador Hasan Kleib. On behalf of my own Government and on behalf of the Conference, I would like to take this opportunity to assure you of our full cooperation and support in your new assignment.

Excellencies, distinguished colleagues, please allow me to make a statement in my capacity as President of the Conference on Disarmament. At the beginning, let me thank the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament, Mr. Møller, and his team for the support and great service provided to the Conference. As I begin my presidential mandate, I assure you that Slovakia continues to attach great value to the work of this august body. Slovakia is assuming the presidency of the Conference, the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, again after more than a decade. Indeed, it is a great honour and privilege for Slovakia — and for me personally — to serve the Conference and the member States. We take over the presidency with all seriousness and responsibility.

Slovakia continues to believe that the Conference is an indispensable element of the disarmament machinery and essential vehicle for the promotion of international peace and security through advancing disarmament. This body is central for multilateral disarmament negotiations.

In the past, the Conference was successful in negotiating major multilateral disarmament agreements, such as the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, just to mention its latest accomplishments. However, we cannot live on past achievements: we must build on them.

For the last two decades, the Conference has been in a deadlock. Its revitalization is an urgent task. We need to restore its negotiation role if the Conference is to meet expectations, fulfil its purpose and address current security needs. Political will and a new thrust is indispensable to unlock the existing impasse. The fruitful past of the Conference proves that it is an instrument or tool in the hands of its members and, when strategic political realities are conducive, the Conference can be productive and bring about positive results. We must take more concerted efforts in order to overcome the existing situation. Allow me to be more specific on how Slovakia intends to conduct its presidency.

First of all, I wish to fully recognize the endeavours of my predecessors in the 2017 session — Romania, Russia and Senegal — and I commend them for their outstanding work in steering this body. Slovakia intends to take into account and build on the efforts made and hard work done in the Conference so far, aimed at restoring its negotiating role. During the presidency of Slovakia in the Conference, we will sustain the working group on the way ahead and support its Chair, Ambassador Htin Lynn of Myanmar, in his further endeavours. We highly appreciate his determined, tireless efforts and the extensive consultations he has led so far in order to help the Conference to move forward. This process has been launched and already advanced with the aim of identifying issues for substantive work under the agenda of the Conference and common ground for a programme of work with a negotiating mandate and to consider steps for the way ahead. We believe the Conference could benefit from its results. Time is passing fast and the Conference's 2017 session has inevitably tilted to its second part. I believe that the working group on the way ahead should move forward as soon as possible. In this regard, we need to redouble our efforts. I would encourage member States to show maximum flexibility and readiness to compromise.

At the same time, Slovakia does not want to sit on the side and enjoy a free ride. We will not stand by idly. I will consult closely with the Chair of the working group on issues which do not fall under the mandate of the working group. I will try to find an arrangement within my mandate on how we can discuss them further. I also intend to actively seek perspectives of the member States with a view to both supporting the existing process and exploring all options that might help us to reach consensus on a programme of work. Let me underline that my delegation is open to considering all suggestions from any delegation that could open an avenue to restoring the Conference's negotiating role. We are ready to make every effort to take positive steps forward in order to contribute to ending the long stalemate in the Conference. Only the collective goodwill of the member States of the Conference can lead us in the right direction. We are ready — together with you and with your help and support — to invest in all efforts to take positive steps forward.

At this time, I would like to turn to the list of speakers for today. The following delegations have requested to take the floor: Indonesia, Japan, Malta, the United States, the Republic of Korea, Canada, Belgium, Spain and Turkey. I now give the floor to the representative of Indonesia, Ambassador Hasan Kleib.

**Mr. Kleib** (Indonesia): Mr. President, let me begin by expressing my deep appreciation to you and all the colleagues for warmly welcoming me as the new Permanent Representative of Indonesia to this august body. I wish to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament and wish you every success in performing your duties. Rest assured of my delegation's full support for the success of your tenure. My delegation would also like to express its appreciation to your predecessor, Ambassador Coly Seck, the Permanent Representative of Senegal, for his able stewardship in guiding the work of the Conference.

Mr. President, Indonesia continues to attach immense importance to the work of the Conference. The long and protracted stalemate in this Conference has therefore been a cause of deep concern and disappointment. It is indeed our long-held view that we should not allow the growing perception from the outside that the Conference has started to lose its relevance as the sole multilateral negotiating body on disarmament. But with its deadlock for more than 20 years, we will for sure run thin on substantive arguments for defending the significance of the work of the Conference and its significant role in contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security. We must therefore, as stated earlier by you, Mr. President, redouble our efforts to find any initiative and make every endeavour aimed at breaking the impasse and bringing substantive work back to the Conference.

Among the core issues of the Conference, nuclear disarmament remains the highest priority for Indonesia. The slow progress in nuclear disarmament underpins the decision of Indonesia to support and participate actively in the convening of a United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 71/258. We are hopeful that the instrument could potentially contribute to breaking the ongoing standstill in nuclear disarmament. We should liberate humankind from the gridlock of the menace of nuclear catastrophe — either by design or by accident — due to the continued existence of nuclear weapons.

As a strong proponent of nuclear disarmament, Indonesia will always express its deep concern about the catastrophic humanitarian impact that may be inflicted upon billions of human beings in the event of a detonation of nuclear weapons. Such concern, however, should never be interpreted as diminishing commitment or interest by Indonesia towards the continued existence and relevance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). On the contrary, as a faithful party to the NPT, Indonesia believes that the Treaty is an indispensable instrument to prevent global nuclear proliferation, with the eventual objective of achieving total elimination of nuclear weapons. Indonesia also underlines the importance of a balanced undertaking of the three pillars of the NPT.

Pending the achievement of total global nuclear disarmament, and as a State which has renounced the nuclear-weapons option, we would like to emphasize that our demand for security assurances remains prevalent. For countries that never took or have rescinded the nuclear-weapon path, it is important that we are given unambiguous, legally binding

and universal security assurances by the nuclear-weapon States. Indonesia wishes to underline the urgent need for early agreement on a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument to assure States that do not possess nuclear weapons against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Despite previous commitments and the numerous initiatives that have been made and the fact that we have not yet heard any objection to the concept of negative security assurances, no single, legally binding instrument is on the way to guarantee attainment of negative security assurances for States which do not possess nuclear weapons. We wish therefore to reiterate our call for early commencement of negotiations to achieve agreement on negative security assurances.

Regarding the fissile material cut-off treaty, Indonesia is highly committed to advancing a balanced treaty which addresses the concerns of nuclear-weapon States as well as of non-nuclear-weapon States. There has been wide agreement that the treaty should be non-discriminatory, multilateral and effectively verifiable in accordance with the mandate contained in document CD/1299.

Let me conclude, Mr. President, by reiterating that Indonesia is committed and stands ready to support real work, in line as well with your agenda that has just been stated by yourself, and would like to engage constructively in the Conference's endeavour to fully undertake its mandate.

I look forward to closely working with all Conference member States, observers, civil society and other relevant stakeholders.

**The President:** I thank the representative of Indonesia for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of Japan, Ambassador Takamizawa.

**Mr. Takamizawa (Japan):** Mr. President, let me first congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation towards a productive and positive outcome of the Conference. I also would like to extend my warm welcome to Ambassador Kleib; we look forward to working with you in the Conference and other disarmament forums.

Mr. President, despite the repeated, strong calls from the international community, yesterday — 29 May — the Democratic People's Republic of Korea again launched a ballistic missile in clear violation of a series of United Nations Security Council resolutions and against the Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks.

This year alone, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has launched at least 12 ballistic missiles; and 5 of them, including yesterday's missile, have reached the exclusive economic zone of Japan, posing a serious danger for aviation and navigation. This provocative and dangerous behaviour by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is unacceptable.

The recent launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea constitute a grave and increasing threat to regional and international peace and security. We condemn the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the strongest terms and urge it to immediately and fully implement relevant Security Council resolutions and other commitments without taking further provocative actions.

We also strongly call on the international community to redouble its efforts to ensure the sustained, comprehensive, thorough and effective implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

**The President:** I thank the representative of Japan for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of Malta, Ms. Kemppainen.

**Ms. Kemppainen (Malta):** Mr. President, allow me to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia align themselves with the European Union statement.

The European Union strongly condemns the latest ballistic missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 29 May 2017, which is yet another serious violation of its international obligations under multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions and represents a threat to international peace and security.

The European Union urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to fully abide by all Security Council resolutions and immediately halt all launches using ballistic missile technology, stop all nuclear tests and abandon its nuclear, other weapons-of-mass-destruction and ballistic missile programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner.

A consistent and effective international reaction is required to respond to the grave and increasing threat posed by the illegal programmes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. All States need to fully implement the relevant Security Council resolutions with regard to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The European Union calls on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to re-engage in a credible and meaningful dialogue with the international community. The European Union also calls on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to return at an early date to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and to refrain from any further action that would only increase regional tensions to the detriment of all.

**The President:** I thank the representative of Malta for her statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of the United States, Ambassador Wood.

**Mr. Wood** (United States of America): Mr. President, let me first congratulate you on assuming the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. I would like to assure you that my delegation and I will work with you and support you as you go about carrying out your duties as President.

Yesterday's ballistic missile launch by the Pyongyang regime marked its third launch in just over three weeks and its eleventh this year. These launches are flagrant violations of United Nations Security Council resolutions and must not be allowed to stand. These provocative and dangerous acts are a threat not only to peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region but to global peace and security.

It is incumbent on each member State of the Conference on Disarmament to strongly condemn this regime's behaviour and to look for additional ways to make clear to North Korea that its wayward conduct will not be tolerated.

The United States will pursue an aggressive international diplomatic campaign to further isolate the regime in Pyongyang and calls on all countries concerned about the nuclear sabre-rattling by North Korea in flagrant violation of international law to join us in this effort.

Pyongyang's growing nuclear and ballistic missile threats put at serious risk strategic stability around the globe and cannot go unchallenged. The regime needs to take concrete steps — and now — towards denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, to which it previously committed itself. Only then can it put itself on a path to getting back into the good graces of the international community.

**Mr. President:** I thank the representative of the United States for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of the Republic of Korea, Ambassador Kim In-chul.

**Mr. Kim** In-chul (Republic of Korea): Mr. President, let me congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. We have full confidence in you, and I assure you and your team of my delegation's full support and cooperation during your presidency. I also would like to warmly welcome the new Ambassador of Indonesia to the Conference and say to him that we look forward to working closely with him.

Mr. President, the ballistic missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea yesterday is its ninth such provocation this year, involving 14 ballistic missiles of all types. The Government of the Republic of Korea condemns in the strongest terms this provocative action by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as it clearly violates relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and constitutes a serious threat to peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and in the international community.

Such repeated provocations by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea — in this case, the third in as many weeks since the inauguration of the new Republic of Korea Government — run squarely against our call for denuclearization and peace on the Korean Peninsula. They are also in defiance of the united resolve of the international community towards denuclearization of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that was reaffirmed as a top priority of the international community in the declaration adopted by the leaders of the Group of Seven on 27 May. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea should immediately cease all forms of provocation and return to the path of its denuclearization.

The Republic of Korea Government will not tolerate any provocation by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and will respond firmly to any kind of provocations by them.

**The President:** I thank the representative of the Republic of Korea for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of Canada, Mr. Davison.

**Mr. Davison** (Canada) (*spoke in French*): Mr. President, as this is the first time that my delegation is taking the floor under your presidency, allow me to assure you of our support in all your endeavours.

Canada condemns the missile launch conducted on 29 May by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. This act and the numerous previous acts of provocation represent not just a further violation of multiple resolutions of the United Nations Security Council but pose a genuine threat to regional and international peace and stability.

(*spoke in English*)

We call upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to comply with its international obligations and to take concrete steps to engage in meaningful negotiations for a peaceful political solution.

**The President:** I thank the representative of Canada for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to Belgium, Mr. Dhaene.

**Mr. Dhaene** (Belgium) (*spoke in French*): Mr. President, allow me to begin by wishing you every success in guiding the work of the Conference on Disarmament and assuring you of the full support of the Belgian delegation.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and also wishes to express, in a national capacity, its clear condemnation of the latest ballistic missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. This is the umpteenth violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which thus continues to defy the Security Council's authority; this is unacceptable. Belgium reaffirms that the continuation of the ballistic programme of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is illegal under international law. This programme poses a threat to regional and international security, seriously erodes willingness to explore ways of reopening dialogue and undermines disarmament and non-proliferation efforts.

Belgium once again calls upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to immediately abandon its illegal nuclear weapons programme in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea must refrain from any further testing and must fulfil its international obligations in order to create favourable conditions for the resumption of dialogue.

**The President:** I thank the representative of Belgium for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of Spain, Ambassador Herráiz España.

**Mr. Herráiz España** (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): Mr. President, firstly, I have the pleasure to congratulate you on assuming your responsibilities, in which regard you may count on the full support of our delegation. Of course, we will also continue to extend that support in the framework of the coordination mechanism between the six member States that will occupy the presidency this session.

With regard to the latest ballistic missile launch conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, my delegation wishes to endorse the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union, while reiterating our condemnation in a national capacity. This launch constitutes yet another violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions and a very serious threat to regional and international peace and security. The launching of the missile and the fact that it fell in the exclusive economic zone of Japan furthermore posed a danger to maritime and aviation safety in that zone, and therefore is extremely irresponsible.

Spain expresses serious concern at the recurrent provocative behaviour of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the tension that it generates in the Korean Peninsula. We exhort the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to comply with Security Council resolutions and we renew our call for its authorities to seek dialogue with the international community and abandon its nuclear and ballistic programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner.

**The President:** I thank the representative of Spain for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of Turkey, Ambassador Koru.

**Mr. Koru** (Turkey): Mr. President, at the outset allow me to congratulate you on the assumption of the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament and assure you of my delegation's full support. I wish you every success in your endeavours to advance the work of the Conference. I also wish to thank Ambassador Lynn of Myanmar for his tireless efforts to overcome the impasse at the Conference and commend his work as the Chair of the working group on the way ahead.

Mr. President, Turkey condemns the ballistic missile launch conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 29 May 2017, which constitutes a flagrant violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions. The 12 ballistic missile launches since the beginning of the year constitute a clear testament to the persistent lack of respect by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for its international obligations and norms of behaviour. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea must abide by the calls and expectations of the international community, which are also expressed in the Security Council resolutions, and it should refrain from any action that would lead to escalation in the region.

**The President:** I thank the representative of Turkey for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of Germany, Ambassador Biontino.

**Mr. Biontino** (Germany): Mr. President, let me congratulate you at the outset on the assumption of your very important office and assure you of the full support of my delegation.

Germany fully aligns itself with the statement just read out by the European Union condemning the latest ballistic missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 29 May, which was yet another serious violation of the international obligations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea under multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions, including the one of last week, and represents a threat to international peace and security. Germany urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to fully abide by all Security Council resolutions and to immediately halt all launches using ballistic missile technology, stop all nuclear tests and abandon its nuclear, other weapons-of-mass-destruction and ballistic missile programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner.

**The President:** I thank the representative of Germany for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of Italy, Ambassador Mati.

**Mr. Mati** (Italy): Mr. President, at the outset let me congratulate you on the assumption of your mandate and assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation. I would also like to join the previous speakers in welcoming the new Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the Conference on Disarmament.

Mr. President, like other delegations, I cannot but reiterate that Italy condemns in the strongest terms the latest ballistic missile test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. On this point, Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier by the European Union. The test represents yet another clear violation of multiple existing United Nations Security Council resolutions. The missile and nuclear programmes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea represent a serious threat to international peace and security and to the global non-proliferation regime. Once again, we call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to abandon, without delay, all its existing ballistic missile and nuclear programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, to return to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards and to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea must abandon the road taken towards self-isolation and its continued challenge to the international community. We will continue to contribute to a consistent and effective response of the international community, including in our current capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006).

**The President:** I thank the representative of Italy for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of Australia, Ms. Vanessa Wood.

**Ms. Wood** (Australia): Mr. President, allow me to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency and to extend a sincere welcome to Ambassador Kleib, with whom we look forward to working.

Mr. President, Australia condemns the ongoing development of nuclear and ballistic missile programmes by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including its 29 May launch, the third missile test in a fortnight. Australia calls on all countries to redouble their efforts to implement unanimously agreed United Nations Security Council sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to press upon it that its current path is unsustainable.

**The President:** I thank the representative of Australia for her statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of China, Ambassador Fu Cong.

**Mr. Fu Cong** (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): Mr. President, allow me to begin by congratulating you on your assumption of the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament and assuring you of the Chinese delegation's full support in your task. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the newly arrived Ambassador of Indonesia; we look forward to working closely together with him.

Mr. President, the position of China regarding the launching of missiles by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has been consistent and clear. The relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council contain clear provisions regarding the use by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of ballistic missile technology to carry out launches. China opposes such launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in violation of those resolutions. China urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to refrain in the future from actions that violate Security Council resolutions, so as to create the conditions necessary for the resumption of dialogue and negotiations.

With regard to the situation on the Korean Peninsula, China advocates finding a peaceful solution through dialogue and negotiation on the basis of strict implementation of Security Council resolutions. This position is in keeping not only with the purpose of the Security Council as laid out in the Charter of the United Nations but also with the experience of the international community in dealing with contentious issues and with the



common interests of the States in the region, including the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea. The problem cannot be resolved by military means; that would only lead to even bigger problems and would entail serious repercussions. In the past as in the future, military means should never be any country's option of choice.

The Korean nuclear question is essentially about security, and the legitimate security concerns of all the parties must indeed be addressed. At the crux of the problem lies a lack of trust and, in that sense, all sides must do more to promote confidence-building. In this regard, China has put forward a proposal based on a dual-track approach and a "suspension for suspension" arrangement as a first step towards launching a dialogue.

We take note of the position expressed here by various parties in support of a peaceful settlement to the Korean nuclear issue through negotiation and dialogue. It is our hope that those parties will translate their positions into concrete policies and actions vis-à-vis the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with a view to de-escalating the situation on the Peninsula and promoting a return to the appropriate channels of dialogue and negotiation.

**The President:** I thank the representative of China for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of Poland, Mr. Broilo.

**Mr. Broilo** (Poland): Mr. President, first of all please accept our cordial congratulations upon the assumption of your new duties as the President of the Conference on Disarmament. We are ready to fully cooperate with you in helping you to fulfil this task. Let me also warmly welcome the new Ambassador of Indonesia to the Conference.

Mr. President, Poland aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union. In a national capacity, apart from the condemnation of the most recent ballistic missile test, we would like to repeat the appeal to the authorities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to stop acts in violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions. Furthermore, we strongly urge North Korea to return to dialogue and international cooperation. This is the only way to prevent further aggravation of the situation in the Korean Peninsula and in the whole region.

**The President:** I thank the representative of Poland for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mr. Ju Yong-chol.

**Mr. Ju Yong-chol** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Mr. President, at the outset my delegation would like to express congratulations on your assumption as the President of the Conference on Disarmament. I take this opportunity to assure you of my delegation's full cooperation and support in fulfilling your duty as the President of the Conference.

Mr. President, my delegation is taking the floor to respond to the allegations made against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by several States. The root cause of the present situation on the Korean Peninsula, which is moving towards the brink of war, is the hostile policy of the United States, which has continued staging provocative and joint military exercises for aggression by introducing all kinds of nuclear strategic assets.

The recent missile test firings conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are part of the normal process for strengthening its military capabilities for self-defence to cope with such a threat; it is a process that has to be undergone for field deployment. Since the United States and its followers are obsessed with inveterate and deep-rooted repugnancy and hostility towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, they make noise about the Democratic People's Republic of Korea whenever it takes measures for self-defence. They call into question the legitimate right of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to self-defence while stressing further sanctions in a bid to mount pressure upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

In this respect, my delegation categorically rejects all the accusations made by several countries, including the United States, Japan, South Korea and the representative of the European Union. The unjustifiable behaviour of the United States and its followers of

taking issue with the self-defence measures of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will only result in further pushing the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to redouble its efforts to diversify and modernize its nuclear deterrence.

I would like to close my statement by expressing strong objection to the improper language used in this chamber, such as "regime", when naming an individual country. I would like to strongly request the President of the Conference to take the necessary precautions against the practice of using insulting and unacceptable language in this chamber, because this chamber is represented by member States on an equal footing, and respect of each member State should be observed.

**The President:** I thank the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now would like to give the floor to the representative of Austria, Ambassador Hajnoczi.

**Mr. Hajnoczi (Austria):** Mr. President, it is my pleasure to congratulate you on the assumption of your high office and I wish you the very best of success. You may certainly count on the support of my delegation. I also want to extend a heartfelt welcome to Ambassador Kleib from Indonesia. We are looking forward to his contributions and we recognize the important role that Indonesia is playing in disarmament.

Austria fully aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and I am taking the floor to add some remarks in a national capacity. Austria condemns the latest ballistic missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the strongest terms. This ballistic missile launch represents another flagrant violation of multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions. Respect for, and compliance with, international law are essential principles in the efforts of the international community to uphold peace and security. Constant and intensified provocations and breaches of international law are not acceptable and threaten international and regional stability.

We urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to immediately return to the path of dialogue, to take responsible action and halt its provocations and to stop its ballistic and nuclear programmes in an irreversible and verifiable manner. The risk of further proliferation of nuclear weapons poses some of the most pressing and difficult challenges facing the international community. Over the past decades, it has become evident that the risks entailed by nuclear weapons are significantly graver than previously assumed and these risks can only increase with proliferation. The risk of nuclear weapons with their unacceptable humanitarian consequences can only be avoided when all nuclear weapons have been eliminated.

**The President:** I thank the representative of Austria for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of the Netherlands, Ambassador Van der Kwast.

**Mr. Van der Kwast (Netherlands):** Mr. President, let me first congratulate you on assuming the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament and assure you of the full cooperation of this delegation. I also warmly welcome the new Permanent Representative of Indonesia, Ambassador Hasan Kleib, to the Conference, and I would like to thank him once again for the seminar we had in Jakarta to prepare for the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty meeting, where he played a central role and which was, I think, a very functional meeting for the Treaty. We look forward to further cooperation with him here in Geneva.

Mr. President, I too would like to address the situation — which has been addressed, I think, for the right reasons by many delegations in this room — concerning the provocations by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In addition to the statement of the European Union, we wish to make the following statement in a national capacity.

The Netherlands strongly condemns the recent ballistic missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. These missile launches and a nuclear programme of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea severely threaten the stability of the region and should be stopped immediately. We call upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to halt its ongoing provocations and to return to dialogue with the international community, in particular, in the framework of the Six-Party Talks.

Full implementation of the sanctions regime by the international community is vital to this end, for it is only through persistent efforts by all that these sanctions will be effective. To ensure this, we continue to work with and through the United Nations and through the European Union.

**The President:** I thank the representative of the Netherlands for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of Sweden, Mr. Nord.

**Mr. Nord** (Sweden): Mr. President, allow me also at the outset to congratulate you upon your assumption of the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament and assure you of my delegation's full support.

Sweden fully supports and subscribes to the statement delivered earlier, but allow me to add some words from a national viewpoint. We strongly condemn the launch of a ballistic missile on 21 May by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. It is a clear violation of their international obligations under the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. This latest launch is the latest in a series of tests of ballistic missiles that are serious and provocative actions which jeopardize international and regional peace and security. Sweden urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to cease activities that aggravate the security situation and to fulfil its international obligations, respect the Security Council resolutions and abandon its nuclear and other weapons-of-mass-destruction and ballistic missile programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner. We also call upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to engage in a dialogue to reduce tensions and build security in the region and internationally.

**The President:** I thank the representative of Sweden for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of Kazakhstan, Mr. Omarov.

**Mr. Omarov** (Kazakhstan): Mr. President, first of all let me also congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament.

Mr. President, like other Conference members, Kazakhstan also strongly condemns the ballistic missile launch conducted yesterday by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. It is a blatant violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions. My country believes that the extremely irresponsible actions of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have a negative impact on the nuclear disarmament process, pose a threat to both regional and global security and undermine the efforts of the vast majority of the countries in the world to ensure a nuclear-free future.

Kazakhstan sees as important the need to find an urgent and constructive solution to the issue of nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula. We call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to immediately return to its place at the negotiating table in the Six-Party format — or other suitable format — and to completely abandon any nuclear aspirations. We are convinced that there is no other option but for all to be united to ensure a secure world and planet. This is the time for all member States to work towards eliminating the nuclear threat for the sake of a peaceful and secure world.

**The President:** I thank the representative of Kazakhstan for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of Chile, Mr. Lagos.

**Mr. Lagos** (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): Mr. President, my delegation congratulates you on your assumption of the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament and wishes you every success in guiding its work, for which you may count on our active and full cooperation.

Chile expresses deep concern at the latest ballistic missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which is the third in the course of this month. The actions of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea generate tension in the Asian region and directly threaten the security of two close friends of Chile, namely the Republic of Korea and Japan. Moreover, they constitute a flagrant violation of the relevant Security Council

resolutions, which prohibit the country from carrying out nuclear tests and any launch using ballistic missile technology.

This worrying situation transcends the Asian region and is the responsibility of the international community as a whole. For that reason, Chile joins the international community in urging the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to refrain from belligerent actions that jeopardize peace and to return to the path of dialogue in the framework of diplomatic negotiations. We urge all parties involved to work constructively towards a peaceful solution to this crisis. I emphasize, Mr. President, that this solution should be peaceful, since we share the view expressed by the Ambassador of China that there is no military solution to this crisis.

Lastly, Chile reaffirms its commitment to nuclear disarmament and to the maintenance of peace. If these goals are to be achieved, we must move forward with the delegitimization of nuclear deterrence and the elimination of all nuclear weapons and their means of delivery.

**The President:** I thank the representative of Chile for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. Now I give the floor to the representative of Bulgaria, Ms. Davidova.

**Ms. Davidova** (Bulgaria): Mr. President, first I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament and to assure you of the full support of our delegation.

Bulgaria aligns itself fully with the statement made by the European Union on the latest ballistic missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and I wish to add some remarks in a national capacity.

We condemn the latest ballistic missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. This is yet another flagrant violation of all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and a direct threat to peace and security in the region and internationally. We strongly call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to suspend immediately its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, abide by its international obligations and resume dialogue with the international community.

**The President:** I thank the representative of Bulgaria for her statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of the Republic of Korea, Ambassador Kim In-chul.

**Mr. Kim In-chul** (Republic of Korea): Mr. President, I apologize for taking the floor again. Having heard what the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had to say, I would like to make some comments.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is pestering us not only with recurring, unacceptable dangerous provocations but also with the repetition of truculent and solecistic rejoinders of a marooned entity that has only one way out. It has been told umpteen times that the only way out is to do without their expensive way of furthering their isolation through threatening international peace and security. With the repetitiveness of their logic, if we can call that logic, I have one big question about one big missing element in their logic, if it can be logic, and that is: why would anyone — what would be the reason for anyone — to attack North Korea? They have to give an answer to that, but we have never heard one. So, I respectfully ask the representative of North Korea: why would anyone want to attack North Korea?

**The President:** I thank the representative of the Republic of Korea for his statement. I now would like to give the floor to the representative of Hungary, Ms. Kroll.

**Ms. Kroll** (Hungary): Mr. President, first of all we would like to wish you all the best for your presidency and we assure you of our fullest cooperation in achieving your set aim.

We align ourselves with the statement of the European Union, and we strongly condemn the ballistic missile launch yesterday by the Democratic People's Republic of

Korea. We would like to reiterate that we need a strong international reaction and cooperation in peaceful ways to stop the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

**The President:** I thank the representative of Hungary for her statement.

At this stage, would any other delegation like to take the floor? I recognize the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

**Mr. Ju Yong-chol** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Mr. President, it is clear from the statements made by several countries just now that they are siding with the attempt by the United States to create an atmosphere of condemnation against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and its legitimate rights. We are sick of hearing such accusations, which have become common practice and which are based on unjustifiable political motivations.

Here is a point that I would like to underline: speakers today termed the Democratic People's Republic of Korea rocket launches a violation of resolutions of the United Nations Security Council or threats to peace. If the self-defence measures of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are the reason for the accusation, it is in total ignorance or deliberate disregard of the fact that Security Council resolutions are the product of double standards with no legal grounds. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has requested the Security Council several times to clarify the legal grounds of its resolutions on sanctions and has proposed an international forum of legal experts to the United Nations Secretariat for clarification, but it has not yet received any response.

What is all the more noteworthy is the fact that those countries who talk about peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula fail to say even one word or express concern over United States moves that aggravate tension in this region, including the large-scale military exercises and missile tests. Recently, the United States and South Korea extended a joint military drill that involves a United States nuclear power carrier until the end of June, and they plan to conduct yet another — the largest ever — joint naval/military drill of nuclear carrier strike groups from early June, with deployment of another nuclear carrier.

This is an act of reckless provocation that threatens peace and security in the region, and that drives the situation to the brink of war. But no country dares to mention this dangerous development. Turning away from the real cause of tension while denouncing the inevitable choice of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for self-defence imposed by it cannot be construed as an expression of concern over global peace and stability or respect for justice. As clarified on several occasions, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will not be threatened by pressure and will continue to strengthen its self-defence capabilities in every way to resolutely counter the extremely hostile United States policy towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and nuclear threat and blackmail.

And here is a piece of advice to South Korea: now is the time for them to give up the habit of depending on outsiders — the root cause of all problems. This is the only way for improved inter-Korean relations and peace and reunification of the Korean Peninsula. And I would like to advise them that this is not a place or symposium where we talk about linguistic studies.

**The President:** I thank the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for his statement. I now recognize the United States.

**Mr. Wood** (United States of America): Mr. President, I apologize for taking the floor again, but I have to respond to what I believe to be a reckless charge by the representative of the Pyongyang regime that United Nations Security Council resolutions are illegal.

I would respectfully request that the representative of the regime read the United Nations Charter. United Nations Security Council resolutions are international law — plain and simple. They need to stop using this ridiculous argument that these resolutions are illegal, because it is absolutely just a false charge. So again, I would encourage the representative to read the United Nations Charter as that will make the point very clear that United Nations Security Council resolutions are indeed international law.

**The President:** I thank the representative of the United States. I now recognize the Republic of Korea.

**Mr. Kim In-chul** (Republic of Korea): Mr. President, I apologize again. Just for our records, I posed a fundamental question and what we heard was just the repetition of not even an indirect answer to this question. So I pose that question again for them, and it is: why would anyone have the intention or want to attack North Korea? Please think hard and give us an answer. I say this for our record.

**The President:** I thank the representative of the Republic of Korea for his statement. I now recognize the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

**Mr. Ju Yong-chol** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Mr. President, I apologize for taking the floor again, but I just want to comment on the statement made by the United States.

He said that United Nations Security Council resolutions are legal. Now, I would like to put the question that, when the Democratic People's Republic of Korea filed complaints to the Security Council about the latest military exercise which was staged in March and in April, what was the response of the Security Council? This clearly shows the double standards in the practice of the Security Council. We clearly believe that all the resolutions that have been adopted within the Security Council against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have been fabricated by the United States out of despicable political motivations intended to put maximum pressure on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

As to the question raised by South Korea, I do not feel there is a need to answer it, but, clearly, they should explain to the international community the reason why they stage large-scale military exercises on an annual basis under the pretext of being self-defence-oriented, when in fact they are aimed at launching a pre-emptive attack on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

**The President:** I thank the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for his statement. Would any other delegation like to take the floor? I recognize Guatemala.

**Ms. Bolaños Pérez** (Guatemala): Mr. President, I just have a question. I want to deliver a statement on behalf of the group of observer States regarding the working group on the way ahead. I do not know if this is the correct time to do it, or should I wait?

**The President:** The meeting of the working group will start immediately after the plenary, so I think the proper time will be after the plenary.

**Ms. Bolaños Pérez** (Guatemala): I wanted to deliver this statement here in the plenary of the Conference on Disarmament. May I?

**The President:** Yes.

**Ms. Bolaños Pérez** (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): Mr. President, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the informal group of observer States to the Conference on Disarmament. First, please allow us to congratulate you on assuming the presidency of the Conference and to emphasize that you may count on the full cooperation of the group during your presidency. Today, we wish to place on record our position with reference to the working group on the way ahead, which will hold its organizational meeting immediately after the conclusion of this plenary meeting.

The group of observer States acknowledges and appreciates the efforts made in recent weeks by Ambassador Htin Lynn of Myanmar, Chair of the working group, to establish a subgroup on expansion of the Conference's membership, and his subsequent proposal to find space so that the issue of expansion might be discussed in informal meetings of the working group. Despite these efforts, yesterday we were informed that no consensus has been reached to take forward the proposals.

The group of observer States greatly regrets that some members of the Conference continue to oppose discussion of the expansion of the membership and refuse to recognize the right of States to participate in the bodies of this organization should they wish to do so.

We hope that the presidencies of the Conference will continue to advance towards the goal of ensuring a discussion on expansion of the membership and that States will cease to regard disarmament exclusively as a matter of their national interests.

Mr. President, in our statement at the Conference's plenary session on 24 February 2017 and in a letter that we sent to the Chair of the working group on the way ahead on 14 March 2017, the group of observer States welcomed the establishment of the working group in accordance with the decision contained in document CD/2090. The Conference decided, specifically in paragraph 1, point 2 of that document, that the working group would have a mandate — and I quote — to “identify issues for substantive work under the agenda, taking into account the efforts and priorities of the international community”. The expansion of the Conference's membership is a priority for a good number of countries belonging to the international community. The observer States believe that events and challenges affecting the global security environment should be discussed with the due inclusion of all States having an interest in the Conference.

The official records of the Conference indicate that 27 States have submitted applications for accession since 1982; astonishingly, more than half of them have been waiting for more than three decades to become full members of the Conference and they have not been given any valid reason as to why their participation is not permitted. Moreover, no further measures have been taken with regard to the membership since the last enlargement of the Conference in 1999, despite the provision contained in rule 2 of the rules of procedure, which states: “The membership of the Conference will be reviewed at regular intervals.” Eighteen years can hardly be considered a regular interval. We believe that all issues of global importance, as disarmament clearly is, must be addressed in universally representative bodies. Membership of the Conference should be open to all States that wish to join, thereby ensuring universality, transparency, multilateralism and adherence to United Nations rules and procedures.

As noted in the working paper on enlargement (CD/2034) that the group of observer States submitted to the Conference in 2015, we believe that there is merit in identifying the means by which the Conference could engage more substantially with the States that wish to become members.

In conclusion, the group of observer States wishes to underscore its strong commitment to promoting the global objectives of disarmament and non-proliferation through broad-based, inclusive and effective involvement within the framework of the Conference. We hope that the question of expansion will be given due consideration before the end of this year's session.

**The President:** I thank the representative of Guatemala for her statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to Iran.

**Mr. Heidari** (Islamic Republic of Iran): Mr. President, let me first and foremost congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament and pledge the cooperation of my delegation. I would also like to welcome the Permanent Representative of Indonesia and assure him of our cooperation; we have enjoyed long-standing cooperation with him and we wish him every success.

Mr. President, we would like to thank you for your statement in which you referred to the activities that you intend to undertake. In particular, you indicated that you want to start consultations on the issues at hand in the Conference on Disarmament. I would like to recall in this regard that a decision has been adopted on the working group on the way ahead. The preamble to the decision reiterates a task that is always entrusted to the President of the Conference on Disarmament insofar as he is the one that has to come up with the programme of work. During the discussion on the way ahead under the previous presidency, the misunderstanding has arisen that, since we have the working group on the way ahead, there is no need for the President to continue consultations to come up with a programme of work. It is the position of this delegation, and we wish to address this to you, that you should embark on consultations regarding the programme of work. This is very necessary and has been a matter exercised by every President. We should remove any misunderstanding that, because we have the working group on the way ahead, there is no need for the President to work on the programme of work. Besides that preambular

paragraph of the decision, the last operative paragraph states that if the President comes up with a programme of work, then the working group on the way ahead, which was a last resort due to very hard consultations, would be annulled.

Mr. President, since you said that immediately after this plenary we will start on the working group on the way ahead, I wish to state that this delegation has not received any email indicating that, immediately after this meeting, the working group on the way ahead will meet. There have thus already been some mistakes. I have in front of me a text entitled “The Conference on Disarmament holds last public plenary under the Senegalese presidency” and which quotes the Ambassador of Myanmar as saying, in the last line, that “another consultation meeting [on the way ahead] would take place on 1 June, which would be broad in nature and include all agenda items of the Conference”. As we have not received any such email, we do not have any instructions whatsoever to discuss that issue here.

A mistake had also occurred with the email that we received from the secretariat. The email stated that any comment from delegations regarding the draft decision provided by the Ambassador of Myanmar should be sent before 12, but the email was forwarded to different delegations after 12. We therefore called the secretariat to clear up the misunderstanding.

In view of the foregoing, it is clear that, at this stage, if a meeting of the working group on the way ahead is going to take place, this delegation is not yet in a position to discuss the issue as thoroughly as expected since the meeting was programmed for 1 June.

**The President:** I thank the representative of Iran for his statement. I will ask the secretariat to give you an answer.

**Mr. Kalbusch** (Secretary of the Conference on Disarmament): Thank you, Mr. President. I will be happy to reply to the comment made by the distinguished delegate of Iran regarding the email.

An email was sent out yesterday afternoon, at 16.32 Geneva local time, to all delegations of member States of the Conference on Disarmament. Should you not have received the email, we are, of course, more than happy to check if the address we have on record — and which appears in the list of participants — is still valid, or if there is some issue with the server why you did not receive the email. I can confirm, however, that the list of addressees shows the email address that is on record and in the list of participants. I would be happy to discuss this with you afterwards.

**The President:** I thank the secretariat for this clarification. Iran, you have the floor.

**Mr. Heidari** (Islamic Republic of Iran): Mr. President, I apologize for taking the floor again. I can assure you that we have not received it yet. Sending it so late in the day might not leave much of an opportunity for delegations, since it had already been indicated that the meeting will be taking place on 1 June. In any event, there is no problem for this delegation if you want to discuss, but I want to make sure that you are aware we are not ready for any decision. I know that there is no consensus on the draft decision that has been provided by the Ambassador of Myanmar.

While I have the floor, I did not understand from what you said, Mr. Ambassador, if you intend to start consultations on a programme of work, which is, in accordance with rule 28, a mandate for the President of the Conference on Disarmament.

**The President:** I thank you for your statement. At this stage, would any other delegation like to take the floor? That does not seem to be the case.

This concludes our business for today. The next plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament will be held on Tuesday, 6 June 2017, at 10 a.m. As I mentioned already, the organizational meeting of the working group on the way ahead under the Chair of Ambassador Lynn of Myanmar will now take place. This meeting is adjourned.

*The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.*