



General Assembly

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Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects Second session

Summary record of the 26th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 19 January 2001, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Dos Santos (Mozambique)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

Recommendations to the Conference on all relevant matters, including the objective, a draft agenda, draft rules of procedure and draft final documents, which will include a programme of action (continued)

1. **Mr. Du Preez** (South Africa) said that, in view of the importance of the destruction of surplus and redundant stocks of small arms and light weapons as a key preventive measure to stop the proliferation of small arms, his Government had taken another significant step to combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. On 17 January 2001, the South African Police Service had destroyed 102 tons of small arms, parts of small arms and spares, worth an estimated US\$ 3.5 million. A total of 27,816 small arms, including pistols, revolvers, rifles, shotguns and home-made arms, had been destroyed. The arms in that batch had included 4,524 confiscated and home-made arms as well as 23,292 redundant police arms. Seven launchers and 20,335 parts of arms and spares had also been destroyed. Under South African policy, small arms confiscated by the Police Service were destroyed after the completion of criminal investigation processes, which included forensic testing.

2. His Government was committed to combating the flow of illegal arms across South Africa's borders, and many successes had been reported. In recent years, thousands of small arms, light weapons and ammunition had been destroyed in Mozambique in different phases of Operation Rachel. More than 12,100 weapons and nearly 104,000 rounds of ammunition had been confiscated since March 2000 in Operation Crackdown. In most cases, the serial numbers on the weapons had been removed, which made it difficult or impossible to trace the original owner or manufacturer.

3. His delegation trusted that the South African initiative to destroy unilaterally all surplus small arms would serve as an example of practical measures to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. He requested that the statement he had just read out should be circulated as a working paper of the Preparatory Conference.

Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee (A/CONF.192/PC/L.6)

4. **The Chairman** said that, following the Preparatory Committee's adoption of a provisional agenda for the Conference the previous afternoon, he had been informed by the Office of the President of the General Assembly that the President of the General Assembly, in keeping with tradition, wished to take part in the opening ceremony of the July Conference. An appropriate agenda item would therefore be included and the amended agenda would be circulated to Committee members. The President of the General Assembly had also indicated that he would be participating in the Conference as part of the follow-up to the Millennium Summit and the Millennium Declaration, and that the Preparatory Committee should view its work in that same context.

5. **Ms. Marcaillou** (Secretary of the Committee) introduced the draft report of the Preparatory Committee (A/CONF.192/PC/L.6). The Introduction to the report (sect. I) contained the text of the operative part of General Assembly resolution 54/54 V, which had established the Preparatory Committee and provided for its mandate, and referred to General Assembly decision 55/415, which had established the venue and dates for the Conference and for the third session of the Preparatory Committee. In paragraph 3 of section I, Benin, Haiti, Greece, Niger, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands should be added to the list of States participating in the second session of the Preparatory Committee.

6. Section II of the report contained decisions related to the Committee's organization of work at the current session, including the election of new officers, the adoption of its programme of work, and the designation by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the Secretary-General and Deputy-Secretary-General of the Conference itself (para. 15). It also reported on the informal meeting devoted to the presentations of non-governmental organizations (para. 16).

7. She drew attention to a number of corrections to be made to that section: In paragraph 6, the number of plenary meetings would be changed to 17 if the Committee concluded its work at the current meeting. In paragraphs 8 and 15, there were some corrections to the spelling of names and, in paragraph 17, the United Nations Association-United Kingdom

should be deleted from the list of non-governmental organizations. Under paragraph 19, the following new subparagraph (j) should be added: "A/CONF.192/PC/29: Proposal submitted by Japan on the Political Declaration of the United Nations Conference, dated 17 January 2001". Immediately thereafter, a new paragraph 20 should be added, listing the following documents:

A/CONF.192/PC/L.2: Working paper by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee: Draft provisional agenda;

A/CONF.192/PC/L.2/Rev.1: Working paper by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee: Draft provisional agenda of the Conference;

A/CONF.192/PC/L.3: Working paper by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee: Draft Objective of the Conference;

A/CONF.192/PC/L.4: Working paper by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee: Draft Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects;

A/CONF.192/PC/L.5: Working paper by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee: Draft provisional rules of procedure;

A/CONF.192/PC/L.6: Draft report of the Preparatory Committee;

A/CONF.192/PC/L.7: Draft decision on the modalities of attendance of non-governmental organizations at the sessions of the Preparatory Committee as well as at the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects;

A/CONF.192/PC/L.8: Draft rule 33 of the draft Rules of Procedure for the Conference.

Subsequent paragraphs should be renumbered accordingly. In paragraph 22, a correction should be made to the number of meetings at which summary records were provided.

8. Lastly, section III contained the decisions taken by the Committee in accordance with its mandate as outlined in General Assembly resolution 54/54 V.

9. **The Chairman** invited members of the Committee to make general comments before taking action on the report section by section.

10. **Ms. Ramoutar** (Trinidad and Tobago) requested that Trinidad and Tobago should be included in the list of States participating in the Preparatory Conference mentioned in paragraph 3 of the report.

11. **The Chairman** assured her that that would be done.

12. *Section I, as orally revised, was adopted.*

13. *Section II, as orally revised, was adopted.*

14. *Section III was adopted.*

15. *The draft report of the Preparatory Committee as a whole, as orally revised, was adopted.*

Closure of the session

16. **The Chairman** thanked delegations for their constructive participation in the Preparatory Conference and expressed his appreciation to the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs and the Secretary of the Committee. He also expressed his gratitude to the interpreters, translators and conference officers for their assistance.

17. **Mr. Danielsson** (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the European Union, expressed appreciation to the Chairman for the manner in which he had conducted the work of the session, and to the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, the Secretary of the Committee, the interpreters, précis-writers and conference officers for their support.

18. **Mr. Goussous** (Jordan), speaking on behalf of the Arab League, praised the work of the representative of Algeria during his years at the United Nations and wished him luck in his new posting. The Arab States were deeply committed to combating illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and to the cause of disarmament in general, including the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons. They hoped that the third session of the Preparatory Committee would produce a political declaration and programme of action. In conclusion, he expressed the gratitude of the Arab States to the Chairman of the Committee, the Secretariat and the interpreters and other conference service personnel.

19. **Mr. Du Preez** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, expressed appreciation to the Chairman for bringing his experience to the Committee as a national of a country deeply affected by the problem of illicit trade in small

arms. The deliberations at the current session should lay the groundwork for a second version of the Chairman's paper on the draft programme of action to be considered at the third session of the Preparatory Committee. He thanked the Chairman, the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, the Secretary of the Committee and the interpreters, translators and other conference service and public information personnel.

20. **Mr. Reyes** (Colombia), speaking on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States, expressed appreciation for the Chairman's commitment to the work of the Preparatory Committee and reaffirmed the political will of the Latin American and Caribbean States to share their experience at the Conference and contribute to its success.

21. **Mr. Rowe** (Sierra Leone), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, praised the Chairman for the experience he had brought to the Committee as a national of a country which had been devastated by the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.