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### DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

#### VERBATIM RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED FORTY-SECOND MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Thursday, 7 December 1989, at 3 p.m.

Chairman:

Mr. BAGBENI ADEITO NZENGEYA

(Zaire)

- Election of the Chairman and other Officers for 1990 (continued)
- Organizational matters

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The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN AND OTHER OFFICERS FOR 1990 (continued)

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): At our last meeting, on 1 December, we concluded our consideration of several items on our agenda regarding the work of the 1990 substantive session, including the provisional agenda, the question of the duration of the session, and other organizational matters. However, we were not able to elect all the officers of the Commission for 1990 because consultations were still going on in certain regional groups with regard to the nomination of their candidates. Today I am pleased to report to the Commission that those regional groups have completed their consultations and have endorsed their candidates for various officers of the Commission for 1990.

As I pointed out earlier, in accordance with the established principle of rotation for the chairmanship of the Commission, the candidacy for the chairmanship for 1990 should come from the Group of Asian States. In that connection, I am pleased to announce that the Group of Asian States has endorsed the candidacy of Ambassador Nana Sutresna of Indonesia for election to the post of Chairman of the Disarmament Commission for the year 1990.

If I hear no comments, I shall take it that it is the wish of the Commission that Ambassador Nana Sutresna of Indonesia be elected Chairman by acclamation.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): I now declare that Ambassador Nana Sutresna has been elected Chairman of the Disarmament Commission for 1990.

Ambassador Sutresna is a distinguished diplomat of his country and has also been well known in United Nations diplomatic circles for many years, with particularly valuable experience in the field of disarmament. He is currently the

(The Chairman)

Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations in New York. During the past years, he has been very active in the sessions of the General Assembly, including the second and third special sessions of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, held in 1982 and 1988, as well as in other important disarmament conferences and in sessions of the Disarmament Commission. In particular, in the early 1980s he served as Head of his country's delegation to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva for a number of years. That was the function he occupied when we shared our experience in Geneva together at that time. With such broad experience in the United Nations and expertise in the field of disarmament, I believe that the Disarmament Commission will conduct its business successfully at the next substantive session in 1990 under the guidance of Ambassador Sutresna. May I, on behalf of all of my colleagues, extend to him my warmest congratulations and wish him every success.

Mr. SUTRESNA (Indonesia): Mr. Chairman, may I first of all thank you for your kind words and introductory remarks on my election as Chairman of the Disarmament Commission for 1990. I should like to take this opportunity to express to you and to all the members of the Commission my thanks for the honour conferred upon me and my country by my election to the chairmanship of this important Commission. I am deeply indebted to all members for the trust and confidence reposed in me.

I realize that in accepting, in all humility, this weighty responsibility I shall be counting on the co-operation of all members, as well as on the valuable support and expertise of the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Yasushi Akashi, and all his colleagues and co-workers in the Secretariat.

(Mr. Sutresna, Indonesia)

For my part, I shall endeavour to follow in the footsteps of my worthy predecessors, who have acquitted themselves of their task with great skill and with the utmost dedication. I want particularly to pay a tribute to you, Mr. Chairman, for the exemplary manner in which you have presided over our deliberations during the 1989 session of the Commission.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): We must elect eight Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur for the 1990 substantial session of the Commission. At our last meeting, we elected Argentina, Ecuador, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and Yugoslavia as Vice-Chairmen.

Today, I wish to announce that the Group of African States has endorsed the candidacy of Togo for the post of Vice-Chairman; the Group of Asian States has endorsed the candidacy of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the post of Vice-Chairman; and, lastly, the Group of Western European and Other States has endorsed the candidacies of Australia and Austria for the post of Vice-Chairman.

May I take it that the Commission wishes to elect those countries as Vice-Chairmen of the Commission for 1990 by acclamation?

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): We now turn to the election of the Rapporteur for 1990. The candidate should come from the Group of African States.

I am pleased to announce that the Group has nominated Mrs. Liberata R. Mulamula of the United Republic of Tanzania for the post of Rapporteur.

May I take it that the Commission wishes to elect Mrs. Mulamula of the United Republic of Tanzania as Rapporteur of the Disarmament Commission for 1990 by acclamation?

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): I wish to extend my warm congratulations to the Vice-Chairmen who have just been elected and to Mrs. Mulamula of Tanzania for her election as Rapporteur of the Commission. I am sure that she will make important contributions to the work of the Commission in 1990.

## ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): We now turn to a matter relating to the work of the Commission, namely the adequate utilization of conference resources. In that connection, I now call on the Secretary of the Disarmament Commission to present information and make some observations with respect to the statistical report on the utilization of conference servicing resources at the 1989 substantive session of the Commission, held in May this year.

Mr. LIN (Secretary of the Disarmament Commission): I have been requested by the Department of Conference Services to provide the members of the Disarmament Commission with the following statistical information regarding the utilization of conference servicing resources available to the Commission at its 1989 substantive session.

The 1989 substantive session of the Commission was held from 8 to 31 May. A total of 60 meetings, with 180 hours of full meeting services, had been planned. During the entire period, only one meeting was cancelled. As to the actual utilization of services in hours, the following should be noted.

According to the statistical report provided by the Department of Conference Services, 42.25 hours were not used due to the late starting of meetings, and 28.50 hours were not used due to early ending of meetings. That makes a total of 71.15 hours with full meeting services that were not utilized because of the late starting and early ending of meetings. Thus, approximately 60 per cent of the conference servicing resources available at the 1989 substantive session of the Commission was utilized.

If we compare that percentage to the 45 per cent utilization of meeting resources in 1988, we see that the Commission has made some improvement this year.

(Mr. Lin)

It should be noted that such improvement can be attributed to two factors: first, the adoption of an appropriate programme of work in advance in order to avoid cancellation of meetings; secondly, the adoption by the Commission of a system that divided a three-hour meeting into two parts, allowing for a flexible allocation of time in accordance with the needs of various subsidiary bodies.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): If there is no other business, I declare the 1989 organizational session closed.

The meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.