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Geneva, 19 November-7 December 2001

SUMMARY RECORD (PARTIAL)\* OF THE 5th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Friday, 30 November 2001 at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Tibor TÓTH (Hungary)

CONTENTS

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

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\* In accordance with rule 42 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, no summary records were prepared for meetings, or parts of meetings, devoted to consideration of agenda item 10 (a) - General debate.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (agenda item 14)  
(BWC/CONF.V/COW/L.1)

1. Mr. REIMAA (Finland), Chair of the Committee of the Whole, introduced the Committee's report, as contained in document BWC/CONF.V/COW/L.1 (future) and its annex, and noted that the report was a technical document which, he hoped, would help guide the Drafting Committee in its work to prepare the final declaration. The Committee of the Whole had held seven meetings and had considered a total of 30 proposals emanating from 28 delegations and groups. He remarked that the Conference was being held at a challenging time for the international community and he hoped that the Committee's discussions, which had been held in an informal atmosphere and had been very constructive, would be conducive to the success of the Conference's work.
2. Mr. MAHLEY (United States of America) pointed out that the annex to the Committee's report contained no entry for article XIII and wondered whether that was an oversight or if no proposals had in fact been submitted under that article.
3. Mr. GOOSEN (South Africa) said that his delegation had also noted the absence of any entry under article XIII and recalled that South Africa had, albeit somewhat late in the day, submitted an oral proposal on article XIII consisting essentially of the first part of its proposal under the same article made at the Fourth Review Conference.
4. Mr. SHRADI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), referring also to the annex to the Committee's report, pointed out that one of his country's proposals had been wrongly included among the proposals under agenda item 12, "Work done to strengthen the Convention in accordance with the decision of the 1994 Special Conference", when it should have been assigned to article XII, and also drew attention to an error in the translation of its proposal under article XIV, where the term "depository States", had appeared as "peace-loving States".
5. The PRESIDENT assured the Conference that the elements in the annex would be carefully checked and those concerns taken into consideration. He expressed his thanks to Mr. Reimaa on his efforts in conducting the work of the Committee, the outcome of which had been significant, with twice as many proposals as at the previous review conference, representing as much as one third of the content of the eventual declaration. He proposed that the Conference should take note of the report of the Committee of the Whole and its annex.
6. It was so decided.
7. Mr. GOOSEN (South Africa), Mr. ZIMONYI (Hungary) and Mr. LUCK (Australia), speaking in their capacities as coordinators of, respectively, the group of Non-Aligned Movement and other States, the group of Central and Eastern European States and the group of Western States, added their congratulations to Mr. Reimaa on the successful conclusion of the work of the Committee of the Whole and commended the Vice-Chairs and the secretariat staff on their contribution to that success.

## ORGANIZATION OF WORK

8. The PRESIDENT said that, on the basis of consultations with the Chair of the Drafting Committee and other colleagues, a number of representatives had been identified as facilitators for discussions on various issues, with a view to preparing readily useable formulations to be integrated in the draft text of the final declaration. He stressed that the appointment of the facilitators was intended to assist delegations and to promote transparency: they would work in a flexible manner, consulting interested delegations bilaterally and in open-ended meetings and would report back on the identified formulations in open-ended feedback sessions, before any text was forwarded to the Drafting Committee.

9. In response to the concerns expressed in the meeting, he said that efforts would be made to ensure that there was no overlapping of the open-ended meetings, so that smaller delegations would not be precluded from attending them. The elements to be covered by the facilitators represented a further one third of the material to be included in the final declaration and he hoped that the formulations would be ready for submission by the evening of Tuesday, 4 December 2001, to enable the Drafting Committee to complete its work on time. He also pointed out that, in any event, the entire text of the declaration would still remain ad referendum.

The meeting rose at 12.14 p.m.