

REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE
DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING
OF BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) AND
TOXIN WEAPONS AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

Distr.
GENERAL
BWC/CONF.I/C/SR.1
12 March 1980
ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIRST MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 11 March 1980, at noon

Chairman:

Mr. VOUTOV

(Bulgaria)

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Organization of work.

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GE.80-60445

The meeting was called to order at 12.05 p.m.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the decision of the Conference that the Committee of the Whole should consider the various articles and provisions of the Convention in accordance with the agenda of the Conference, i.e. under items 10 (b), 10 (c) and 11, taking into account the papers that had been submitted to the Conference and the general debate. The Committee could begin its substantive work without further delay by considering articles 1 to 15 (item 10 (b)).
2. Mr. ISSRAELYAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that, at a plenary meeting of the Conference, he had proposed that the Committee of the Whole should devote its first meeting to organizational questions and should decide, inter alia, whether it should consider the various articles one by one, or in groups. In any event, he felt that delegations should first study the documents which had as yet been distributed only to members of the General Committee. The first requirement was to establish a preliminary timetable for the Committee's work so that delegations might be ready to make their statements when the various articles were taken up.
3. The CHAIRMAN said that, in view of the decision of the Conference, substantive consideration of articles 1 to 15 could begin immediately. While there was nothing to prevent delegations from proposing an alternative procedure, the Committee should avoid devoting too much time to organizational questions. A work timetable could be prepared by the Chairman, with the assistance of the secretariat, and be submitted to the Committee for approval at its next meeting.
4. Mr. DUMEVI (Ghana) said that, while he was in favour of the programme of work decided on by the Conference, delegations needed time to prepare their statements and proposals on each article; he proposed, therefore, that the Committee of the Whole should not meet until the following morning.
5. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the General Committee had allowed the Committee up to six meetings for in-depth consideration; the Committee should lose no time and should hold a meeting that same afternoon.
6. Mr. MAINA (Kenya) asked at what stage of the Committee's deliberations the preamble of the Convention would be considered. It was also his understanding that each article or provision would be considered once only and that, in order to avoid any waste of time, there would be no question of taking them up again later.
7. The CHAIRMAN said that the preamble would be taken up under Conference agenda item 10 (c). If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee decided to begin consideration of the provisions of the Convention at its next meeting, in the order laid down in the Conference agenda, after he had proposed a work timetable.
8. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.