

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

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE NINTH MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 11 March 1980, at 10.30 a.m.

President:

Mr. VAERNØ

(Norway)

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Programme of work (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

PROGRAMME OF WORK (agenda item 10) (continued)

1. The PRESIDENT informed the Conference that, at its meeting held the previous day, the General Committee had decided to recommend that, in order to expedite the work of the Conference and to avoid duplication of effort, the provisions of the Convention should be considered in the Committee of the Whole. The General Committee had also considered the procedure to be adopted in reviewing the provisions of the Convention. In order to facilitate that review, a number of proposals had been made for the grouping of the provisions of the Convention, and several delegations had felt that those proposals should be referred to the Plenary.
2. In the view of some delegations, the provisions of the Convention should be divided into four groups. Group 1 would consist of articles 1, 2, 3 and 4 (scope and application of the Convention) and article 10 (use of biological (bacteriological) agents for peaceful purposes). Group 2 would comprise articles 5, 6 and 7 (co-operation in solving problems arising in connexion with the Convention, breach of obligations and co-operation in case of violation of the Convention). Group 3 would comprise articles 8 and 9 and the second, third, fourth, seventh and eighth preambular paragraphs (Geneva Protocol of 1925 and further negotiations on chemical weapons). Group 4 would include the remainder of the preamble and articles 11 to 15 (amendments, review conferences, duration of the Convention, withdrawal, signing, ratification and entry into force and authenticity of the text of the Convention). A number of delegations had expressed their preference for the separate consideration of article 10 (peaceful uses).
3. Other delegations had expressed a preference for reducing the number of groups to three, in order to expedite proceedings. Under that arrangement, group 1 would comprise articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9 and possibly 10, as well as the preamble. Group 2 would consist of articles 5, 6 and 7 (verification and complaints procedures). Group 3 would be concerned with administrative questions, including the review mechanism.
4. One delegation, supported by a number of others, had suggested that those proposals should be merged in order to arrive at a consolidated proposal which might be generally acceptable. Finally, some delegations had expressed the view that the question of organizing the consideration and the grouping of articles of the Convention could be more appropriately discussed in the Committee of the Whole.
5. Mr. ISSRAELIYAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the programme of work described by the President was satisfactory. Although other proposals had been made at the meeting of the General Committee, the manner in which the provisions of the Convention were grouped would not hamper the deliberations of the Conference. However, those proposals should be referred to the Committee of the Whole for decision. The Conference might also indicate which agenda items should be dealt with by the Committee of the Whole. The Conference should therefore decide to assign to the Committee of the Whole the task of considering in great detail the substance of the questions relating to the Convention and of considering Conference agenda items 10 (b), 10 (c) and 11, in accordance with its mandate. With regard to the order in which the provisions of the Convention should be taken up and the way in which they should be grouped, the Conference should recommend that the Committee of the Whole should take into consideration the proposals submitted at the meetings of the General Committee and those made in the course of the general debate. The work of the Committee of the Whole could then be organized, and all delegations could be made aware of the specific proposals submitted at the meeting of the General Committee and subsequently.

6. Mr. BRANKOVIC (Yugoslavia) said that, at the meeting of the General Committee, his delegation had expressed the view that the Committee of the Whole should be given a fairly broad mandate and should consider procedural questions. His delegation would agree to have items 10 (b), 10 (c) and 11 considered by the Committee of the Whole, on the understanding that, under item 10 (b), the Committee would proceed article by article.

7. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no further observations, he would take it that the programme of work which he had submitted was acceptable. In the absence of objection, he would take it that the Conference decided that, in order to expedite its work, the Committee of the Whole should consider the various articles and provisions of the Convention in accordance with the agenda, i.e. under items 10 (b), 10 (c) and 11, and that, inter alia, it should take into account the papers submitted to the Conference, and the general debate.

8. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.

