SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 7th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Thursday, 19 September 1991, at 11 a.m.

President: W. GARCIA MORITAN (Argentina)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.05 a.m.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (agenda item 13)

1. **The President** said that, owing to technical problems, the report of the Committee of the Whole and other related documents were, for the moment, available in English only. He asked delegations to show understanding and flexibility in that regard, and invited the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, Mr. Wagenmakers (Netherlands), to report to the Conference on the results of the Committee’s work.

2. **Mr. Wagenmakers** (Netherlands), Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, recalled that, in accordance with rule 35 of its rules of procedure, the Conference had decided to establish a Committee of the Whole to consider in detail the substantive issues relevant to the Convention and that, in accordance with the indicative programme of work (BWC/CONF.III/INF.3), the Committee had been requested to undertake the review of articles and provisions of the Convention under agenda items 10 (b), 10 (c), 11 and 12.

3. At its 1st meeting, the Committee had decided to cluster articles in the following manner: articles I-II; III-IV; V; VI-IX; and XI to XV, the preamble being dealt with separately as not being an operational part of the Convention.

4. At the same meeting, Mr. Caldéron (Peru), had been asked to act as Friend of the Chair and to coordinate technical consultations on confidence-building measures, and Mr. Gizowski (Poland) had been asked to act as focal point for verification issues in relation to the modalities of a possible follow-up expert group on verification.

5. The Committee of the Whole had held eight meetings, and a number of meetings had also been held within the framework of the two consultation mechanisms. In the course of the deliberations, more than 100 proposals had been submitted on various articles of the Convention. They were currently presented in two documents, the first of which contained, in chronological order, a compilation of the proposals by clusters, while the second, a Chairman’s Paper, provided a possible framework for structuring the proposals pertaining to articles I to XV (BWC/CONF.III/Misc.4). He suggested that, for easy reference, the latter document - for which he assumed responsibility - should be referred to as the "Delegates’ Drafting Manual". Both those documents might be annexed to the report of the Conference. Furthermore, Mr. Caldéron and Mr. Gizowski had also submitted documents, giving the results of their respective consultations, which were annexed to the report of the Committee of the Whole. The Committee’s operations were duly reflected in the report, which also contained the Chairman’s summary of the views expressed by delegations.

6. He thanked Mr. Caldéron and Mr. Gizowski for the efficient manner in which they had conducted the business of their respective groups. He also thanked all the coordinators of regional groups for their valuable support, and expressed his appreciation to the Secretary-General of the Conference and to the staff of the Department of Disarmament Affairs for the great flexibility they had shown with regard to the Committee’s work.
7. The PRESIDENT congratulated Mr. Wagenmakers on the able manner in which he had conducted the deliberations of the Committee of the Whole and the excellent work he had done in preparing a well ordered and, indeed, innovative compilation of the proposals submitted by delegations. That document would greatly facilitate the task of the Drafting Committee. He thanked the Vice-Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, Mr. Koutchynsky (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mr. Mugomba (Zimbabwe), as well as Mr. Caldéron and Mr. Gizowski, who had acted as Friends of the Chair, and the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. Alasaniya. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Conference wished to adopt the report of the Committee of the Whole.

8. It was so decided.

9. Miss SOLESBY (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), on behalf of the Western Group, Mr. MOODIE (United States of America), Mr. DIMITRIJEVIC (Yugoslavia), on behalf of the Group of Non-Aligned and Other States, Ms. PFANN (Austria), Mr. TOTH (Hungary), on behalf of the Group of East European States and Mr. ZHANG Yan (China) associated themselves with the President in congratulating the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole upon the competence and efficiency with which he had conducted the Committee=s work and also in thanking the Vice-Chairmen of the Committee of the Whole, as well as Mr. Caldéron and Mr. Gizowski, for their excellent work. The results achieved would be most useful for the subsequent work of the Conference.

PREPARATION AND ADOPTION OF THE FINAL DOCUMENT(S) (agenda item 15)

10. The PRESIDENT said that the Conference was entering upon the final and perhaps most crucial stage of its work, and that a difficult task awaited Mr. Toth (Hungary) as Chairman of the Drafting Committee. He was sure all delegations would continue to show the spirit of cooperation and goodwill essential during that last phase.

11. Mr. TOTH (Hungary), Chairman of the Drafting Committee, said that the Drafting Committee would make the fullest use of the excellent results achieved by the Committee of the Whole.

12. Mr. CALDERON (Peru) drew the attention of delegations to the documents that had been prepared in the Committee of the Whole (BWC/CONF.III/Misc. 3, BWC/CONF.III/Misc.3/Rev.1 and BWC/CONF.III/Misc.4).

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.