

become evident that consensus would remain elusive, the Chairman adjourned the informal COW, and at 8:00 pm called together a small group of "Friends of the Chair", including Canada, for further consultations. These continued until almost 3:00 am June 26.

With the clock running out, it was clear to all participants that this informal meeting offered the last opportunity to salvage the Special Session. Despite the general fatigue, a sense of urgency and drama prevailed. The Chairman identified the major outstanding issues (outer space, new technologies, nuclear disarmament, naval arms race, conventional disarmament, the verification study, nuclear-weapon-free zones and zones of peace, disarmament and development, and non-proliferation) and wondered whether, in four hours, existing differences could be bridged.

As midnight approached, it was agreed to "stop the clock" for a limited time. However, by 2:30 am, despite considerable progress, major differences remained and the Chairman was obliged to finally call a halt. The group had not had time to overcome its differences on the "Assessment" or "Disarmament Machinery" sections of the Chairman's paper, and still failed to agree on the references to particular countries by name and the paragraphs relating to outer space, NWFZs, zones of peace, nuclear disarmament, and disarmament and development.

The final Plenary session concluded at 7:30 am June 26 with exhausted delegates expressing their disappointment. The concluding statements of several countries, however, put a positive gloss on the results. In his final statement, the President of UNSSOD III acknowledged that the points of disagreement had been reduced and the areas of agreement broadened.

Canada shared the broad sense of disappointment in the wake of almost a month of concentrated effort. One could, nevertheless, derive some comfort from the generally positive atmosphere which prevailed despite the existence of major differences of approach.

The active role of the Canadian Delegation at the Special Session deserves special mention. The Government's extensive pre-UNSSOD III preparations, including the involvement of the Consultative Group and the holding of consultations with capitals from all regions, enabled the preparation of substantive Canadian position papers, subsequently published in modified form as official conference documents, on the major agenda items. A number of Western delegations commented on their usefulness.