

The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): The 401st plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament is resumed.

In accordance with the exchange of views during the informal meeting we have just held, I would like to submit to the Conference the request from Switzerland to participate in the work of the plenary meetings of the Conference and of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. The draft decision to this effect has been circulated by the secretariat in document CD/WP.281.

If there is no objection, I will take it that the Conference adopts the draft decision.

It was so decided.

CD/PV.401

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(The President)

The two Ad Hoc Committees which have been working practically since the beginning of this annual session continued their active search for agreements on questions of substance. The Ad Hoc Committee on the Comprehensive Programme for Disarmament would have its work considerably facilitated if the Conference itself were able to make headway in its consideration of those agenda items dealing with nuclear issues that we have been examining without results for far too long. The Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons is working on particularly important topics in the search for a convention that would finally prohibit these weapons, and it is clear that considerable progress has been made since the opening of the session.