

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I thank the Ambassador of Algeria. I admire his concern for simplification, which I fully share, but as he has been able to observe the delegations are concerned for their suggestions, which they want to maintain and see adopted. I also understand this concern, and I think that everybody will find his own child in the proposal made by Ambassador Kamal, as amended by various delegations, including Ambassador von Wagner, who honed it. The text is certainly more cumbersome, but I have long since abandoned any aspirations to elegance in the matter before us. Are things clear to everybody? We are talking about the latest version proposed by Ambassador Kamal, with the addition of "inter alia" between "containing" and "the draft convention ... as well as its appendix ...". I repeat: we are not in the process of producing a work of great literature; we will not be awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature and certainly not the Goncourt prize when it is reproduced in French. But we must take into account the concerns of all the delegations. So I put the following question to the Conference: can Mr. Kamal's proposal, as amended by Ambassador von Wagner and re-read one last time by Ambassador Kamal, be adopted, in everybody's opinion? I observe that it can and that the miracle has happened.

I hope that this will continue, because, counting on your weariness, I am going to try to get you to accept the second part of paragraph 74, which reads as follows in English:

(continued in English)

"Hope was widely expressed that the draft convention would be commended by the General Assembly and opened for signature at an early date."

(continued in French)

Are there any objections to adopting this sentence? I give the floor to Ambassador Kamal.

Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan): It is my understanding that we are now referring to paragraph 74, which is only the second sentence of the old paragraph 74. I have already presented the view of my delegation that this reference to a "widely expressed hope" has germs of divisiveness in it because the search here is for consensus and we should concentrate on elements on which there is consensus. Consensus is an important part of the working procedures of the CD; it is consecrated in rule 18 of the rules of procedure and notwithstanding the precedents to which reference has been made, I think it would be fairer to all concerned to concentrate on an agreed consensus language. And the proposal that I have put forward is a sentence which replaces this existing sentence and reads:

"74. It was agreed that the draft convention as contained in the annex to the report of the Ad Hoc Committee should be transmitted to the General Assembly of the United Nations for its consideration."