



Fourth Session
21 – 30 November 2018

RC-4/CoW.2
28 November 2018
Original: ENGLISH

**STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
H.E. AMBASSADOR MARCIN CZEPELAK OF POLAND AT THE FOURTH SPECIAL
SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO REVIEW
THE OPERATION OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

It is an honour for me to present to you my report as the Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole (hereinafter “the Committee”) to the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Fourth Review Conference”).

Pursuant to the rule 45 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of States Parties, the Committee considered items referred to it by the Fourth Review Conference. The Fourth Review Conference agreed, therefore, to refer to the Committee of the Whole the draft provisional text submitted by the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Preparations of the Fourth Review Conference, Ambassador I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja of Indonesia (issued as an official series document under WGRC-4/2 RC-4/CRP.1, dated 8 November 2018). I would like to take this opportunity to thank again Ambassador Puja for his efforts, during the whole demanding process in the last eleven months.

I have done my utmost to fulfil the mandate entrusted to the Committee.

The Committee held six meetings from 26 to 28 November 2018, altogether almost seventeen hours in the two conference rooms, at the OPCW (Ieper) and the World Forum. During the time allocated to the Committee, I managed to conduct one reading of the entire draft provisional text. We have made substantial progress. What we have achieved together is agreement on 143 paragraphs and subparagraphs.

The Committee was reviewing all open paragraphs and seeking the re-confirmation of initial agreement ad referendum reached on many parts of the text. In addition to the proposals made from the floor, the delegations have also been invited to submit in writing their suggestions. The Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) subsequently made such submissions available to all delegations.

The work of the Committee was enriched also by the contribution of the group of Ambassadors, who conducted informal consultations to facilitate the outcome. These consultations were open to all delegations and were chaired by Ambassador Matthew EK Neuhaus of Australia, Ambassador Sabine Nölke of Canada, Ambassador María Teresa Infante of Chile, Ambassador Mr. Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja of Indonesia, Ambassador Hiroshi Inomata of Japan, Ambassador Abdelouahab Bellouki of Morocco, Ambassador Shujjat Ali Rathore of Pakistan, and Ambassador Bruce Koloane of South Africa. I would



like to thank you, Excellencies, for your extensive contribution and constructive engagement over the last days.

The Committee worked in a spirit of compromise, mutual respect, and understanding, for which I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all delegations. It was open and transparent process. Accordingly, the proceedings of the Committee were conducted, while ensuring that proposals from all delegations should be given equal treatment and while observing the general rule that “nothing is agreed until everything is agreed”.

Therefore, the only changes to the text, which had been conferred to the Committee by the Conference, are those that have achieved consensus. In my capacity as the Chairperson, I decided not to include in the text those proposals which require further discussions.

In the afternoon, on 28 November, when the Committee was approaching the endpoint of its proceedings, it became clear that no consensus could be reached on all paragraphs of the draft provisional text within the limited time given to us. While a substantial number of paragraphs were agreed ad referendum in the Committee, there are still outstanding issues, on which fundamental divergence of views continue to exist. Bearing this in mind, I have decided to record the progress achieved by the Committee in the form of the Chairperson’s report. It will be made available to all delegations at the end of this plenary session.

Concluding, I would like to express my appreciation to all States Parties, who engaged constructively in the work of the Committee, to facilitators for their tireless efforts to forge a compromise, to the Secretariat, and, last but not least, to the interpreters, who dedicated extra hours to support the work of the Committee. It is my sincere hope that States Parties can continue to consult on the issues that did not find consensus. I trust that these discussions, which were conducted in a good faith, in the spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding, will bring concrete results before conclusion of the Fourth Review Conference.