



Press Release

07.12.01

COMMENTS MADE BY PRESIDENT OF THE FIFTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION AFTER THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE REVIEW CONFERENCE UNTIL NOVEMBER 2002

Ambassador Tibor Toth of Hungary, the President of the Fifth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention, told journalists after announcing that the Conference would be adjourned until 11 to 22 November 2002 that late this afternoon, when the Conference seemed to be in a situation where it looked impossible to overcome the difficulties that we were facing, there was a decision about practically adjourning instead of bringing the Conference to an unsuccessful end.

We were quite close to finishing our work, both in terms of the volume of the elements which were consolidated and in terms of the understandings which we reached. However, there seemed to be a serious absence of understanding concerning the issue of the Ad Hoc Group where the differences between positions seemed to be irreconcilable, at least in the time remaining today. The draft final declaration was 95 per cent ready. In my judgement, the draft final declaration can in the meantime be an orientation for delegations to undertake or already some national efforts to join in forces and in this period, even to start implementation of some of these ideas. All the consolidated elements will not all fade away. This is a kind of damage control if you wish.
