



United Nations

Report of the Disarmament Commission for 2022

**General Assembly
Official Records
Seventy-seventh Session
Supplement No. 42**



Report of the Disarmament Commission for 2022



United Nations • New York, 2022

Note

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Chapter I

Introduction

1. At its seventy-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted decision 76/518, entitled “Disarmament Commission”, which read as follows:

At its 45th plenary meeting, on 6 December 2021, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee,¹ recalling its decisions 75/519 A of 7 December 2020 and 75/519 B of 25 March 2021, decided:

(a) That the Disarmament Commission would hold a substantive session for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2022, namely from 4 to 22 April, and submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session;

(b) That the Disarmament Commission would hold its organizational session at the beginning of 2022, before the substantive session, to elect its Bureau and address other outstanding organizational matters;

(c) To include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-seventh session, under the item entitled “Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session”, the sub-item entitled “Report of the Disarmament Commission”.

¹ [A/76/446](#), para. 10.

Chapter II

Organization and work of the substantive session of 2022

2. The Disarmament Commission held its organizational session for 2022 at Headquarters at its 376th meeting, on 4 April 2022 (see [A/CN.10/PV.376 \(Resumption 2\)](#)). At that meeting, the Commission considered questions relating to the organization of work and substantive agenda items for its substantive session of 2022 in accordance with the “Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission” adopted by the General Assembly (resolution [44/119 C](#), annex) and in the light of Assembly decision 76/518. The Commission also took up the question of the election of its officers. It elected the Deputy Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations, Xolisa Mabhongo, as its Chair for its session and there was an understanding that the Chair of the next session of the Commission would be from the Eastern European Group.

3. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda for its organizational session ([A/CN.10/L.87](#)).

4. Also at the same meeting, the Commission elected Zhangeldy Syrymbet, Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations, as Vice Chair.

5. Also at its 376th meeting, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda for its substantive session of 2022 ([A/CN.10/L.88/Rev.1](#)). The agenda read as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organization of work.
4. Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.
5. Preparation of recommendations to promote the practical implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities with the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space, in accordance with the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-building Measures in Outer Space Activities.
6. Report of the Disarmament Commission to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session.
7. Other business.

6. Also at the same meeting, the Commission decided that 2022 would be considered a second year of the three-year cycle.

7. At its 377th meeting, on 4 April 2022, the Commission elected Kurt Davis (Jamaica) as Chair of Working Group I, on agenda item 4, and Szilvia Balázs (Hungary) as Chair of Working Group II, on agenda item 5.

8. At the same meeting, the Commission took note of its schedule of meetings for the session ([A/CN.10/2022/CRP.1](#)) and decided to conclude its substantive session of 2022 on 21 April.

9. The Commission held its substantive session of 2022 at Headquarters from 4 to 21 April. It held seven meetings (see [A/CN.10/PV.376 \(Resumption 2\)](#); and [A/CN.10/PV.377–382](#)). The Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, served as the secretariat of the

Commission, and the Office for Disarmament Affairs represented the substantive secretariat.

10. During the session, the Bureau was constituted as follows:

Chair:

Xolisa Mabhongo (South Africa)

Vice-Chair:

Representative of Kazakhstan

11. At its 377th to 380th meetings, on 4 and 5 April, the Commission held a general exchange of views on all agenda items (see A/CN.10/PV.377–380). Representatives of the following countries made statements: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Czechia, Ecuador, Egypt (first on behalf of the Group of Arab States and subsequently in its national capacity), El Salvador, France, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan (first also on behalf of Kiribati and subsequently in its national capacity alone), Latvia (also on behalf of Estonia and Lithuania), Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Viet Nam. Statements were also made by the European Union, in its capacity as observer, and the State of Palestine.

12. At its 377th meeting, the Commission heard a statement by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs.

13. The Commission entrusted Working Group I with the mandate of dealing with agenda item 4. Working Group I held 10 meetings, from 5 to 21 April.

14. The Commission entrusted Working Group II with the mandate of dealing with agenda item 5. Working Group II held 10 meetings, from 4 to 20 April.

Chapter III

Documentation

A. Documents submitted by the Secretary-General

15. The Commission had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of documents submitted by the Secretary-General to the Commission for its substantive session of 2022 ([A/CN.10/213](#)).

B. Other documents, including documents submitted by Member States

16. In the course of the Commission's work, the documents listed below, dealing with substantive questions, were submitted and considered:

(a) Working paper submitted by the Russian Federation ([A/CN.10/2022/WG.II/WP.1](#));

(b) Working paper submitted by the Arab Group ([A/CN.10/2022/WG.II/WP.2](#));

(c) Working paper submitted by the States members of the League of Arab States ([A/CN.10/2022/WG.I/WP.1](#)).

Chapter IV

Conclusions and recommendations

17. At its 381st meeting, on 21 April, the Commission adopted ad referendum the reports of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. No recommendations were put forward by the Commission. The Commission agreed to submit the texts of the reports, which are reproduced below, to the General Assembly.
18. At its 382nd meeting, on 21 April, the Commission adopted, by consensus, the reports of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, as orally revised, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Chair, the Bureau, the Chairs of the Working Groups and the Secretariat.
19. The report of Working Group I read as follows:

Report of Working Group I on agenda item 4

1. At its 376th meeting, on 4 April 2022, the Disarmament Commission adopted its agenda for the substantive session of 2022 ([A/CN.10/L.88/Rev.1](#)), and decided to allocate to Working Group I agenda item 4, entitled “Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons”.
2. The Working Group, chaired by Kurt Davis (Jamaica), met from 6 to 21 April 2022. The Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, served as the secretariat of the Working Group. The Office for Disarmament Affairs served as adviser to the Working Group.
3. The Working Group held extensive deliberations on agenda item 4, in accordance with the mandate of the Commission.
4. At the 1st, 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 6, 7 and 8 April 2022, delegations exchanged views and made various proposals on the previous Chair’s non-paper ([A/CN.10/2018/WG.I/CRP.3](#)).
5. At the 4th meeting, on 11 April 2022, delegations exchanged views and made various proposals on the Chair’s non-paper circulated on 8 April 2022.
6. At the 5th, 6th and 7th meetings, on 12, 13 and 14 April 2022, delegations exchanged views and made various proposals on the Chair’s revised non-paper, circulated on 12 April 2022.
7. At the 8th meeting, on 19 April 2022, the delegations exchanged views and made various proposals on the Chair’s further revised non-paper dated 14 April 2022.
8. At its 9th meeting, on 20 April 2022, the delegations exchanged views and made various proposals on the Chair’s revised non-paper dated 18 April 2022.
9. At its 10th meeting, on 21 April 2022, following discussions by the Group, the Chair decided to issue the Chair’s paper dated 21 April 2022, under his own responsibility and without prejudice to the position of any delegation ([A/CN.10/2022/WG.I/CRP.I](#)). The Chair also annexed to his paper a compilation of the proposals made by Member States at the 2022 meetings of the Working Group, without prejudice to the right of any State to put forward additional proposals in the future. The Working Group agreed to continue its discussion on the Chair’s paper at the next session of the Commission.

10. The Working Group recorded its appreciation to the Chair and the Secretariat.
11. At its 10th meeting, on 21 April 2022, the Working Group considered and adopted by consensus its report on agenda item 4.
20. The report of Working Group II read as follows:

Report of Working Group II on agenda item 5

1. At its 376th meeting, on 4 April 2022, the Disarmament Commission adopted its agenda for the substantive session of 2022 ([A/CN.10/L.88/Rev.1](#)), and decided to allocate to Working Group II agenda item 5, entitled “Preparation of recommendations to promote the practical implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities with the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space, in accordance with the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-building Measures in Outer Space Activities”.
2. The Working Group, chaired by Szilvia Balázs (Hungary), held 10 informal meetings, between 4 and 20 April 2022. The Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, served as the secretariat of the Working Group. The Office for Disarmament Affairs served as adviser to the Working Group.
3. The Working Group held extensive deliberations on agenda item 5, in accordance with the mandate of the Commission.
4. At the 1st meeting, on 5 April 2022, the Working Group held a general exchange of views and heard presentations by the Chair of the open-ended working group on reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours, Hellmut Lagos, and a representative of the Office for Disarmament Affairs.
5. The Working Group held deliberations during which delegations exchanged views and made written and oral proposals. The Russian Federation submitted a working paper ([A/CN.10/2022/WG.II/WP.1](#)).
6. At the 2nd meeting, on 6 April 2022, the Working Group began a discussion on the provisions contained in section IV of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-building Measures in Outer Space Activities ([A/68/189](#)). The Working Group exchanged views on the provisions contained in section IV.A of the report, on information exchange on space policies.
7. At the 3rd meeting, on 7 April 2022, the Working Group exchanged views on the provisions contained in section IV.B of the report, on information exchange and notifications related to outer space activities.
8. At the 4th meeting, on 8 April 2022, the Working Group exchanged views on the provisions contained in section IV.C of the report, on risk reduction notifications.
9. At the 5th meeting, on 11 April 2022 the Working Group exchanged views on the provisions contained in section IV.D of the report, on contact and visits to space launch sites and facilities, and concluded its discussions on the provisions contained in section IV of the report.
10. At the 6th meeting, on 12 April 2022, the Working Group exchanged views on the provisions contained in sections V to VIII of the report.

11. At the 2nd to 6th meetings, the Working Group heard presentations by representatives of international organizations and non-governmental entities.
 12. At the 7th meeting, on 13 April 2022, the Chair invited Member States to exchange information on their national space policies. The Working Group heard presentations by representatives of Sri Lanka, Portugal, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and France, and exchanged views thereon.
 13. At the 8th meeting, on 14 April 2022, the Working Group continued to exchange information on national space policies. It also heard presentations by representatives of China, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Mexico, Japan and the Republic of Korea, and exchanged views thereon.
 14. At the 9th meeting, on 19 April 2022, the Working Group discussed the outcome of its work.
 15. At the 10th meeting, on 20 April 2022, the Working Group continued to discuss the outcome of its work, following which the Chair introduced the paper dated 20 April 2022 under her own responsibility and without prejudice to the position of any delegation.
 16. Also at the 10th meeting, the Working Group considered and adopted by consensus its report on agenda item 5. The Working Group also recorded its appreciation to the Chair and the Secretariat.
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