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Disarmament Commission

Substantive session of 2023

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Draft report

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	2
II. Organization and work of the substantive session of 2023	4
III. Documentation	6
A. Documents submitted by the Secretary-General	6
B. Other documents, including documents submitted by Member States	6
IV. Conclusions and recommendations	6



I. Introduction

1. At its seventy-seventh session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 77/90, entitled “Report of the Disarmament Commission”, which reads as follows:

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Disarmament Commission,¹

Recalling its resolutions 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, 47/54 G of 8 April 1993, 48/77 A of 16 December 1993, 49/77 A of 15 December 1994, 50/72 D of 12 December 1995, 51/47 B of 10 December 1996, 52/40 B of 9 December 1997, 53/79 A of 4 December 1998, 54/56 A of 1 December 1999, 55/35 C of 20 November 2000, 56/26 A of 29 November 2001, 57/95 of 22 November 2002, 58/67 of 8 December 2003, 59/105 of 3 December 2004, 60/91 of 8 December 2005, 61/98 of 6 December 2006, 62/54 of 5 December 2007, 63/83 of 2 December 2008, 64/65 of 2 December 2009, 65/86 of 8 December 2010, 66/60 of 2 December 2011, 67/71 of 3 December 2012, 68/63 of 5 December 2013, 69/77 of 2 December 2014, 70/68 of 7 December 2015, 71/82 of 5 December 2016, 72/66 of 4 December 2017 and 73/82 of 5 December 2018, and its decisions 74/511 of 12 December 2019, 74/546 of 2 April 2020, 75/519 A of 7 December 2020, 75/519 B of 25 March 2021 and 76/518 of 6 December 2021,

Considering the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in promoting the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

Recalling in particular General Assembly resolution 45/62 B of 4 December 1990, in which it noted with satisfaction the adoption by consensus of a set of “Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission”,² Assembly decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998 concerning the efficient functioning of the Commission and Assembly resolution 61/98, which contains additional measures for improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the Commission,

Reaffirming the mandate of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative subsidiary body of the General Assembly that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues, and recalling that the Commission shall make every effort to ensure that, insofar as possible, decisions on substantive issues be adopted by consensus, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,³

Emphasizing once again the important place of the Disarmament Commission within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Disarmament Commission;

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament, notes that the Commission has not submitted recommendations to the last five sessions of the General Assembly, and therefore

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/77/42).*

² Resolution 44/119 C, annex.

³ Resolution S-10/2.

encourages the revitalization of the work of the Commission in its current triennial cycle;

3. *Emphasizes* the need for a focused and results-oriented discussion on the items on the agenda of the Disarmament Commission;

4. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution [37/78](#) H of 9 December 1982, and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items on its agenda, taking into account the adopted “Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission”;

5. *Recalls* the fact that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 52/492, at its 376th meeting, on 4 April 2022, the Disarmament Commission adopted the provisional agenda for its substantive session of 2022, and that the Commission decided that 2022 be considered a second year of the three-year cycle;

6. *Recommends* that the Disarmament Commission continue consideration of the following items at its substantive session of 2023:

(a) Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons;

(b) 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 set out in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities;⁴

7. *Notes* that the Disarmament Commission encourages the Chairs of its working groups to continue, during the intersessional period, informal consultations on the agenda item allocated to each of the groups;

8. *Encourages* the Disarmament Commission to invite, as appropriate, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research to prepare background papers on the items on its agenda and, if need be, other disarmament experts to present their views, as provided for in paragraph 3 (e) of resolution [61/98](#), upon the invitation of the Chair and with the prior approval of the Commission;

9. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to hold a substantive session for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2023, namely, from 3 to 21 April, and an organizational session at the beginning of 2023 before the substantive session, to elect its Bureau and address other outstanding organizational matters, and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session, and stresses that the report of the Commission should contain a summary by the Chair of the proceedings to reflect different views or positions if no agreement can be reached on the specific agenda item deliberated on, as provided for in paragraph 3.4 of the adopted “Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission”;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the resources and services necessary, including verbatim records, to that end, and also requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Commission the annual report of the

⁴ [A/68/189](#).

Conference on Disarmament on its 2022 session,⁵ together with all the official records of the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

11. *Invites* Member States to submit their views and proposals on the matter early enough to enable practical consultations among them prior to the beginning of the substantive session of 2023 of the Disarmament Commission, with a view to facilitating its constructive outcome, and in this regard encourages the Chair-designate to commence consultations and preparations for the substantive session of 2023 in a timely manner upon his or her nomination;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-eighth 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”.

II. Organization and work of the substantive session of 2023

2. The Disarmament Commission held its organizational session for 2023 at United Nations Headquarters at its 383rd meeting, on 3 April 2023 (see A/CN.10/PV.383). At that meeting, the Commission considered questions relating to the organization of work and substantive agenda items for its substantive session of 2023 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 resolution 77/90. The Commission also took up the question of the election of its officers. It elected the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations, Akan Rakhmetullin, as its Chair for its session.

3. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda for its organizational session (A/CN.10/L.89).

4. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda for its substantive session of 2023 (A/CN.10/L.90). The agenda reads 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 set out 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-eighth session.
7. Other business.

⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/77/27).

5. Also at its 383rd meeting, the Commission took note of its schedule of meetings for the session (A/CN.10/2023/CRP.1) and decided to conclude its substantive session of 2023 on 20 April.

6. The Commission held its substantive session of 2023 at United Nations Headquarters from 3 to 20 April. In the course of its session, the Commission held five plenary meetings (see A/CN.10/PV.384–387 and A/CN.10/PV.389). 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.

7. During the session, the Bureau of the Commission was constituted as follows:

Chair:

Akan Rakhmetullin (Kazakhstan)

Vice-Chairs:

Representatives of Argentina, Australia, Burundi, Namibia, the Russian Federation, Thailand and Ukraine

8. At its 384th meeting, on 3 April 2023, 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.

9. At its 384th to 387th meetings, on 3 and 4 April, the Commission held a general exchange of views on all agenda items. Representatives of the following countries made statements during the general exchange of views: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia (first on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and subsequently in its national capacity), Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lebanon (first on behalf of the Group of Arab States and subsequently in its national capacity), Libya, Lithuania (on behalf of the Baltic States), Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines (first on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and subsequently in its national capacity), Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam. Statements were also made by the State of Palestine, Arab States (League of), the European Union, in its capacity as observer, and the Holy See.

10. At its 384th meeting, the Commission heard a statement by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs.

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

12. The Commission entrusted Working Group II with the mandate of dealing with agenda item 5. Working Group II held eight meetings, from 4 to 19 April.

III. Documentation

A. Documents submitted by the Secretary-General

13. 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 2023 ([A/CN.10/214](#)).

B. Other documents, including documents submitted by Member States

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

(a) Working papers submitted by the Non-Aligned Movement ([A/CN.10/2023/WG.I/WP.1](#)) and ([A/CN.10/2023/WG.II/WP.1](#));

(b) ...

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

15. At its 388th meeting, on 20 April, the Commission adopted, ad referendum, the reports of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. The Commission agreed to submit the texts of the reports, which are reproduced below, to the General Assembly.

16. At its 389th meeting, on 20 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-eighth session. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Chair, the Bureau, the Chairs of the Working Groups and the Secretariat.

17. The report of Working Group I reads as follows:

[To be inserted]

18. The report of Working Group II reads as follows:

[To be inserted]
