



# General Assembly

Official Records

## Disarmament Commission

**376<sup>th</sup>** meetingMonday, 4 April 2022, 10 a.m.  
New York

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*Acting Chair:* Mr. Markram

*The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.*

### Opening of the session

**The Acting Chair:** I declare open the 2022 organizational session of the Disarmament Commission.

As delegations have been informed, the Commission will deal with its organizational matters first, including the election of the Chair and other members of the Bureau for 2022.

### Election of the Chair and other officers

**The Acting Chair:** As delegations are aware, the Group of African States has nominated Ambassador Xolisa Mabhongo, Deputy Permanent Representative of South Africa, as the candidate for the chairmanship of the Commission at its 2022 session.

If I hear no objection, I shall take it that it is the wish of the Commission to elect Mr. Xolisa Mabhongo as Chair of the United Nations Disarmament Commission by acclamation.

*It was so decided.*

**The Acting Chair:** On behalf of the Commission and on my own behalf, I congratulate Mr. Mabhongo, Deputy Permanent Representative of South Africa, on his election to this high office. We very much look forward to benefiting from his experience and diplomatic skills. We wish him every success in discharging his new duties. For our part, we will remain at his service with support and counsel, as need be.

I have known Xolisa Mabhongo for many years, as a former colleague of his, and the Commission is in good hands.

With those brief remarks I invite Mr. Mabhongo to take the Chair.

*Mr. Mabhongo (South Africa) took the Chair.*

**The Chair:** At the outset, allow me to express my gratitude to the members of the Commission for electing me as Chair of the United Nations Disarmament Commission and entrusting me with the important task of chairing this year's session. I count on the support and cooperation of all Member States in achieving the important goals of the Commission before us.

As Chair, I am committed to being fair, open and approachable to all delegations. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have questions at any time during my term.

### Draft provisional agenda for the 2022 organizational session of the Disarmament Commission (A/CN.10/L.87)

**The Chair:** I wish to draw the Commission's attention to the provisional agenda for this organizational session, as contained in document A/CN.10/L.87.

If there are no comments, I shall take it that the Commission wishes to adopt the provisional agenda as contained in document A/CN.10/L.87.

*The agenda was adopted.*

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### Election of the Chair and other officers

**The Chair:** I am pleased to inform the Commission of the following endorsement received from one regional group. The Group of Asia-Pacific States has endorsed the candidature of Mr. Zhangel'dy Syrymbet, Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as Vice-Chair from the Asia-Pacific Group.

If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Commission wishes to elect Mr. Syrymbet as Vice-Chair of the Commission.

*It was so decided.*

**The Chair:** On behalf of the Commission, allow me to warmly congratulate Mr. Syrymbet and wish him every success in discharging his duties.

As to the election of other officers of the Bureau, I have been informed that consultations are still ongoing within their groups as to possible candidates for the remaining members of the Bureau. The Commission will therefore address this issue at a later stage.

### Review of General Assembly decision 76/518, entitled "Disarmament Commission"

**The Chair:** As members of the Commission are aware, the General Assembly adopted decision 76/518, which has a specific bearing on the work of the Commission. For the sake of clarity and for the benefit of members of the Commission, I would like to refer to the decision, which was adopted by the General Assembly at its 45th plenary meeting, on 6 December 2021, under sub-item (b) of agenda item 102.

In paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of the decision, the General Assembly decided the following:

"(a) That the Disarmament Commission will 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 will 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".

I have just outlined the decision that contains the mandate for the upcoming work of the Disarmament Commission. If there are no comments on decision 76/518, I will now move to on to the next item on today's agenda.

### Draft provisional agenda for the 2022 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission (A/CN.10/L.88)

**The Chair:** As I mentioned during the informal consultations on 9 March and 17 March, it is my intention to seek a decision as to the substantive agenda items we will have for the 2022 session.

At its seventy-fourth session, the General Assembly adopted decision 74/511, whereby it decided that the Disarmament Commission would continue consideration of the following items at its substantive session of 2020 (see A/74/PV.46):

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

"(ii) 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".

The Commission was unable to hold its substantive session in 2020 and 2021. The General Assembly adopted decisions 75/519 and 76/518, respectively, agreeing on the technical rollover of the Commission's mandate. These decisions have allowed the Commission to extend its mandate for the 2018-2020 cycle. The expectation is that the Commission will continue to consider the same agenda items as those adopted at the beginning of the 2018-2020 cycle.

Given the three-year interval, however, I consulted delegations at informal meetings convened on 9 March and 17 March, with a view to confirming that the Commission would be able to proceed with these items as its substantive agenda for 2022. In the light of the strong support in the informal consultations for the two

agenda items adopted in 2020, may I take it that it is the wish of the Commission to adopt the provisional agenda for the substantive session of the Commission as contained in document A/C.10/L.88, with the inclusion of these two substantive agenda items as items four and five, respectively?

*It was so decided.*

**The Chair:** General Assembly decision 52/492 of 1998 provides that the substantive agenda items should be considered in the Commission for three years. I therefore consulted with delegations during informal meetings on 9 March and 17 March on where the Commission should resume its work at its 2022 session.

Given the support shown by the delegations for the Commission to resume its work from the second year of the three-year cycle, I therefore propose that the Commission continue considering the agenda items adopted for the Commission's 2018-2020 cycle for the period 2022 and 2023. If the delegations are agreeable to this suggestion, then the Commission's second year of its three-year cycle would be 2022.

If I hear no objection, I shall take it, that it is the wish of the Commission that 2022 be considered as the second year of the three-year cycle.

*It was so decided.*

### **Organizational matters**

**The Chair:** I should like to note that, pursuant to resolution 44/119, of 15 December 1989, all officers of the Commission should be elected at this organizational session.

Unfortunately, as I have already informed the Commission, we are not able to conclude these organizational matters in view of the outstanding nominations of vice-chairs and the rapporteur from the regional groups. I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to the regional groups concerned to conduct all necessary consultations to enable the Commission to continue its substantive work with a fully constituted Bureau.

Before we conclude this organizational session, I would like to inform delegations that those wishing to be inscribed on the list of speakers for the general statements at the substantive session are requested to do so through the e-deleGATE portal, which was opened on 2 March. The related advance announcement is posted in the United Nations Journal. The composition of delegations, names of representatives, alternate representatives and advisors should be registered through the e-list of participants. In addition, on the e-deleGATE portal, delegations can view the agenda, the schedule of meetings, reports of previous sessions and the General Assembly resolution on the report of the Disarmament Commission. Through the e-deleGATE portal, the working groups will circulate their documentation.

If there are no more pressing issues to discuss, I shall take it that it is the wish of the Commission to conclude the 2022 organizational session and proceed to the substantive session of the Disarmament Commission.

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 10.25 a.m.*