

Conference on Disarmament

17 February 2017

Original: English

Decision on the establishment of a working group on the “way ahead” to identify common ground for a programme of work with a negotiating mandate

(Adopted at the 1406th plenary meeting on 17 February 2017)

The Conference on Disarmament,

In pursuance of its agenda contained in CD/2085,

Cognizant of its role as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum,

Stressing the importance of adoption and implementation of a balanced and comprehensive programme of work with a negotiation mandate at the earliest possible date in its 2017 session,

Reiterating the responsibilities entrusted to the President under the rules of procedure of the Conference on Disarmament, in particular rule 29 for drawing up the programme of work of the Conference,

Recognizing the need to conduct multilateral negotiations with the aim of reaching agreement on common issues to reinforce the international security environment and architecture,

Recalling, in this respect, that the Conference has a number of important issues on its agenda for negotiations to achieve disarmament goals,

Noting the conclusions contained in the adopted final report on the work of the Informal Working Group re-established pursuant to rule 23 of its rules of procedure, with a mandate to produce a programme of work robust in substance and progressive over time in implementation as contained in CD/2033,

Decides,

1. To establish a working group on the “way ahead”, pursuant to rule 23 of its rules of procedure, in support of the President of the Conference on Disarmament, with a mandate to:

- Take stock of the progress on all agenda items of the Conference as contained in CD/2085,
- Identify issues for substantive work under the agenda, taking into account the efforts and priorities of the international community,

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- Identify common ground for a programme of work with a negotiating mandate,
 - Consider steps for the way ahead;
2. That the Working Group may at any time establish sub-Groups when and as required to fulfil its mandate;
 3. That Ambassador Htin Lynn of Myanmar shall chair the Working Group. Should sub-Groups be established, the facilitators of the sub-Groups shall be designated by the Working Group;
 4. That the Working Group, and the sub-Groups, shall remain open to all member States of the Conference on Disarmament. Those interested non-member States that the Conference has invited to participate in its work during the 2017 session are invited to attend the meetings of the Working Group and the sub-Groups;
 5. That the rules of procedure of the Conference, as contained in CD/8/Rev.9, shall apply to the work of the Working Group and the sub-Groups, *mutatis mutandis*;
 6. That the Working Group, and the sub-Groups, shall hold meetings during the 2017 session as per timetable established by the Chair of the Working Group, in consultation with the President. The sub-Groups shall report to the Working Group on the progress of their work;
 7. That the Chair shall report to the Conference through the President of the Conference on Disarmament on the progress of the work of the Working Group on a regular basis. The sub-Groups shall submit their reports, as agreed by the member States of the Conference, to the Chair of the Working Group. The Chair shall submit the final report of the Working Group to the President as early as possible for consideration and adoption by the Conference in accordance with the Conference's rules of procedure;
 8. That, should the Conference on Disarmament agree upon a programme of work with a negotiating mandate, all activities mandated by the present decision shall conclude and the Chair shall report to the President of the Conference on Disarmament on the work of the Working Group and, at the President's request, to the plenary according to the rules of procedure.
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