

Conference on Disarmament

14 September

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Note Verbale dated 12 September 2018 from the Permanent Mission of the Group of 21 (G-21), namely: Algeria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile Colombia, Cuba, Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tunisia, Venezuela, Vietnam and Zimbabwe addressed to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament, transmitting the text of the statement of the G-21 concerning the need to uphold the Rules of Procedure and the office of the president of the Conference on Disarmament.

The Permanent Missions of the Group of 21 (G-21), namely: Algeria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tunisia, Venezuela, Vietnam and Zimbabwe to the United Nations in Geneva present their compliments to the Office for Disarmament Affairs, in its capacity as the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament, and have the honour to circulate the attached text of the statement of the G-21 concerning the need to uphold the Rules of Procedure and the office of the president of the Conference on Disarmament.

The Permanent Missions of the G-21 request that the attached G-21 statement be registered and circulated as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

The Permanent Missions of the Group of 21 (G-21), namely: Algeria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tunisia, Venezuela, Vietnam and Zimbabwe avail themselves of this opportunity to renew to the Office for Disarmament Affairs, in its capacity as the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament, the assurances of their highest consideration.



Position of the Group of 21 concerning the need to uphold the Rules of Procedure and the Office of the President of the Conference on Disarmament

1. The G21 wish to note with appreciation that, as we approach the end of the 3rd Part of the Conference on Disarmament for 2018, the Turkish presidency will be crowned with success, given its already demonstrated exceptional diplomatic skill, efficiency and commitment in the stewardship of the affairs of the Conference. The G21 stands ready to render all the support and co-operation for the successful discharge of this mandate, especially on the finalisation and submission of our Annual Report to the United Nations General Assembly, including the reports of the subsidiary bodies in accordance with the decision CD/2119.

2. The G21 would like to re-state some principles and rules which should guide the work of the Conference in the exercise we are currently engaged in. The G21, with regard to the work of the Conference on Disarmament, would like to stress as a fundamental principle, the upholding of the Rules of Procedure and the office of the Presidency.

3. This principle is also reflected in Rule 3 (three):

“All member States of the Conference shall take part in its work in conditions of full equality as independent States, in accordance with the principle of sovereign equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.”

4. And this principle is implied in Rule 9 (nine):

“When the Conference is in session, the Presidency of the Conference shall rotate among all its members; each President shall preside for a four-working-week period. The rotation which began in January 1979, based on the English alphabetical list of membership, shall be followed.”

5. With regard to how we reflect the views of Members in the reports, Rule 45 is clear and states: “The reports of the Conference shall be factual and reflect the negotiations and work of the Conference.”

6. We believe the best way to uphold the institution of the CD is by respecting the Rules of Procedure and office of the President. In this regard, Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure should not be questioned.
