

Conference on Disarmament

6 June 2019

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Note verbale dated 24 May 2019 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus addressed to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the text of the joint statement by interested Member and Observer States in support of the Conference on Disarmament, delivered in the Conference on March 26, 2019.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and has the honour to transmit herewith the text of the joint statement by interested Member and Observer States in support of the Conference on Disarmament, delivered in the Conference on March 26, 2019.

The Permanent Mission would be grateful if the attached joint statement could be issued as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament the assurances of its highest consideration.



Joint Statement in Support of the Conference on Disarmament¹

1. We reiterate our commitment to the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral negotiating forum for dealing with disarmament.
2. Being an integral part of the UN Disarmament machinery, the Conference has made a tangible practical contribution to maintenance of international peace and security.
3. Whilst reiterating our commitment to the Conference on Disarmament, we remain concerned with the stalemate at the CD. If this situation is allowed to continue, it risks undermining the credibility and relevance of this body.
4. Efforts by previous Presidencies to reach a consensus on the programme of work must be continued. Furthermore, endeavors to contribute to this process deserve appreciation.
5. At present, the primary shared objective of the Conference is to come to a consensual agreement on programme of work based on the CD agenda.
6. In doing so Presidents of the CD as well as delegations participating in the Conference must honour its foundations embodied in the Rules of Procedure including the principle of sovereign equality of States.
7. Any attempts to politicize the institution of the CD Presidency are unacceptable. Member States of the Conference should make every effort to refrain from actions that could further exacerbate already existing tensions and which could further entrench the stalemate in the CD.
8. We therefore should oppose the emergence of new division lines and further downward spiral of the Conference.
9. We urge all Member States of the Conference to redouble their efforts to overcome its stagnation and to resume substantive work at the CD without any further delay.

¹ The following Member and Observer States associated with the joint statement: Belarus, Bolivia, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iran, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Syria, Venezuela, Zimbabwe.