

Conference on Disarmament

9 August 2019

Original: English

Note verbale dated 8 August 2019 from the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland addressed to the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and requesting registration and distribution of the document entitled “Revised draft decision” under the symbol (CD/WP.619/Rev.2) and amended and circulated under the United Kingdom’s Presidency as an official document of the 2019 session of the Conference on Disarmament

The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland presents its compliments to the Office for Disarmament Affairs, in its capacity as the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament.

The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland requests that the attached document, being the final version of the draft decision circulated under its Presidency this year, be registered and circulated as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland avails itself 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 its highest consideration.



Revised draft decision

The Conference on Disarmament,

Recognising that 2019 marks the fortieth anniversary of its creation, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, by the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-I);

Having in mind the achievements of one hundred years of disarmament diplomacy in Geneva;

In pursuance of its agenda contained in CD/2153;

In accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference on Disarmament and without prejudice to the responsibilities entrusted to the President under the rules of procedure, in particular rule 29 for drawing up the programme of work of the Conference;

Recalling paragraph 28 of its rules of procedure, which calls on the Conference to establish its programme of work on the basis of its agenda;

Taking into account the several proposals tabled for the programme of work of the Conference, and the interest in seeing the Conference return to substantive work;

Recognising that there is no consensus for launching negotiations on any issue at this time;

Conscious of the need to conduct its work in a balanced and comprehensive manner, and recalling that all agenda items of the Conference carry equal weight;

Aiming at promoting multilateralism and enhancing the inclusiveness, effectiveness and authority of the Conference as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum;

Decides:

Subsidiary Bodies

1. To establish, in accordance with Paragraph 23 of its rules of procedure, four Subsidiary Bodies, and appoint Coordinators on the basis of equitable geographical representation, as follows:

(a) Subsidiary Body 1: Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament, and prevention of nuclear war, and all related matters (agenda items 1 and 2), building on the possible ways forward identified in document CD/2138, with a particular focus on elements of legally binding instruments and additional measures, and options for negotiations.

Coordinator: H.E. Ambassador Aliyar Lebbe Abdul Azeez of Sri Lanka

(b) Subsidiary Body 2: Fissile material for nuclear weapons and other explosive devices (agenda items 1 and 2), building on the possible ways forward identified in document CD/2139, with a particular focus on elements of a ban of the production of such material, and options for negotiations.

Coordinator: H.E. Ambassador Robbert Gabriëlse of The Netherlands

(c) Subsidiary Body 3: Prevention of an arms race in outer space (agenda item 3), building on the possible ways forward identified in document CD/2140, with a particular focus on elements of legally binding instruments and additional measures on PAROS, and options for negotiations.

Coordinator: H.E. Ambassador Guilherme de Aguiar Patriota of Brazil

(d) Subsidiary Body 4: Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons (agenda item 4), building on the discussions in Subsidiary Body 4 in 2018, with a particular focus on elements of legally binding instruments and additional measures on such arrangements, and options for negotiations.

Coordinator: H.E. Ambassador Carlos Foradori of Argentina

2. The aim of the Subsidiary Bodies established under this Decision will be to identify and consider legally binding instruments for negotiations and effective measures, and their scope. To this end, the Subsidiary Bodies may deepen technical discussions and broaden areas of agreement, including through the participation, in accordance with the rules of procedure, of relevant experts; and reach understandings on areas of commonalities on the issues set out in paragraph 1, taking into consideration all relevant views and proposals past, present and future.

3. The Subsidiary Bodies shall conduct their work and adopt their reports in accordance with paragraph 18 of the rules of procedure, with even allocation of time. Each Subsidiary Body shall hold up to eight meetings, in accordance with the timetable annexed to this Decision. In accordance with paragraph 24 of the rules of procedure, the meetings of the Subsidiary Bodies shall be informal, except for those indicated in the timetable annexed to this Decision, which shall be formal.

4. In accordance with rule 35 of the rules of procedure, the Subsidiary Bodies shall be open to all Member States of the Conference and to those non-Member States that the Conference has invited to participate in its work during the 2019 session.

5. At its final formal meeting, each Subsidiary Body, by consensus, shall adopt a report on its work and any commonalities and recommendations which may have been reached. At that meeting, the Coordinator may also make a statement in his or her personal capacity on the work of the Subsidiary Body, with a particular focus on the aims set out in paragraph 2 of this Decision, without prejudice to the national positions of member States. The reports of the Subsidiary Bodies shall be presented to the Conference through the President and duly reflected in the annual report of the Conference to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Special Coordinators

6. To appoint Special Coordinators, as follows:

(a) H.E. Ambassador Yury Ambrazevich of Belarus as Special Coordinator on Emerging Issues and New Technologies. The Special Coordinator shall examine the impact of emerging issues and new technologies on the agenda items of the Conference, building on the possible ways forward identified in document CD/2141, in consultation with the members of the Conference, including through the participation, in accordance with the rules of procedure, of relevant experts. The Special Coordinator and the Coordinators of the four Subsidiary Bodies shall coordinate in considering the impact of emerging issues and new technologies on the subject matter of the Subsidiary Bodies.

(b) H.E. Ambassador Sabrina Dallafior of Switzerland as Special Coordinator on the improved and effective functioning of the Conference and the expansion of its membership. The Special Coordinator shall examine ways to improve the functioning of the Conference and consult Member States and participating non-Member States on the question of its membership.

7. In discharging their duties and functions, the Special Coordinators shall hold consultations with delegations including in formal and informal meetings open to all Member States of the Conference and to those non-Member States that the Conference has invited to participate in its work during the 2019 session in accordance with rule 35 of the rules of procedure, taking into consideration all relevant views and proposals past, present and future.

8. The Special Coordinators shall make their reports in their personal capacities in a statement at a formal meeting of the Conference no later than the final week of the second part of the 2019 session. Any action pursuant to any proposals or recommendations that may be presented by the Special Coordinators shall be decided by consensus.

9. This decision applies for the 2019 session, without prejudice to any subsequent decision at the beginning of future annual sessions of the Conference on Disarmament.

Annex: Timetable of meetings of Subsidiary Bodies

Subsidiary Body 1 **Thursday 16 May AM and PM**

Wednesday 12 June PM

Thursday 13 June AM

Wednesday 19 June PM

Thursday 20 June AM

Wednesday 7 August PM

Thursday 8 August AM

Subsidiary Body 2 **Friday 17 May AM and PM**

Thursday 6 June PM

Friday 7 June AM

Thursday 20 June PM

Friday 21 June AM

Thursday 15 August AM

Friday 16 August PM

Subsidiary Body 3 **Thursday 23 May AM and PM**

Thursday 13 June PM

Friday 14 June AM

Thursday 27 June PM

Friday 28 June AM

Thursday 8 August PM

Friday 9 August AM

Subsidiary Body 4 **Friday 24 May AM and PM**

Wednesday 29 May PM

Friday 31 May AM

Monday 3 June PM

Wednesday 31 July PM

Wednesday 14 August PM

Friday 16 August AM

Meetings in bold shall be formal. Other scheduled meetings may be held in formal, rather than informal, settings if more delegations wish to make statements in a formal setting than may be accommodated in the meetings designated as such here.
