

Conference on Disarmament

17 March 2022
English
Original: French

Note verbale dated 9 March 2022 from the Permanent Mission of France to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva addressed to the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the joint statement on women's participation in the work of the Conference on Disarmament.

The Permanent Mission of France to the Conference on Disarmament presents its compliments to the presidency of the Conference and has the honour to transmit the attached text of the joint statement on women's participation in the work of the Conference on Disarmament issued in Peru on behalf of the 31 countries listed therein during the plenary meeting held on 8 March 2022.

The Permanent Mission of France requests the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament to have this joint statement registered as a working document of the Conference on Disarmament and to have it circulated to all members and observers of the Conference.

The Permanent Mission of France to the Conference on Disarmament takes this opportunity to convey to the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.



Annex

Joint statement on Women's Participation in the work of the Conference on Disarmament (8 March 2022)

[Original: English]

1. Madam President,
 2. I make this statement on behalf of: *Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, Vietnam.*
 3. We welcome this plenary meeting “to highlight the importance of including women’s perspectives in the substantive discussions of the topics on the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament”, on the International Women’s Day. Although we would have preferred a formal plenary meeting to express our views on such an important topic, we appreciate the efforts by the Colombian presidency to bring gender and women’s participation in disarmament to the center of the discussions of this Conference.
 4. We also welcome the continued support of the United Nations leadership for this endeavour, and for other efforts to embed principles of diversity, inclusion and gender parity across relevant disarmament and international security. Ms Nakamitsu’s participation in our important debate today testifies to this support. The equal, full and effective participation of both women and men is one of the essential factors for the promotion and attainment of sustainable peace and security, including in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, as reaffirmed by Resolution 75/48 approved without a vote by the General Assembly on 7 December 2020.
 5. During the 2020 and 2021 sessions, we have supported the proposal to update the Rules of Procedure of the Conference on Disarmament to reflect the equality of women and men. This proposal was directly in line with Secretary General Guterres’ call for gender parity in his Agenda for Disarmament, with UNSC resolution 1325 (2000) and with subsequent resolutions on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.
 6. Through this proposal, we aimed to send a clear message that the participation of women in the work of the Conference on Disarmament, and in the field of international security more broadly, is not just accepted as a matter of practice but is also welcomed as a matter of principle.
 7. While we were disappointed that the proposal was unable to garner consensus in previous years, it was clear that the overwhelming majority of delegations supported it. As such, we will continue to seek this simple, but significant, change. We request the Colombian Presidency and the other Presidents of the 2022 session, to explore ways of making concrete progress on the technical update of the CD Rules of Procedure during the 2022 session. In that regard, we also request the CD Secretariat to provide to the Conference for consideration the draft updated Rules of Procedure in all official languages, as adequate.
 8. I thank you Madam President.
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