
Conference on Disarmament

4 August 2016

Original: English

Letter dated 3 August 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting a draft proposal for a programme of work of the Conference for the 2016 session

I have the honour to transmit herewith draft proposal of the Russian Federation for a programme of work of the 2016 session.

I would be grateful if you could issue and circulate it to all members of the Conference as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed) Alexey Borodavkin
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

GE.16-13505(E)



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Draft proposal for a programme of work of the 2016 session

The Conference on Disarmament,

Convinced that, as the single multilateral negotiating forum of the international community, it has the primary role in substantive negotiations on priority questions of disarmament,

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

Taking into consideration the final document of the first special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament, which recognized that all the peoples of the world have a vital interest in the success of disarmament negotiations, and that, consequently, all States have the duty to contribute to efforts in the field of disarmament, and that while disarmament is the responsibility of all States, the nuclear-weapon States have the primary responsibility for nuclear disarmament; and that the adoption of disarmament measures should take place in such an equitable and balanced manner so as to ensure the right of each State to security and to ensure that no individual State or group of States may obtain advantages over others at any stage,

Deeply concerned about the worldwide escalation of acts of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,

Taking into consideration the growing threat of the use of chemical weapons and materials by illegal non-State militarized groups, which has been showcased recently by multiple episodes of the use of chemical materials by terrorists, as well as the possibility of hijacking of the facilities and infrastructure for the production of chemical weapons and materials by such groups,

Mindful also that the similar threat is posed by a possible use of biological and toxin materials for terrorist purposes,

Taking note of the conclusion and successful implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism of 2005 as an important milestone in addressing the issue of terrorism,

Conscious of the work done by the Conference on Disarmament on the issues of chemical and biological weapons,

Recalling, that the Conference has a number of urgent and important issues on its agenda¹ for negotiation to achieve disarmament goals,

Cognizant that the examination of items on the Conference's agenda can be considered in the absence of a decision on substance as provided in the rules of procedure and highlighted in CD/2033² adopted by consensus,

Determined to pursue all items on its agenda in a balanced and comprehensive manner, without prejudice to any, in accordance with and fully respecting its rules of

¹ CD/2052 adopted at the 1371st plenary meeting on 26 January 2016.

² Final report of 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, adopted at the 1363rd plenary meeting on 17 August 2015.

procedure, and given the mandate conferred to the Conference on Disarmament by the first special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament, decides

1. To establish a working group under agenda item 6 entitled “Comprehensive programme of disarmament” to elaborate key elements of an international convention for the suppression of acts of chemical and biological terrorism.
2. To establish a working group, for the duration of the 2016 session, to identify, elaborate and recommend effective measures on nuclear disarmament, including legal provisions and other arrangements, as well as factors, that contribute to and are required for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons; the legal provisions could be established through various approaches, including a stand-alone instrument or a framework agreement.
3. The working groups shall continue to use the rules of procedure of the Conference, *mutatis mutandis*.
4. The working groups will remain open to all member States of the Conference on Disarmament and to those interested non-member States that the Conference has invited to participate, as observers, in its work during the 2016 session, in accordance with rules of procedure of the Conference and the decision taken at its 1990 session on its improved and effective functioning (CD/1036).

The Conference shall appoint coordinators for the Working Groups. Each Working Group shall present to the Conference the report on the outcome of its work before the end of the fifth Presidency of the current session. The Working Groups shall take into consideration all relevant views, proposals and decisions past, present and future.

In accordance with the rules of procedure, the Working Groups will hold plenary sessions under the schedule that is subject to consultations with the member States of the Conference on Disarmament.