
Conference on Disarmament

23 February 2021

Original: English

Note verbale dated 10 February 2021 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus, transmitting the Joint Statement by the States-Members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization in support of the Conference on Disarmament

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 request the Secretariat to register and issue as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament the enclosed Joint Statement by the States-Members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization in support of the Conference on Disarmament and to circulate it among the States-Members of the Conference.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament the assurances of its highest consideration.



Annex**Joint statement of the States-Members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) in support of the Conference on Disarmament**

[Original: Russian]

The CSTO member States reiterate their commitment to the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. As an integral part of the United Nations disarmament machinery, the Conference has made a significant practical contribution to strengthening international peace and security.

Throughout its existence, the Geneva negotiating forum has produced a number of fundamental arms control and disarmament agreements: the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

As multilateral disarmament and arms control instruments and mechanisms continue to be dismantled, exacerbated by a crisis of confidence and growing confrontation between countries, the Conference remains a key platform for negotiations on a wide range of topical issues involving international security, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and arms control.

The CSTO member States emphasize the urgent need to intensify negotiation work at the Conference on Disarmament on nuclear disarmament issues, including negative security assurances, the prevention of an arms race in outer space, assessments of the impact of scientific and technological progress on the prospect of creating new types of weapons of mass destruction that have characteristics comparable in destructive effect to existing such weapons and the avoidance of risks associated with the malicious use of new technologies.

In 2020, the Conference again failed to adopt a programme of work and to take on meaningful activities within its mandate. We advocate launching such activities at the Conference on Disarmament as quickly as possible with the framework of a comprehensive and balanced programme of work based on the Conference's agenda, in accordance with the negotiating mandate of the forum, while respecting the fundamental principles of its functioning and rules of procedure, especially the consensus rule. In this regard, we support the efforts of the six Presidents of the Conference to enable this negotiating body to resume work.

We call on all Conference members: to make every effort to overcome existing differences and prevent new dividing lines from emerging; to observe the fundamental principles and rules of procedure of the Conference on Disarmament; to avoid politicizing the Conference (including the institution of the presidency at the Conference on Disarmament); and to seek the adoption of a balanced and comprehensive programme of work in accordance with the Conference agenda, based on the principle that equal attention should be paid to all topical issues in the field of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, rather than dividing matters into "key" and other issues.

We consider the initiative to draft an international convention to combat acts of chemical and biological terrorism to be a viable means of breaking the stalemate in the work of the Conference on Disarmament.

The CSTO member States reaffirm their support for the Conference on Disarmament and their readiness to make constructive efforts to achieve progress in its work.
