

Conference on Disarmament

6 September 2021

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Note verbale dated 3 September 2021 from the Permanent Mission of Bulgaria, addressed to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and transferring a letter with reference number 71 from 22 March 2021 submitted by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Bulgaria to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva, H.E. Ambassador Yuri Sterk, in his capacity as the 3rd rotational President of the Conference on Disarmament for 2021, together with documents CD/WP.633/Rev.1 of 11 February 2021 and CD/WP.634/Rev.4 of 22 March 2021

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the United Nations and other International Organizations at Geneva presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and has the honour to kindly request for a letter with reference number 71 from 22 March 2021 submitted by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Bulgaria to the UN and other International Organizations in Geneva, H.E. Ambassador Yuri Sterk, in his capacity as the 3rd rotational President of the Conference on Disarmament for 2021, together with documents CD/WP.633/Rev.1 of 11 February 2021 and CD/WP.634/Rev.4 of 22 March 2021, as attached to the above mentioned letter, to be processed as official documents of the 2021 session of the Conference on Disarmament.

The above mentioned two documents and the letter by H.E. Ambassador Yuri Sterk together with a related circular communication of the Secretariat to the member states of the Conference are attached as submitted on 22 March 2021, for ease of reference.

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



Annex I

Letter dated 22 March 2021 from the Permanent Mission of Bulgaria addressed to the President of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting documents CD/WP.633/Rev.1 as proposed by the Presidency of Belgium on 11th of February 2021 and CD/WP.634/Rev.4

Excellency,

The Bulgarian Presidency of the Conference on Disarmament in consultation with the other rotational presidencies for the year 2021 decided to submit hereby for adoption by the Conference, documents CD/WP.633/Rev.1 as proposed by the Presidency of Belgium on 11th of February 2021 and CD/WP.634/Rev.4, enclosed herewith.

Document CD/WP.633/Rev.1 represents a draft decision on the work of the Conference on Disarmament for 2021 and document CD/WP.634/Rev.4 is a draft decision for the implementation of the decision on the work of the Conference on Disarmament for 2021.

The texts as proposed for both draft decisions are the outcome of intensive consultations with CD member states actively involved in the process of negotiations from the beginning of 2021 and in the view of the current Presidency enjoy the best chances of commanding the consensus of the member states.

The documents will be put for consideration at an informal plenary meeting in the morning of Thursday, 25th of March 2021 and put for adoption during a formal plenary meeting in the morning of Friday, 26th of March 2021.

(Signed) Yuri **Sterk**

Annex II

Revised draft decision on the work of the Conference on Disarmament for 2021

Submitted by the President

The Conference on Disarmament,

Cognizant of its role as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum established by the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-I),

Noting that it provides its Member States with a platform to engage in negotiations, on the basis of the rule of consensus,

In order to ensure substantive work for the Conference which does not prejudice any past, present or future position, proposal or priority of any delegation, *Without prejudice to* the rules of procedure of the Conference and the responsibilities entrusted to the President under the rules of procedure of the Conference on Disarmament, in particular rule 29 for drawing up the programme of work of the Conference,

Recalling rule 28 of its Rules of Procedure which calls on the Conference to establish its programme of work on the basis of its agenda,

Seeking to advance the substantive work of the Conference,

In pursuance of its agenda contained in CD/2209, decides:

1. To work in 2021 in accordance with the timetable annexed to this decision.
2. To establish, in accordance with rule 23 of its Rules of Procedure, four Subsidiary Bodies on agenda items 1 to 4, and a fifth Subsidiary Body on agenda items 5, 6 and 7, with a particular focus on substantial elements of legally binding instruments, and additional measures, and options for negotiations.
3. The aim of the Subsidiary Bodies established under this Decision will be to consider and recommend effective measures, including legal instruments for negotiations, in line with the Final Document of SSOD-I. 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 as set out in paragraph 2, taking into consideration all relevant views and proposals past, present and future.
4. The Subsidiary Bodies will be chaired by Coordinators appointed by the Conference, under the guidance of the President on the basis of equitable regional distribution.
5. The Subsidiary Bodies shall meet in accordance with rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure, and shall conduct their work in accordance with rule 18, with even allocation of time.
6. In accordance with rule 35 of the Rules of Procedure, the Subsidiary Bodies shall remain open to all Member States of the Conference on Disarmament and to those non-Member States that the Conference has invited to participate in its work during the 2021 session.
7. The reports on the progress achieved and agreed on by consensus in Subsidiary Bodies would be submitted by Coordinators to the Conference on Disarmament, through the President, for adoption and due reflection in the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament to the General Assembly of the United Nations.
8. This decision applies only to the 2021 session, without prejudice to any subsequent decision at the beginning of future annual sessions of the Conference of Disarmament.

Timetable for the work of the Conference on Disarmament for 2021:

18 January – 26 March 2021	Statements in plenary meetings Implementation of arrangements for Subsidiary Bodies The High Level Segment Other organizational questions Supervision of work in Subsidiary Bodies
10 May – 25 June 2021	Statements in plenary meetings Supervision of work in Subsidiary Bodies Other organizational questions Civil society event
26 July – 10 September 2021	Statements in plenary meetings Supervision of work in Subsidiary Bodies, consideration and adoption of the reports of the Subsidiary Bodies Consideration and adoption of the annual report to the General Assembly of the United Nations

Annex III

Revised draft decision for the implementation of the decision on the work of the Conference on Disarmament for 2021

Submitted by the President

The Conference on Disarmament, in accordance with rule 23 of its Rules of Procedure, and in pursuance of its decision CD/WP.633/Rev.1,

Decides:

1. On the basis of equitable geographic distribution, to appoint the following coordinators of the subsidiary bodies:
 - Subsidiary body 1: Cessation of the arms race and nuclear disarmament, H.E. Mr. Emilio Rafael IZQUIERDO MIÑO, Ambassador of Ecuador
 - Subsidiary body 2: Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters, H.E. Mr. Ignacio SÁNCHEZ DE LERÍN, Ambassador of Spain
 - Subsidiary body 3: Prevention of an arms race in outer space, H.E. Mr. Lazhar SOUALEM, Ambassador of Algeria
 - Subsidiary body 4: Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, H.E. Mr. Ichiro OGASAWARA, Ambassador of Japan
 - Subsidiary body 5: New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons - Comprehensive programme of disarmament - Transparency in armament, H.E. Mr. Yury AMBRAZEVICH, Ambassador of Belarus.
2. That the subsidiary bodies will meet in accordance with the timetable annexed to this decision in order to build upon previous discussions, documents, previous reports of the Conference, and all relevant views and proposals, past, present and future.

Timetable for the subsidiary bodies established pursuant to CD/WP.633/Rev.1

Subsidiary body 1	12 May pm; 19 May pm; 26 May pm pm; 10 June pm;	Cessation of the arms race and nuclear disarmament, departing from CD/2138 and taking into account previous discussions and documents on this agenda item
Subsidiary body 2	14 May pm; 21 May pm; 28 May pm; 15 June pm;	Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters, departing from CD/2139 and taking into account previous discussions and documents on this agenda item
Subsidiary body 3	11 May pm; 18 May pm; 25 May pm; 17 June pm;	Prevention of an arms race in outer space, departing from CD/2140 and taking into account previous discussions and documents on this agenda item
Subsidiary body 4	10 May pm; 20 May pm; 27 May pm; 22 June pm;	Effective international arrangements to assure non- nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, departing from the work conducted in 2018 in subsidiary body 4 on negative security assurances, and taking into account previous discussions and documents on this agenda item
Subsidiary body 5	1 June pm; 3 June pm; 8 June pm; 24 June pm.	New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons — Comprehensive programme of disarmament - Transparency in armament, departing from CD/2141 and taking into account previous discussions and documents on this agenda item
