

# Conference on Disarmament

3 September 2021

Original: English

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## **Note verbale dated 3 September 2021 from the Permanent Mission of Canada, addressed to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament, transmitting the document containing the draft decision on updating the Rules of Procedure, circulated as WP.635 during the Canadian Presidency**

The Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations and the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and has the honour to refer to its note verbale dated 17 August 2021, transmitting documents related to the draft decision on updating the Rules of Procedure to reflect the equality of men and women, which was discussed during the informal plenary meeting and the formal plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament held on August 3 and 5 respectively.

It is the Permanent Mission's understanding that it may be helpful to issue a separate official document containing the draft decision on updating the Rules of Procedure, circulated as WP.635 during the Canadian Presidency. Canada therefore requests that the draft decision be entered into the record of the Conference on Disarmament as a distinct official document, while maintaining the document containing the Rules of Procedure as updated per the draft decision in the official record.

The Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations and the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament, the assurances of its highest consideration.



## Annex

### Draft Decision of the Conference on Disarmament

#### Submitted by the President

The Conference on Disarmament decides to make the following linguistic/technical updates to its Rules of Procedure:

1. The text of rules 10, 11, 13, 16 and 37 of the Conference's Rules of Procedure that is crossed out is replaced by the bracketed text in bold, as noted below.
2. Rule 10: "If the head of the delegation which performs the function of President cannot be present, ~~he~~ **[the head of the delegation]** may be replaced by a member of ~~his~~ **[the]** delegation. If no member of the delegation holding the chair is able to perform the function of President, the delegation next in order of rotation shall temporarily assume this function."
3. Rule 11: "Apart from exercising the normal functions of a presiding officer and in addition to the powers conferred upon ~~him~~ **[the President]** elsewhere by these rules, the President shall, in full consultation with the Conference and under its authority, represent it in its relations with States, with the General Assembly and other organs of the United Nations and with other international organizations."
4. Rule 13: "At the request of the Conference the Secretary-General of the United Nations, following consultations with the Conference, will appoint the Secretary-General of the Conference, who shall also act as ~~his personal representative~~ **[the personal representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations]**, to assist the Conference and its President in organizing the business and timetables of the Conference."
5. Rule 16: "The Secretary-General shall also perform such other functions as are entrusted to ~~him~~ **[the Secretary-General]** by these rules or by the Conference."
6. Rule 37: "Simultaneous interpretation, verbatim records of public plenary meetings and documents shall be provided in the languages used within the United Nations system by member States of the Conference participating in its work. Any representative may speak in ~~his~~ **[the representative's]** own language provided ~~he~~ **[the representative]** makes available simultaneous interpretation into a working language."