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# Conference on Disarmament

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## **Nigeria on behalf of member States of G-21**

### **Working paper**

#### **Work of the Conference on Disarmament**

1. The Group expresses its appreciation to the UN Secretary General for his interest in the revitalization of multilateral work on disarmament and non proliferation, including the Conference on Disarmament.
2. In this regard, the Group recalls the High level Meeting on revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral Disarmament Negotiations held in New York on 24 September 2010 and the follow-up to the High-Level Meeting held in New York from 27 to 29 July 2011.
3. The Group underscores the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament and non proliferation and reiterates its determination to promote multilateralism as the core principal of negotiations in the area of disarmament and non proliferation.
4. While reaffirming the importance of the CD as the single multilateral negotiating body on disarmament, as mandated by the First Special Session on Disarmament (SSOD-I), the Group expresses its disappointment that the CD has not been able to undertake substantive work on its agenda. The Group takes note of various efforts to reach consensus on CD's programme of work in particular the adoption of the decision CD/1864 in 2009 and supports redoubling efforts to develop consensus on a comprehensive and balanced programme of work for 2011. The Group, therefore, bearing in mind the urgency of eliminating the threat posed by nuclear weapons to the international security, reiterates its call on the CD members to adopt and implement a balanced and comprehensive programme of work on the basis of its agenda and dealing with, inter alia, the core issues, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, and by taking into consideration the security concerns of all states. The Group also calls on all members of the CD to demonstrate flexibility to enable the CD to resume its work.
5. The Group of 21 maintains that the Conference on Disarmament remains the single multilateral negotiating body on disarmament, and in that context, the Group stresses that its highest priority continues to be nuclear disarmament.
6. In this regard, the Group continues to support the early commencement of negotiations, within the CD, on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time, including a Nuclear Weapons

Convention. This convention will prohibit the possession, development, production, stockpiling, transfer and use of nuclear weapons, leading to their ultimate destruction.

7. The Group reaffirms that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and reaffirms further that Non- Nuclear Weapon States (NNWS) should be effectively assured by Nuclear Weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, the Group reaffirms the need for the conclusion of a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on security assurances to NNWS as a matter of high priority. It expresses concern that despite long standing request by NNWS to receive such legally binding assurances, no tangible progress has been achieved in this regard. The Group further stresses the significance and positive security implications of the conclusion of a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on NSA.

8. The Group believes in the importance of examining the possibility of expansion of the CD membership.

9. The Group supports strengthening CD's interaction with civil society in disarmament field, particularly nuclear disarmament, in keeping with the nature of the CD as a negotiating forum.

10. The Group believes that promoting the work of the UN disarmament machinery hinges on creating a suitable political environment, taking into account the security interests of all states, rather than changing rules of procedure.

11. The Group recognizes that SSOD-I put into place Disarmament machinery and that there is a need to address challenges to its effectiveness. At the same time, it is important to recall the achievement arrived at by the international community through the UN disarmament machinery.

12. In this regard, the Group while expressing its deep concern over the persistent lack of consensus on the multilateral disarmament agenda and machinery, reaffirms its support for an early convening of the Fourth Special Session of the UN General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSODIV).

13. Finally, the Group believes that any possible follow up should be inclusive , Member states driven, and should strengthen role and work of the CD, as mandated by the First Special Session of the UN General Assembly devoted to disarmament (SSOD-I) and efforts aimed at achieving nuclear disarmament.

14. The Group remains committed to advance the work of the CD.

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