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# Conference on Disarmament

28 August 2012

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## **Syrian Arab Republic on behalf of member States of G-21**

### **Working paper**

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

1. The group takes note that this year substantive discussions are conducted under the framework of the Schedule of Activities reflected in CD/WP.571 Rev.1.
2. 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 principle of negotiations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.
3. The Group re-emphasizes that the Conference on Disarmament remains the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, as mandated by the First Special Session of the UN General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-I).
4. Bearing in mind the greatest danger both to humankind and to the survival of civilization posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible use or threat of use, the Group stresses once more that nuclear disarmament continues to be its highest priority.
5. The Group therefore continues to support an urgent need for the early commencement of negotiations within the CD, on a phased program 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.
6. While reaffirming the importance of the CD, 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 the CD's Program of Work including the Program of Work adopted on 29 May 2009 that was not implemented and all subsequent efforts and proposals for a program of work, the last of which was tabled on March 14<sup>th</sup> 2012 that was not adopted.
7. The Group reiterates the urgency that the CD should adopt and implement a balanced and comprehensive Program of Work on the basis of its agenda and dealing with, inter alia, the core issues, in accordance with the rules of procedures.

8. The Group furthermore believes that promoting the work of the UN disarmament machinery hinges on a suitable political environment, taking into account the security interests of all states.

9. 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 (SSOD-IV).

10. The Group recognizes the importance of continuing consultations on the question of the possibility of expansion of the membership of the CD.

11. The Group also continues to support strengthening the CD's interaction with civil society in the field of disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, in keeping with the nature of the CD as a negotiating forum.

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