

Conference on Disarmament

13 September 2019

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Report of the Conference on Disarmament to the General Assembly of the United Nations

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I. Introduction

1. The Conference on Disarmament submits to the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations its annual report on its 2019 session, together with the pertinent documents and records.

II. Organization of the work of the Conference

A. 2019 session of the Conference

2. The Conference was in session from 21 January to 29 March, 13 May to 28 June and 29 July to 13 September 2019. During this period, the Conference held 48 formal plenary meetings, at which member States as well as non-member States invited to participate in the discussions outlined their views and recommendations on the various issues before the Conference.

3. The Conference also held 16 informal plenary meetings.

4. The Presidency was assumed in accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure.

5. At the 1485th plenary meeting of the Conference on 25 February 2019, Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, delivered remarks to the Conference on Disarmament (CD/PV.1485).

6. In a letter dated 21 January 2019, the first President of the Conference, Mr. Yuriy Klymenko and the former Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and the Personal Representative of Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Michael Møller, jointly invited member States to address the Conference on Disarmament at the ministerial level during the entire 2019 session. The following dignitaries addressed the Conference on Disarmament throughout its 2019 session: Mr. Yerzhan Ashikbayev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan (CD/PV.1484); Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom (CD/PV.1484); Ms. Kang, Kyung-wha, Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Republic of Korea (CD/PV.1484); Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey (CD/PV.1484); Andrei Dapkiunas, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus (CD/PV.1484); Senator the Hon Marise Payne, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia (CD/PV.1485); Mr. Simon Coveney T.D., Tánaiste (Deputy Prime Minister) and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland (CD/PV.1485); Ms. Simona Leskovar, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia (CD/PV.1485); Mr. Fabio Marzano, Vice-Minister for Sovereignty and Citizenship of Brazil (CD/PV.1485); Ms. Emanuela Claudia Del Re, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy (CD/PV.1485); Mr. Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary (CD/PV.1485); Ambassador (Dr.) Pankaj Sharma, Permanent Representative of India to the Conference on Disarmament (CD/PV. 1485); Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic (CD/PV.1486); Mr. Josip Brkić, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina (CD/PV.1486); Mr. Paul Teesalu, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Estonia (CD/PV.1486); Ms. Sigrid Kaag, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of Netherlands (CD/PV.1486); Mr. Edgars Rinkēvičs, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia (CD/PV.1486); Mr. Jacek Czaputowicz, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland (CD/PV.1487); Mr. Didier Reynders, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs, and of Defense in charge of Beliris and of the federal cultural institutions of Belgium (CD/PV.1487); Mr. Sameh Hassan Shoukry, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt (CD/PV.1487); Mr. Luwellyn Landers, Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa (CD/PV.1487); Mr. Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia (CD/PV.1487); Mr. Audun Halvorsen, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway (CD/PV.1487); Mr. Mohamed Ali Al-Hakim, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq

(CD/PV.1487); Mr. A.L.A. Azeez, Ambassador of Sri Lanka (CD/PV.1487); Mr. Kiyoto Tsuji, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan (CD/PV.1488); Mr. George Chacallis, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus (CD/PV.1488); Mr. Marcelino Medina, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cuba (CD/PV.1488); Mr. Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (CD/PV.1488); Mr. George Ciamba, Minister Delegate for European Affairs of Romania (CD/PV.1488); Mr. Yury Sterk, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria (CD/PV.1488); Mr. Esmaeil Baghaei Hamaneh, Ambassador of Iran (CD/PV.1488); Mr. Felix Plasencia, Deputy Minister for Multilateral Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (CD/PV.1488), Ms. Yleem D. S. Poblete, Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control, Verification and Compliance of the United States (CD/PV.1497), Mr. Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (CD/PV.1498), and Mr. Alexander Schallenberg, Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of Austria (CD/PV.1511).

7. In letters dated 10 May 2019 and 1 July 2019, the following leaders of regional and international organizations were invited to address the Conference on Disarmament: Mr. Lim Jock Hoi, the Secretary-General of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (CD/PV.1510) and Mr. Lassina Zerbo, the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CD/PV. 1512).

8. Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations, also addressed the Conference on Disarmament (CD/PV.1479).

9. In their addresses, these dignitaries variously voiced support for the Conference, expressed concern about the Conference's current situation, called upon the Conference to do its part to advance the international agenda by overcoming its ongoing deadlock, and set out their national priorities for the work of the Conference.

10. The substantive secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament was composed as follows: Mr. Michael Møller, Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and personal representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations (until 30 June 2019). On 6 August 2019, the Secretary-General of the United Nations appointed Ms. Tatiana Valovaya as Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament, who shall also act as his personal representative. The substantive secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament also included Ms. Anja Kaspersen, Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Director of the Geneva Branch, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs; Ms. Radha Day, Senior Political Affairs Officer and Secretary of the Conference on Disarmament; Ms. Silvia Mercogliano, Political Affairs Officer; Ms. Erika Kawahara, Associate Political Affairs Officer and Mr. Yao Yue, Associate Political Affairs Officer.

B. Participants in the work of the Conference

11. The representatives of the following 65 member States participated in the work of the Conference: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

C. Attendance and participation of States not members of the Conference

12. In accordance with the rules of procedure and the decision taken at its 1990 session on its improved and effective functioning (CD/1036), the Conference received and considered requests for participation in its work from 50 States not members of the

Conference. Accordingly, the Conference invited the following non-member States to participate in its work: Albania, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Barbados, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Nicaragua, North Macedonia, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, Thailand, Togo, and United Arab Emirates.

13. The following documents dealing with the issue of attendance and participation of States not members of the Conference were submitted to the Conference: CD/2154 and CD/2157.

D. Agenda and programme of work for the 2019 session

14. At its 1475th plenary meeting on 21 January 2019, a draft agenda was presented by the President of the Conference, Mr. Yurii Klymenko, Ambassador of Ukraine and reviewed in accordance with rule 29 of the rules of procedure. The Conference on Disarmament adopted the following agenda (CD/2153) for the 2019 session (CD/PV.1475): "Taking into account, inter alia, the relevant provisions of the Final Document of the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, and deciding to resume its consultations on the review of its agenda, and without prejudice to their outcome, the Conference adopts the following agenda for its 2019 session:

1. Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament.
2. Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters.
3. Prevention of an arms race in outer space.
4. Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.
5. New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons.
6. Comprehensive programme of disarmament.
7. Transparency in armaments.
8. Consideration and adoption of the annual report and any other report, as appropriate, to the General Assembly of the United Nations."

15. Subsequently, the President made the following statement: "In connection with the adoption of the agenda, I, as President of the Conference, should like to state that it is my understanding that if there is a consensus in the Conference to deal with any issues, they could be dealt with within this agenda. The Conference will also take into consideration rules 27 and 30 of the rules of procedure of the Conference."

16. Throughout the 2019 session, successive Presidents of the Conference conducted intensive consultations with a view to reaching consensus on a programme of work on the basis of the relevant proposals. Delegations expressed their views on the issue of a programme of work, taking account of relevant proposals and suggestions, which are duly reflected in the plenary records. However, despite these efforts, the Conference did not succeed in reaching consensus on a programme of work in 2019.

17. The following documents were submitted to the Conference on the discussion on the programme of work:

- (a) CD/2162
- (b) CD/2163;
- (c) CD/2166;

- (d) CD/2172;
- (e) CD/2173;
- (f) CD/2174;
- (g) CD/2175.

E. Expansion of the membership of the Conference

18. The question of the expansion of the membership of the Conference was addressed by delegations in plenary meetings. Their views on the issue are duly reflected in the plenary records.

19. Since 1982, requests for membership have been received from the following 27 non-members, in chronological order: Greece, Croatia, Kuwait, Portugal, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Costa Rica, Denmark, North Macedonia, Cyprus, Lithuania, Ghana, Luxembourg, Uruguay, Philippines, Azerbaijan, Libya, Armenia, Thailand, Georgia, Jordan, Estonia, Latvia, Malta, Serbia, Republic of Moldova and Qatar.

F. Review of the agenda of the Conference

20. The review of the agenda of the Conference was addressed by delegations in plenary meetings. Their views on the issue are duly reflected in the plenary records.

G. Improved and effective functioning of the Conference

21. The improved and effective functioning of the Conference was addressed by delegations in plenary meetings. Their views on the issue are duly reflected in the plenary records.

22. The following documents were submitted to the Conference on the improved and effective functioning of the Conference:

- (a) CD/2165;
- (b) CD/2167.

H. Communications from non-governmental organizations

23. During the general debate, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on the Conference's interaction with civil society. Their views are duly reflected in the plenary records of the Conference.

III. Substantive work of the Conference during its 2019 session

24. During the general debate of the Conference, delegations affirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on the agenda items. These positions are duly recorded in the plenary records of the session.

25. The list of documents issued by the Conference are included as Appendix I to this report. An index of the verbatim records, by country and by subject, listing the statements made by delegations during 2019 and the verbatim records of the formal plenary meetings of the Conference, is attached as Appendix II to this report.

26. The Conference had before it a letter dated 24 January 2019 from the Secretary-General of the United Nations transmitting the resolutions and decisions on disarmament and international security matters adopted by the General Assembly at its seventy-third session in 2018, including those making specific reference to the Conference on Disarmament (CD/2151). The latter are listed below:

- 73/29 Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons (tenth, twelfth, thirteenth, and sixteenth preambular paragraphs; operative paragraphs 2, 4, and 5)
- 73/30 Prevention of an arms race in outer space (sixth, eleventh, seventeenth, eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth preambular paragraphs; operative paragraphs 5, 6, and 8)
- 73/31 No first placement of weapons in outer space (eighth preambular paragraph; operative paragraphs 2 and 3)
- 73/32 Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament (seventh preambular paragraph)
- 73/33 Regional disarmament (operative paragraph 1)
- 73/34 Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels (operative paragraph 2)
- 73/40 Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament (fourteenth preambular paragraph; operative paragraphs 4, 6, and 13)
- 73/50 Nuclear disarmament (sixteenth, eighteenth, nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first preambular paragraphs; operative paragraphs 16, 17, and 20)
- 73/62 United action with renewed determination towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons (operative paragraphs 20 and 23)
- 73/64 Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons (thirteenth and fourteenth preambular paragraphs)
- 73/65 Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices (second, fourth, fifth and tenth preambular paragraphs; operative paragraphs 1, 3, 4, and 5)
- 73/68 Ethical imperatives for a nuclear-weapon-free world (ninth preambular paragraph)
- 73/70 Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments (twenty-second preambular paragraph; operative paragraph 17)
- 73/71 Fourth Conference of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia, 2020 (operative paragraph 8)
- 73/72 Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities (sixth and seventh preambular paragraphs; operative paragraph 3)
- 73/74 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons (ninth preambular paragraph; operative paragraphs 1 and 2)
- 73/77 United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (fourth preambular paragraph)
- 73/79 United Nations Disarmament Information Programme (operative paragraph 5)
- 73/81 Report of the Conference on Disarmament (first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, and tenth preambular paragraphs, operative paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10)

A. Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament

27. During the general debate of the Conference, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on this agenda item. These positions are duly recorded in the plenary records of the session.

28. Thematic discussions on agenda item 1 entitled “Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament” were organized by respective Presidents.

29. The following documents were submitted to the Conference under this agenda item:

- (a) CD/2150;
- (b) CD/2152;
- (c) CD/2156;
- (d) CD/2158;
- (e) CD/2161;
- (f) CD/2167;
- (g) CD/2168;
- (h) CD/2171;
- (i) CD/2178.

B. Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters

30. During the general debate of the Conference, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on this agenda item. These positions are duly recorded in the plenary records of the session.

31. Thematic discussions on agenda item 2 entitled “Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters” were organized by respective Presidents.

32. The following documents were submitted to the Conference under this agenda item:

- (a) CD/2150;
- (b) CD/2152;
- (c) CD/2158;
- (d) CD/2161;
- (e) CD/2167;
- (f) CD/2168;
- (g) CD/2171;
- (h) CD/2178.

C. Prevention of an arms race in outer space

33. During the general debate of the Conference, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on this agenda item. These positions are duly recorded in the plenary records of the session.

34. Thematic discussions on agenda item 3 entitled “Prevention of an arms race in outer space” were organized by respective Presidents.

35. The following documents were submitted to the Conference under this agenda item:

- (a) CD/2160;
- (b) CD/2161;

- (c) CD/2164;
- (d) CD/2169;
- (e) CD/2178.

D. Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons

36. During the general debate of the Conference, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on this agenda item. These positions are duly recorded in the plenary records of the session.

37. Thematic discussions on agenda item 4 entitled “Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons” were organized by respective Presidents.

38. The following document was submitted to the Conference under this agenda item:

- (a) CD/2170;
- (b) CD/2178.

E. New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons

39. During the general debate of the Conference, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on this agenda item. These positions are duly recorded in the plenary records of the session.

40. Thematic discussions on agenda item 5 entitled “New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons” were organized by respective Presidents.

F. Comprehensive programme of disarmament

41. During the general debate of the Conference, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on this agenda item. These positions are duly recorded in the plenary records of the session.

42. Thematic discussions on agenda item 6 entitled “Comprehensive programme of disarmament” were organized by respective Presidents.

G. Transparency in armaments

43. During the general debate of the Conference, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on this agenda item. These positions are duly recorded in the plenary records of the session.

44. Thematic discussions on agenda item 7 entitled “Transparency in armaments” were organized by respective Presidents.

H. Consideration and adoption of the annual report of the Conference and any other report as appropriate to the General Assembly of the United Nations

45. Being aware of the need for progress on multilateral disarmament, and building on the focused efforts in the Conference on Disarmament to establish a programme of work for the 2019 session and with a view to early commencement of substantive work during its 2020 session, the Conference requested the current President and the incoming President to conduct consultations during the intersessional period and, if possible, make

recommendations taking into account all relevant proposals, past, present and future, including those submitted as documents of the Conference on Disarmament, views presented and discussions held, and to endeavour to keep the membership of the Conference informed, as appropriate, of their consultations.

46. The Conference decided that the dates for its 2020 session would be:

First part: 20 January – 27 March

Second part: 25 May – 10 July

Third part: 3 August – 18 September.

47. The annual report to the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, as adopted by the Conference on 3 September 2019, is transmitted by the President on behalf of the Conference on Disarmament.

Mr. Taonga Mushayavanhu, Ambassador
Zimbabwe
President of the Conference