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2021 session

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Report of the Conference on Disarmament

2021 session



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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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I. Introduction

1. The Conference on Disarmament submits to the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations its annual report on its 2021 session, together with the pertinent documents and records.

II. Organization of the work of the Conference

A. 2021 session of the Conference

2. The Conference was in session from 18 January to 26 March, 10 May to 25 June and 26 July to 10 September 2021. During this period, the Conference held 50 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 13 informal plenary meetings.

4. The Presidency was assumed in accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure, as specified in Appendix I to this report. The Conference noted that without creating a precedent for its future sessions, the Presidents of 2021 invited the last President of the 2020 session and the first President of the 2022 session to attend their regular informal meetings, for the sake of the continuity of the Conference's work.

5. The Conference's work in 2021 continued to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Conference continued to make use of remote simultaneous interpretation (RSI) platforms in order to convene plenary meetings in hybrid and virtual formats in the six working languages of the Conference, in line with the Conference's rules of procedure. The Conference noted that the use of hybrid and virtual formats did not create a precedent for future Conference meetings, yet it proved to be a tool, which allowed the Conference to continue its work in the pandemic situation.

6. At the first plenary meeting of the 2021 session on 19 January 2021, Ms. Tatiana Valovaya, Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, addressed the Conference (CD/PV.1548). The Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations also addressed the Conference on 5 August (CD/PV.1586).

7. In a letter dated 19 January 2021, the first President of the Conference and of the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ms. Tatiana Valovaya jointly invited member States and non-member States participating in the work of the Conference to address the Conference at the ministerial level during the 2021 session. The following dignitaries addressed the Conference: Ms. Ann Linde, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden (CD/PV.1559); Mr. Heiko Maas, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany (CD/PV.1559); Mr. Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Foreign Secretary of India (CD/PV.1559); Mr. Simon Coveney, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland (CD/PV.1559); Mr. Mukhtar Tileuberdi, Deputy Prime Minister – Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan (CD/PV.1559); Mr. Sameh Shoukry, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt (CD/PV.1559); Mr. Stef Blok, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (CD/PV.1559); Mr. Tharaka Balasuriya, State Minister

of Regional Co-Operation of Sri Lanka (CD/PV.1559); Ms. Raychelle Omamo, SC, EGH, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kenya (CD/PV.1559); Mr. Washio Eiichiro, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan (CD/PV.1559); Ms. Sophie Wilmès, Vice-Première Ministre et Ministre des Affaires étrangères, des Affaires européennes et du Commerce extérieur Belgium (CD/PV.1559); Ms. Ekaterina Zaharieva, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria (CD/PV.1559); Mr. Jarmo Viinanen, Ambassador for Arms Control, Political Department at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (CD/PV.1559); Ms. Eva-Maria Liimets, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Estonia (CD/PV.1559); Mr. Antony J. Blinken, Secretary of State of the United States of America (CD/PV.1560); Mr. Marc Garneau, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada (CD/PV.1560); Mr. Alexander Schallenberg, Federal Minister for European and International Affairs of Austria (CD/PV.1560); Mr. Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba (CD/PV.1560); Mr. Fuad Hussein, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iraq (CD/PV.1560); Ing. Canciller Mr. Felipe Carlos Solá, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto de la Republica Argentina (CD/PV.1560); Mr. Andrés Allamand, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile (CD/PV.1560); Mr. Luis Gallegos, Ambassador, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador (CD/PV.1560); Ms. Arancha González Laya, Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of the Kingdom of Spain (CD/PV.1560); Dato' Kamarudin Jaffar, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia (CD/PV.1560); Sra. Daniela Rodríguez Martínez, Viceministra para Temas Multilaterales del Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela (CD/PV.1560); Mr. Juan Manuel Pino, Minister of Public Security of the Republic of Panama (CD/PV.1560); Mr. Stanislav Raščan, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia (CD/PV.1560); Mr. Ivan Korčok, the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic (CD/PV.1561); Mr. Dmytro Kuleba, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine (CD/PV.1561); Mr. Zbigniew Rau, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland (CD/PV.1561); Mr. Dan Neculăescu, State Secretary for Strategic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania (CD/PV.1561); Mr. Choi, Jong Kun, the 1st Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea (CD/PV.1561); Mr. Nikolaos Dendias, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece (CD/PV.1561); Mr. Evarist Bartolo, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Malta (CD/PV.1561); Mr. Gheorghe Leucă, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova (CD/PV.1561); Mr. Edgars Rinkēvičs, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Latvia (CD/PV.1561); Mr. Ahmed bin Hassan Al Hammadi, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qatar (CD/PV.1561); Mr. Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (CD/PV. 1562); Mr. Vladimir Makei, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus (CD/PV. 1562); Mr. Audun Halvorsen, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway (CD/PV. 1562); Mr. Esmacil Baghaei Hamaneh, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran (CD/PV. 1562); Archbishop Paul R. Gallagher, Secretary for Relations with States of the Holy See (CD/PV. 1562); Mr. Ayman Safadi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of Jordan (CD/PV. 1562); Mr. Augusto Santos Silva, Minister of State and Foreign Affairs of Portugal (CD/PV. 1562); Mr. Fayssal Mekdad, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Syrian Arab Republic; (CD/PV.1563); Mr. Sohail Mahmood, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan (CD/PV.1563); Mr. Mbella Lejeune, Ministre des Relations Exteriures de la Republique du Cameroun (CD/PV.1563); Mr. Omar Zniber, Permanent Representative of Morocco (CD/PV.1563); Ms. Grata Endah Werdaningtyas, Chargé d'Affaires, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia (CD/PV.1563); Mr. Sadık Arslan, Permanent Representative of Turkey (CD/PV.1563); Mr. Fabio Marzano, Secretary for Sovereignty and Citizenship of Brazil (CD/PV.1563); Mr. Vaqif Sadiqov, Permanent Representative of the Republic

of Azerbaijan ([CD/PV.1563](#)); Mr. Andranik Hovhannisyan, Permanent Representative of Armenia ([CD/PV.1563](#)); Mr. James Cleverly, MP, Minister of State, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) of the United Kingdom ([CD/PV.1567](#)); Mr. Wang Yi, State Councilor and Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China ([CD/PV.1581](#)).

8. In a letter dated 22 May 2021, Mr. Lassina Zerbo, the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization was invited to address the Conference on Disarmament ([CD/PV.1575](#)).

9. In their addresses, these dignitaries variously voiced support for the Conference and the principles of multilateralism, as well as the critical importance of multilateral diplomacy and multilateral institutions in the context of the United Nations, 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: Ms. Tatiana Valovaya, Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations; Ms. Radha Day, Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference, Secretary of the Conference and Chief of Service a.i. of the Geneva Branch, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs; 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 39 requests for participation in its work. The Conference did not reach an agreement on five of these requests. Discussion on the subject is reflected in the [CD/PV.1548](#), [CD/PV.1552](#), [CD/PV.1558](#) and [CD/PV.1564](#), the relevant parts of which are contained in Appendix II.

13. The Conference invited the following non-member States to participate in its work: Albania, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Jordan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta,

Montenegro, North Macedonia, Panama, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, Sudan and Thailand.

D. Agenda and programme of work for the 2021 session

14. At its 1548th plenary meeting on 19 January 2021, a draft agenda was presented by the President of the Conference and reviewed in accordance with rule 29 of the rules of procedure. The Conference on Disarmament adopted the following agenda (CD/2209) for the 2021 session (CD/PV.1548):

“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 2021 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 the 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. Pursuant to paragraph 44 of the 2020 report of the Conference (CD/2207), the last President of the 2020 session and the first President of the 2021 session, conducted informal consultations during the intersessional period with a view to commencing early substantive work during the 2021 session of the Conference.

17. Throughout the 2021 session, the first three 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 2021.

18. The following documents were submitted to the Conference:

- (a) CD/2212;
- (b) CD/2219;
- (c) CD/2220.

E. Expansion of the membership of the Conference

19. 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.

20. Since 1982, requests for membership have been received from the following 28 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, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

F. Review of the agenda of the Conference

21. 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

22. 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.

23. The fifth President presented a draft decision for a technical/linguistic update of the Conference's rules of procedure to reflect the fact that both women and men can equally participate in the work of the Conference. The Conference considered the possibility of that update. Delegations expressed their views on the issue, which are duly reflected in the plenary records ([CD/PV.1586](#)). However, the Conference did not succeed in reaching agreement.

24. A plenary meeting was convened by the respective President of the Conference on 10 August. Discussions are duly reflected in the plenary records ([CD/PV.1587](#)).

25. The following document was submitted to the Conference:

- (a) [CD/2221](#).

H. The Conference and non-governmental organizations

26. 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 2021 session

27. 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.

28. The list of documents issued by the Conference are included as Appendix III to this report. Verbatim records of the formal plenary meetings of the Conference and related information as to country and subject is digitally available online.

29. The Conference had before it a letter dated 2 February 2021 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-fifth session in 2020, including those making specific reference to the Conference on Disarmament (CD/2210). The latter are listed below:

- 75/31 Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons (Fifth preambular paragraph, operative paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6)
- 75/34 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)
- 75/35 Prevention of an arms race in outer space (Sixth, eleventh, seventeenth, eighteenth, nineteenth and twenty-first preambular paragraphs; operative paragraphs 5, 6, and 8)
- 75/36 Reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours (Ninth preambular paragraph, operative paragraph 4)
- 75/37 No first placement of weapons in outer space (Ninth preambular paragraph; operative paragraphs 2 and 3)
- 75/38 Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament (Seventh preambular paragraph)
- 75/45 Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament (Fifteenth preambular paragraph; operative paragraphs 4, 6, and 13)
- 75/49 Regional disarmament (Operative paragraph 1)
- 75/50 Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels (Operative paragraph 2)
- 75/63 Nuclear disarmament (Sixteenth, eighteenth, nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first preambular paragraphs; operative paragraphs 16, 17, and 20)
- 75/65 Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments (Twenty-third preambular paragraph; operative paragraph 17)
- 75/66 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)
- 75/69 Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities (Sixth and seventh preambular paragraphs; operative paragraph 3)
- 75/71 Joint Courses of Action and Future-oriented Dialogue towards a world without nuclear weapons (Eighth preambular paragraph, operative paragraph 3(c), 3(e), and 4(a))

- 75/73 Ethical imperatives for a nuclear-weapon-free world (Ninth preambular paragraph)
- 75/75 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons (Ninth preambular paragraph; operative paragraphs 1 and 2)
- 75/78 United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (Third preambular paragraph)
- 75/80 United Nations Disarmament Information Programme (Operative paragraph 5)
- 75/83 Report of the Conference on Disarmament (First, third, fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth preambular paragraphs)

30. The following document was submitted to the Conference:

- (a) [CD/2213](#).

A. Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament

31. 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.

32. Thematic discussions on agenda item 1 entitled “Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament” were organized by the respective President on 11 and 12 May.

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

- (a) [CD/2208](#);
- (b) [CD/2214](#).

B. Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters

34. 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.

35. Thematic discussions on agenda item 2 entitled “Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters” were organized by the respective President on 18 and 20 May.

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

- (a) [CD/2208](#);
- (b) [CD/2214](#).

C. Prevention of an arms race in outer space

37. 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.

38. Thematic discussions on agenda item 3 entitled “Prevention of an arms race in outer space” were organized by the respective President on 1 and 3 June.

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

- (a) [CD/2215](#).

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

40. 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.

41. 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 the respective President on 8 June.

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

- (a) [CD/2216](#).

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

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 5 entitled “New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons” were organized by the respective President on 15 June.

F. Comprehensive programme of disarmament

45. 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.

46. Thematic discussions on agenda item 6 “Comprehensive programme of disarmament” were organized by the respective President on 22 June.

G. Transparency in armaments

47. 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.

48. Thematic discussions on agenda item 7 “Transparency in armaments” were organized by the respective President on 27 July.

H. Consideration of other areas dealing with the cessation of the arms race and disarmament and other relevant measures

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

50. A formal plenary featuring a presentation on the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC) was convened by the respective President of the Conference on 9 March.

51. A formal plenary on youth and disarmament was convened by the respective President of the Conference on 12 August.

52. A formal plenary on women's participation and role in international security was convened by the respective President of the Conference on 26 August.

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

- (a) [CD/2222](#).

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

54. Being aware of the need for progress in fulfilling the mandate of the Conference, and building on the focused efforts in the Conference on Disarmament to establish a programme of work for the 2021 session and with a view to early commencement of substantive work during its 2022 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.

55. The Conference decided that the dates for its 2022 session would be:

First part:	24 January – 1 April
Second part:	16 May – 1 July
Third part:	1 August – 16 September

56. In case of scheduling difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the disarmament calendar, the Conference on Disarmament schedule for its 2022 session would be as follows:

First part:	24 January and 8 February – 15 April
Second part:	16 May – 1 July
Third part:	1 August – 16 September

57. The annual report to the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, as adopted by the Conference on ** September 2021, is transmitted by the President on behalf of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed) Ambassador Frank **TRESSLER ZAMORANO**
Chile
President of the Conference

Appendix I

Names of the Presidents of the CD 2021 session

Mr. Marc Pecsteen de Buytsverve, Ambassador of Belgium

Mr. Gonçalo de Barros Carvalho e Mello Mourão, Ambassador of Brazil

Mr. Yuri Borissov Sterk, Ambassador of Bulgaria

Mr. Salomon Eheth, Ambassador of Cameroon

Ms. Leslie E. Norton, Ambassador of Canada

Mr. Frank Tressler Zamorano, Ambassador of Chile

Appendix II

Extracted from [CD/PV.1548](#)

The President: I now move to the request from Cyprus. May I take it that the Conference decides to accept this request? I have a request for the floor from representative of the Turkey.

Mr. Işilak (Turkey): Mr. President, I would like to declare that Turkey will not support this particular request. Our reasoning is duly reflected in documents [CD/PV.1524](#) and [CD/PV.1525](#). The position of Turkey on this matter is clear, principled and duly reflected in the documents [CD/1438](#) and [CD/1738](#).

The President: I thank the representative of Turkey. I would like to ask him for clarification, because while he said that he did not support this request, he did not say that he opposed or objected to it. Could you clarify your position, please?

Mr. Işilak (Turkey): We have an objection to the request, sir.

The President: In view of the objection made, the request is rejected.

* * *

The President: I now turn to the request from Saudi Arabia. May I take it that the Conference decides to accept this request? The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran has asked for the floor.

Mr. Baghaei Hamaneh (Islamic Republic of Iran): My delegation would like to begin by congratulating all the Member States whose requests to participate in the session as observers have already been endorsed.

The Islamic Republic of Iran attaches great importance to the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral negotiating body devoted to disarmament. Upholding the integrity and efficiency of this body, as well as its inclusiveness, should be a top priority for all its members. At the same time, we have to ensure that it is able to concentrate on the advancement of its important mandate.

Observer status in the Conference is a very important position, and countries that apply for this status need to show their commitment to the Conference's mandate and terms of reference and play a constructive and positive role to that effect. Being an observer implies respect for the rules and a responsibility towards this body's core mandate. A responsible observer does not abuse the trust and the privilege bestowed upon it by using its status to wage a distraction and disinformation campaign against a member State of the Conference.

Unfortunately, past experience shows that Saudi Arabia would be unable to observe the rules and respect the mandate of the Conference. Not only is it the sponsor of a coalition that has waged war against its poorest neighbouring country for the past six years, it has the third highest military expenditure globally and by far the highest military expenditure in the region. Saudi Arabia is advised to reconsider its destabilizing policies and activities in the region and to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency to monitor its questionable nuclear programme.

Mr. President, we cannot afford to let this body be further distracted and poisoned by a disinformation and blame-shifting campaign, in which certain States use the Conference as a platform from which to blame others for their own mistakes and crimes. The Conference needs to focus on its critically important mandates, free from abusive distraction. With all good faith, therefore, we do not support the granting of observer status to Saudi Arabia.

The President: In view of the objection just made by the Islamic Republic of Iran, there is no consensus to allow the participation of Saudi Arabia as an observer in the 2021 session of the Conference. Consequently, the request is rejected.

* * *

The President: I now turn to the request from the United Arab Emirates. May I take it that the Conference decides to accept this request? The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran has asked for the floor.

Mr. Baghaei Hamaneh (Islamic Republic of Iran): My delegation is not in a position to support the request of the United Arab Emirates to participate as an observer in this session of the Conference on Disarmament. The destabilizing policies and actions of the United Arab Emirates – as a main driver of the so-called coalition that is destabilizing the region – and its complicity in wrongful acts and dangerous policies of Saudi Arabia, including the war in Yemen, is well known.

I should remind everyone that this is the first and hopefully the last time that Iran has raised such an objection. In fact, Iran is obliged, out of good faith and genuine concern for the professional and decent conduct of the Conference's work, to object to the requests for observer status by these States.

Despite the fact that the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia have for two decades blocked its membership of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency and of other forums, Iran is raising this objection now solely to protect the Conference, as a multilateral platform, against useless politicization and malicious distraction during its deliberations in 2021.

The President: In the light of the objection that has been made, there is no consensus to accept the request from the United Arab Emirates. The request is therefore rejected.

Extracted from [CD/PV.1552](#)

The President: We will now decide on the request from Yemen. May I take it that the Conference on Disarmament decides, in accordance with its rules of procedure, to accept this request to participate in its work?

It was so decided.

The President: I welcome these non-member States to the session of the Conference on Disarmament.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has asked for the floor.

Mr. Azadi (Islamic Republic of Iran): Thank you, Mr. President. I wonder whether you were able to hear my previous interventions. I requested that the list of the new requests be considered one by one, as has been the practice in the past.

The President: Yes, we heard that statement, and that is what we did. We first took Singapore – there were no objections – and then we took Yemen, and again there were no objections.

It seems that you were not able to follow that. Can you confirm?

Mr. Azadi (Islamic Republic of Iran): Thank you once again, Mr. President. Regarding the latter request, by Yemen, I would like to say that the Islamic Republic of Iran attaches great importance to the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral negotiating body devoted to disarmament, upholding the integrity and

efficiency of this body. The inclusiveness of the Conference should be the top priority for all of its States members.

Yesterday, 25 January, was the International Day of Action on Yemen. The party that, in the name of Yemen, has requested the right to participate as an observer in the work of the Conference does not represent the great people or the State of Yemen. It can claim only to be representing the Saudi-led war coalition established to wage war on the Yemeni people and to inflict endless pain and suffering on the innocent population. Unfortunately, its members are complicit in the crimes committed by the infamous coalition against their fellow Yemeni citizens. A group of people who have effectively been held in captivity for six long years in the aggressor State's capital cannot speak for the Yemeni people. My delegation is not in a position to endorse this request.

The President: Well, I have a problem now, because we have already adopted the decision. I gavelled the request from Yemen. I asked whether there were any objections, and I paused quite a long time, because I was indeed expecting some reaction from the Islamic Republic of Iran, but there was not one.

I understand you are having technical problems and probably did not hear my question, so this is a bit of a difficult situation, but I think everyone understands that there are technical difficulties. I would thus ask for everybody's understanding and suggest that we go back to this request from Yemen. I will ask again whether the Conference on Disarmament decides to accept these requests to participate in our work in accordance with the rules of procedure.

Are there any objections?

The Islamic Republic of Iran has the floor.

Mr. Azadi (Islamic Republic of Iran): I should go through again through my previous intervention. My delegation is not in a position to endorse this request. I thank you, Mr. President.

The President: Thank you. In view of the objection raised, there is no consensus on this request, and the request is therefore rejected.

Extracted from [CD/PV.1558](#)

The President: We will now decide on the request from Bahrain. May I take it that the Conference on Disarmament decides, in accordance with its rules of procedure, to accept the request by Bahrain to participate in our work? I recognize the delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Ali Abadi (Islamic Republic of Iran): Thank you, Mr. President. My delegation is not in a position to approve of this request for observer participation in the 2021 session of the Conference on Disarmament for the same reasons my delegation voiced with regard to requests by two other non-members – namely, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. We urge Bahrain to cease its destabilizing policies and actions in the region, in particular by ending its complicity in the war crimes in Yemen and positively contributing to regional peace and security. I thank you, Mr. President.

The President: I thank the delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Appendix III

List and texts of documents issued by the Conference on Disarmament

<i>Document No</i>	<i>Title</i>
CD/2208	Note verbale dated 29 September 2020 from the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament concerning the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean and transmitting the text of a declaration made on the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons by the States members of the Agency
CD/2209	Agenda for the 2021 session. Adopted at the 1548th plenary meeting on 19 January 2021
CD/2210	Letter dated 4 January 2021 from the Secretary-General of the United Nations addressed to the President of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the resolutions and decisions on disarmament and international security matters adopted by the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session
CD/2211	Note verbale dated 19 January 2021 from the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China addressed to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and requesting the Secretariat to issue the full remarks by Ambassador Li Song at the 1549th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament
CD/2212	Note verbale dated 10 February 2021 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus, transmitting the Joint Statement by the States-Members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization in support of the Conference on Disarmament
CD/2213	Note Verbale dated 6 August 2021 from the Permanent Mission of Malaysia addressed to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and transferring the General Statement of the Group of 21
CD/2214	Note Verbale dated 6 August 2021 from the Permanent Mission of Malaysia addressed to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and transferring the Statement of the Group of 21 on Nuclear Disarmament
CD/2215	Note Verbale dated 6 August 2021 from the Permanent Mission of Malaysia addressed to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and transferring the Statement of the Group of 21 on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space
CD/2216	Note Verbale dated 6 August 2021 from the Permanent Mission of Malaysia addressed to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and transferring the Statement of the Group of 21 on Negative Security Assurances

<i>Document No</i>	<i>Title</i>
CD/2217	Note Verbale dated 6 August 2021 from the Permanent Mission of Malaysia addressed to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and transferring the Statement of the Group of 21 on the Follow-Up to the 2013 High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament
CD/2218	Note verbale dated 17 August 2021, amended on 7 September 2021, from the Permanent Mission of Canada, transmitting the draft decision on updating the Rules of Procedure, circulated as CD/WP.635 , and the English version of the Rules of Procedure updated by the Canadian delegation to the CD on its own initiative as per the draft decision
CD/2219	Note verbale dated 3 September 2021 from the Permanent Mission of Belgium addressed to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and transferring documents CD/WP.633/Rev.1 and CD/WP.634/Rev.1 , circulated on 11/02/2021 Note verbale datée du 3 septembre 2021, adressée au secrétariat de la Conférence du désarmement par la Représentation permanente de la Belgique, transmettant les documents CD/WP.633/Rev.1 et CD/WP.634/Rev.1 , circules le 11/02/2021
CD/2220	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
CD/2221	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 CD/WP.635 during the Canadian Presidency
CD/2222	Note verbale dated 27 August 2021 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea, addressed to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament, transmitting the statement during its plenary session on 12 August 2021 and ‘Seoul Youth Declaration on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation’
CD/2223	Report of the Conference on Disarmament to the General Assembly of the United Nations

