

Conference on Disarmament

5 July 2019

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Note verbale dated 21 June 2019 from the Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in its capacity as President of the Conference on Disarmament, addressed to the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and requesting registration and distribution of the document entitled “Draft Programme of work for the 2019 session” under the symbol (CD/WP.620/Rev.2) as an official document of the 2019 session of the Conference on Disarmament

The Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, presents its compliments to the honourable Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament (CD), and has the honour to refer to the 2019 session of the Conference on Disarmament.

In this regard, the Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, acting in its capacity as President of the Conference on Disarmament, requests that the document entitled "Draft Programme of work for the 2019 session", under the symbol (CD/WP.620/Rev2), should be registered and distributed as an official document of the 2019 session of the Conference on Disarmament.

The Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the honourable Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament (CD), the assurances of its highest consideration.



Draft Programme of Work for the 2019 session

Submitted by the President

1. *Convinced* that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, has the primary role in substantive negotiations on priority questions of disarmament, by the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-I);
2. *Recognizing* also the need to conduct multilateral negotiations with the aim of reaching agreement on concrete issues;
3. *Recalling*, in this respect, that the Conference on Disarmament has a number of urgent and important issues for negotiation to achieve disarmament goals;
4. *In pursuance of its agenda*, and given the mandate conferred to the Conference on Disarmament by the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, and the necessity to conserve the nature of this forum;
5. *Recalling paragraph 28 of its rules of procedure* which calls on the Conference to establish its programme of work on the basis of its agenda, and Noting that it provides its Member States with a platform to engage in negotiations, on the basis of the rule of consensus
6. *Taking into account* the several proposals tabled for the programme of work of the Conference, and the interest in seeing the Conference return to substantive work;
7. *Noting* the work of the Subsidiary Bodies established by decisions CD/2119 of 19 February 2018, and CD/2126 of 27 March 2018, and the Report of the Conference on Disarmament to the General Assembly of the United Nations contained in document CD/2149 of 14 September 2018;
8. Aiming at promoting multilateralism and enhancing the inclusiveness, effectiveness and authority of the Conference as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum;
9. *The Conference decides:*
 - (a) Under agenda item 1, entitled “Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament”, to negotiate with a view to reaching agreement on elements of legally binding instruments and additional measures, in accordance with the mandate of the CD;
 - (b) Under agenda Item 2, entitled “Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters”, to negotiate with a view to reaching agreement on elements of legally binding instruments, including a ban on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other explosive devices, on the basis of document CD/1299 and the mandate contained therein; dealing with all questions relevant for this purpose, in accordance with the mandate of the CD;
 - (c) Under agenda item 3, entitled “Prevention of an arms race in outer space”, to negotiate with a view to reaching agreement on elements of

legally binding instruments and additional measures, in accordance with the mandate of the CD;

(d) Under agenda item 4, entitled “Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons” (NSA’s)”, to negotiate with a view to reaching agreement on elements of legally binding instruments and additional measures, in accordance with the mandate of the CD;

(e) Under agenda item 6, entitled “Comprehensive programme of disarmament”, to develop proposals for negotiations with a view to reaching agreement on, inter alia, elements of an international convention for the suppression of acts of chemical and biological terrorism, as well as under agenda item 5, entitled “New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons”, and under agenda item 7, entitled “Transparency in armaments”, in accordance to the mandate of the CD, to seek the views of the members of the Conference on the most appropriate way to deal with the questions related to these items.

10. In accordance with rule 35 of the Rules of Procedure, Working Groups could be established and convened by the President of the Conference. The Working Groups shall remain open to all Member States of the Conference on Disarmament and to those Non Member States that the Conference has invited to participate in its work during the 2019 session.

11. Pursuant to their mandates, the Working Groups may deepen technical discussions and broaden areas of agreement, including through the participation, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, of relevant experts; and reach understandings on areas of commonalities on the issues set out in paragraph 9, taking into consideration all relevant views and proposals past, present and future.

12. The Working Groups shall conduct their work and adopt their reports in accordance with paragraph 18 of the Rules of Procedure, with even allocation of time.

13. The Working Groups shall present reports to the Conference on Disarmament, through the President of the Conference, on the progress of their work before the conclusion of the current session.

14. The Working Groups shall continue to use the Rules of Procedures of the Conference *mutatis mutandis*.