

Conference on Disarmament

12 September 2019

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Note verbale dated 28 August 2019 from the Permanent Mission of Viet Nam addressed to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and requesting issuance of the document with the symbol CD/WP.621 as an official document of the 2019 session of the Conference on Disarmament

The Permanent Mission of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the United Nations Office, the World Trade Organization and other International Organizations at Geneva presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and has the honour to submit herewith the President's Statement and two documents (CD/WP.621 and CD/WP.622), delivered and circulated by Permanent Mission of Viet Nam in its capacity as the President of the Conference on Disarmament, and kindly requests that the documents be issued as official Working papers of the Conference on Disarmament for the year 2019.

The Permanent Mission of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the United Nations Office, the World Trade Organization and other International Organizations at Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament the assurance of its highest consideration.



Draft decision on the programme of work

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. *Having in mind* the forty-year anniversary of the establishment of the Conference on Disarmament and its contributions to the disarmament arena;
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. *Recalling*, in this respect, that the Conference on Disarmament has a number of urgent and important issues considered by delegations as ready for negotiation in order to achieve disarmament goals;
7. *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;
8. *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;
9. *Aiming at* promoting multilateralism and enhancing the inclusiveness, effectiveness and authority of the Conference as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum;
10. The Conference decides:

To establish, in accordance with paragraph 23 of its Rules of Procedure, Working Groups on the agenda items of the Conference, as follows:

- (a) Working Group 1: Cessations of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament (agenda item 1), building on the possible ways forward identified in document CD/2138, with a particular focus on elements of legally binding instruments and additional measures, and options for negotiations;
- (b) Working Group 2: Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters (agenda item 2), building on the possible ways forward identified in document CD/2139, with a particular focus on elements of legally binding instruments and additional measures, and options for negotiations;
- (c) Working Group 3: Prevention of an arms race in outer space (agenda item 3), building on the possible ways forward identified in document CD/2140, with a particular focus on elements of legally binding instruments and additional measures on PAROS, and options for negotiations;
- (d) Working Group 4: Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons (agenda item 4), building on the discussions in Subsidiary Body 4 in 2018, with a particular focus on elements of legally binding instruments and additional measures on such arrangements, and options for negotiations;

(e) Working Group 5: New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons, radiological weapons; comprehensive programme of disarmament; and transparency in armaments (agenda items 5, 6, 7), building on the possible ways forward identified in document CD/2141, in consultation with members of the Conference, including through the participation, in accordance with the rules of procedure, of relevant experts.

11. The Conference shall establish a Working Group to discuss other issues, including its working methods and possible options to expand its membership.

12. The Working Groups will be convened and chaired 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. Each Working Group will decide on its first meeting the modalities and working procedures, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, and the appointment of the coordinator to facilitate discussions in the person of the sitting coordinator for each regional group.

13. Without prejudice to any further decisions of the Conference, to recommend that the Presidents for the year 2020 consider presenting for adoption by consensus the Programme of Work on the basis of the elements reflected herein.
