

Initiative of the Ambassadors Dembri, Lint, Reyes, Salander and Vega

Proposal of a Programme of Work
revised at the 932nd plenary meeting on Thursday, 26 June 2003

Taking into account the several proposals tabled since 1999, the Conference on Disarmament decides to establish, for the duration of the current session, the following programme of work, in respect of the elements of the agenda of the Conference:

1. The Conference establishes for the duration of the current session, an Ad Hoc Committee under agenda item 4 entitled "Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons", to negotiate with a view to reaching agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. These arrangements could take the form of an internationally binding instrument.

The Ad Hoc Committee shall present a report to the Conference on Disarmament on the progress of its work before the conclusion of the current session.

The mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee shall be reviewed as appropriate, taking into consideration all relevant views and proposals and the prospects for future work.

2. The Conference establishes, for the duration of the current session, an Ad Hoc Committee, under agenda item 1 entitled "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament" to deal with nuclear disarmament. The Ad Hoc Committee shall exchange information and views on practical steps for progressive and systematic efforts to attain this objective, and in doing so shall examine approaches towards potential future work of a multilateral character.

In discharging its functions, the Ad Hoc Committee will take into account current efforts and existing proposals and views, as well as proposals that may emerge from the study and discussion.

The Ad Hoc Committee shall present a report to the Conference on Disarmament on the progress of its work before the conclusion of the current session.

The mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee shall be reviewed as appropriate, taking into consideration all relevant views and proposals and the prospects for future work.

3. The Conference establishes, for the duration of the current session, an Ad Hoc Committee, under agenda item 1 entitled "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament" which shall negotiate, on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator (CD/1299) and the mandate contained therein, a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

The Ad Hoc Committee shall present a report to the Conference on Disarmament on the progress of its work before the conclusion of the current session.

4. The Conference establishes, for the duration of the current session, an Ad Hoc Committee under agenda item 3 entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space" to deal with the prevention of an arms race in outer space. The Ad Hoc Committee shall identify and examine, without limitation, any specific topics or proposals, which could include confidence-building or transparency measures, general principles, treaty commitments and the elaboration of a regime capable of preventing an arms race in outer space, including the possibility of negotiating relevant international legal instrument. In doing so, the Ad Hoc Committee shall take appropriate account of the need to contribute actively to the objective of the peaceful use of outer space and the prevention of an arms race there, while also promoting international stability and respecting the principle of undiminished security for all.

The Ad Hoc Committee shall present a report to the Conference on Disarmament on the progress of its work before the conclusion of the current session.

The mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee shall be reviewed as appropriate, taking into consideration all relevant views and proposals and the prospects for future work.

5. The Conference appoints a Special Coordinator under agenda item 5 entitled "New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons" to seek the views of its Members on the most appropriate way to deal with this issue.

In implementing this decision, the Special Coordinator shall take into consideration all relevant views and proposals, present and future.

The Conference requests the Special Coordinator to present a report before the end of the current session.

6. The Conference appoints a Special Coordinator under agenda item 6 entitled "Comprehensive programme of Disarmament" to seek the views of its Members on the most appropriate way to deal with this issue.

In implementing this decision, the Special Coordinator shall take into consideration all relevant views and proposals, present and future.

The Conference requests the Special Coordinator to present a report before the end of the current session.

7. The Conference appoints a Special Coordinator under agenda item 7 entitled "Transparency in armaments" to seek the views of its members on the most appropriate way to deal with the questions related to this item.

In implementing this decision, the Special Coordinator shall take into consideration all relevant views and proposals, present and future.

The Conference requests the Special Coordinator to present a report before the end of the current session.

Presidential Declaration

The Conference on Disarmament, the sole multilateral forum of negotiations as stated in article 1 of the Rules of procedures, considered many proposals aimed at achieving a consensus on a programme of work.

These proposals reflect the importance all delegations attach to the Conference in fulfilling its mandate and in addressing the aspirations of the international community.

Taking into account these several proposals, the Conference on Disarmament decides to establish, for the duration of the current session, a programme of work, in respect of the elements of the agenda of the Conference.

This will require that all member States work together, according to the rules of procedure, to build on converging points which could lead, in time, to international instruments acceptable for all.
