

**Statement by Ambassador (Dr.) Pankaj Sharma,
Permanent Representative of India to the Conference on Disarmament
during the Plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament on
February 12, 2019 on the revised draft Programme of Work presented
by the Ukrainian Presidency**

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new members in the Conference on Disarmament, namely the distinguished Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives of China, Colombia, Ecuador, Indonesia and Turkey, as well as Ms. Radha Day, our colleague from the Secretariat of the CD.

The delegation of India would like to thank you for sharing the Revised Draft of the Programme of Work for the 2019 Session as contained in CD/WP.618/Rev.1. We appreciate your efforts in preparing the revised Programme based on the views expressed by delegations in the CD.

We are studying the revised draft. CD/1299 and the mandate contained therein, is the agreed mandate for the commencement of FMCT negotiations in the CD. India fully supports the commencement of the FMCT negotiations in the CD on the basis of CD/1299 and reiterates its support towards this objective.

By way of preliminary comments, we would have preferred a stronger language in the text with negotiating mandates for concluding legally binding instruments, as also stated by my delegation during the CD Plenary held on January 31, 2019. However, in the spirit of our collective goals and shared objectives, my delegation would go along and encourage the Presidency to intensify consultations with a view to reaching consensus on a Programme of Work, so that the CD can start substantive work.

My delegation stands ready to work with you and other delegations towards the adoption of the revised Programme of Work proposed by you.

Thank you, Mr. President.
