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in Geneva

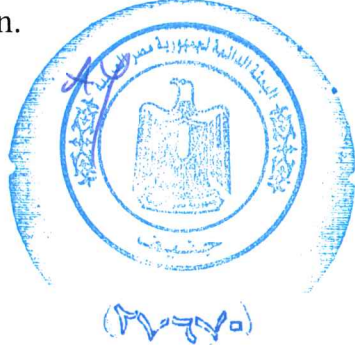


البعثة الدائمة لجمهورية مصر العربية
لدى مكتب الأمم المتحدة ومنظمة التجارة
العالمية والمنظمات الدولية الأخرى
جنيف

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The Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations Office, the World Trade Organization and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) and has the honour to attach herewith a copy of the statement of Egypt on the Draft Programme of Work delivered during the Plenary session of the Conference on 31 January 2019, for consideration in the elaboration of the draft Programme of Work of the Conference.

The Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations Office, the World Trade Organization and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament, the assurances of its highest consideration.



Geneva, 5 February 2019

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Statement of H.E. Amb. Alaa YOUSSEF
before the plenary of the
Conference on Disarmament
Thursday 31 January 2018
14:30 - 18:00

Thank you, Mr. President.

I would like to start by congratulating you on assuming the presidency of the Conference and to assure you of my delegation's full support in fulfilling your mandate. I would like as well to express my sincere appreciation for all the strenuous efforts you have been conducting to resume the substantive work of the Conference on Disarmament (CD). The early engagement is indicative of your commitment to the work of the Conference. In this connection, I would like to offer my delegation's preliminary views on the draft POW, which you have provided us, and I will be delivering our general statement in the next plenary session.

Mr. President.

Egypt considers that the utmost priority for the CD at the beginning of its annual session is to adopt a balanced and comprehensive programme of work. The responsibilities in this regard, as entrusted to the President of the Conference under the rules of procedure, in particular rule 29, are beyond any doubt.

The CD has a number of issues of paramount significance on its agenda for negotiations with the aim of concluding legally-binding instruments. While we appreciate the view that the 7 items on the CD agenda should be pursued equally and possibly simultaneously, we would like to underscore that the four core agenda items are of the utmost priority of the Conference. In this context, it is highly relevant to refer to the conclusions of the final report on the work of the informal working group established in 2015 as contained in CD/2033. The focus of the Conference, in accordance with these conclusions, should remain on the core agenda items and the primary objective should remain the negotiation of legally-binding instruments. The CD should not lose focus of its primary objective.

Mr. President.

While we value the proposal you have submitted, we have the following observations:

- 1) We take note of the reference to negotiate, with a view to reaching an agreement on several agenda items. The CD is not a deliberative body but rather a negotiating one, and we would highly prefer if this language is strengthened across all agenda items to reflect the fact that negotiating legally-binding instruments is the primary objective of the Conference.
- 2) The order and focus of the agenda items as presented in the draft programme of work is not acceptable for my delegation and more specifically agenda items 1&2. Agenda item 1 always dedicated special focus on Nuclear disarmament as indicated in its title **“Cessation of the Nuclear arms race and Nuclear Disarmament”** this item should contain a negotiating mandate of a comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention which would ultimately aim at the realization of the complete irreversible elimination of Nuclear weapons within a specific timeframe and under effective international verification and control. Furthermore, we propose to follow the approach implemented in previous years and agenda items 1 and 2 can be merged with focus on negotiations on a non- discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable legally binding instrument banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, in accordance with the report of the special coordinator (CD/1299) of 1995 and the mandate contained therein. The aspired instrument should fulfil both nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament objectives.
- 3) On Agenda item 4, On NSA’s we support your proposal to negotiate on effective international arrangements and we would like to include language that confirms the universal, unconditional, irrevocable, effective, and of legally-binding nature of those arrangements.
- 4) On Agenda item 5, we believe that the special focus on Biosecurity should be discussed in the relevant forum mandated to deal with biological weapons the BTWC.
- 5) On Agenda item 6 we are of the view that the topic of emerging weapons and technologies is discussed thoroughly in other fora, the CCW.
- 6) Agenda Item 7 on transparency with the focus proposed in the draft POW is misplaced on our programme of work as there are other mechanisms to cater to more transparency in conventional arms transfers and trade.

Mr. President.

We would like to reiterate our appreciation for your efforts, and we stand ready to engage with the CD members in a constructive and interactive manner to resume the substantive work of the Conference.

Thank you, Mr. President.