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Report of the Disarmament Commission for 2024

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Report of the Disarmament Commission for 2024



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Note

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Chapter I

Introduction

1. At its seventy-eighth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 78/62, entitled “Report of the Disarmament Commission”, which reads as follows:

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Disarmament Commission,¹

Recalling its resolutions 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, 47/54 G of 8 April 1993, 48/77 A of 16 December 1993, 49/77 A of 15 December 1994, 50/72 D of 12 December 1995, 51/47 B of 10 December 1996, 52/40 B of 9 December 1997, 53/79 A of 4 December 1998, 54/56 A of 1 December 1999, 55/35 C of 20 November 2000, 56/26 A of 29 November 2001, 57/95 of 22 November 2002, 58/67 of 8 December 2003, 59/105 of 3 December 2004, 60/91 of 8 December 2005, 61/98 of 6 December 2006, 62/54 of 5 December 2007, 63/83 of 2 December 2008, 64/65 of 2 December 2009, 65/86 of 8 December 2010, 66/60 of 2 December 2011, 67/71 of 3 December 2012, 68/63 of 5 December 2013, 69/77 of 2 December 2014, 70/68 of 7 December 2015, 71/82 of 5 December 2016, 72/66 of 4 December 2017, 73/82 of 5 December 2018 and 77/90 of 7 December 2022, and its decisions 74/511 of 12 December 2019, 74/546 of 2 April 2020, 75/519 A of 7 December 2020, 75/519 B of 25 March 2021 and 76/518 of 6 December 2021,

Considering the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in promoting the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

Recalling in particular General Assembly resolution 45/62 B of 4 December 1990, in which it noted with satisfaction the adoption by consensus of a set of “Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission”,² Assembly decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998 concerning the efficient functioning of the Commission and Assembly resolution 61/98, which contains additional measures for improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the Commission,

Reaffirming the mandate of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative subsidiary body of the General Assembly that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues, and recalling that the Commission shall make every effort to ensure that, insofar as possible, decisions on substantive issues be adopted by consensus, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,³

Emphasizing once again the important place of the Disarmament Commission within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery,

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/78/42).*

² Resolution 44/119 C, annex.

³ Resolution S-10/2.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Disarmament Commission;
2. *Commends* the Disarmament Commission for the successful conclusion of its consideration of the item entitled “Preparation of recommendations to promote the practical implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities with the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space, in accordance with the recommendations set out in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities”, and endorses the text adopted thereon;⁴
3. *Notes with regret* that the Disarmament Commission was not able to reach a consensus on the item entitled “Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons”;
4. *Reaffirms* the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament;
5. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982, and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items on its agenda, taking into account the adopted “Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission”;
6. *Recommends* that the Disarmament Commission consider the following items at its substantive session of 2024:
 - (a) [To be determined];
 - (b) [To be determined];
7. *Encourages* the Disarmament Commission to invite, as appropriate, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research to prepare background papers on the items on its agenda and, if need be, other disarmament experts to present their views, as provided for in paragraph 3 (e) of resolution 61/98, upon the invitation of the Chair and with the prior approval of the Commission;
8. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to hold a substantive session for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2024, namely from 1 to 19 April, and an organizational session at the beginning of 2024 before the substantive session, to elect its Bureau and address other outstanding organizational matters, and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session, and stresses that the report of the Commission should contain a summary by the Chair of the proceedings to reflect different views or positions if no agreement can be reached on the specific agenda item deliberated on, as provided for in paragraph 3.4 of the adopted “Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission”;
9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the resources and services necessary, including verbatim records, to that end, and also requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Commission

⁴ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/78/42), annex.*

the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament on its 2023 session,⁵ together with all the official records of the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

10. *Invites* Member States to submit their views and proposals on the matter early enough to enable practical consultations among them prior to the beginning of the substantive session of 2024 of the Disarmament Commission, with a view to facilitating its constructive outcome, and in this regard encourages the Chair-designate to commence consultations and preparations for the substantive session of 2024 in a timely manner upon his or her nomination;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session”, the sub-item entitled “Report of the Disarmament Commission”.

⁵ *Ibid.*, *Supplement No.27 (A/78/27)*.

Chapter II

Organization and work of the substantive session of 2024

2. The Disarmament Commission held its organizational session for 2024 at United Nations Headquarters at its 390th meeting, on 1 April 2024 (see [A/CN.10/PV.390](#)). At that meeting, the Commission considered questions relating to the organization of work and substantive agenda items for its substantive session of 2024 in accordance with the “Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission” adopted by the General Assembly (resolution [44/119 C](#), annex) and in the light of Assembly resolution [78/62](#). The Commission also took up the question of the election of its officers. It elected the Deputy Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, Muhammad Usman Iqbal Jadoon, as Chair for its 2024 session.
3. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda for its organizational session ([A/CN.10/L.91](#)).
4. Also at the same meeting, the Commission elected Amr Essameldin Sadek Ahmed (Egypt), Mohammed Lawal Mahmud (Nigeria) and Viviana Rocio Sanabria Duarte (Paraguay), as Vice-Chairs.
5. Subsequently, Ms. Sanabria Duarte of Paraguay also agreed to serve as Rapporteur.
6. Also at its 390th meeting, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda for its substantive session of 2024 ([A/CN.10/L.92](#)), as orally revised. The agenda reads as follows:
 1. Opening of the session.
 2. Adoption of the agenda.
 3. Organization of work.
 4. Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.
 5. Recommendations on common understandings related to emerging technologies in the context of international security.
 6. Report of the Disarmament Commission to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session.
 7. Other business.
7. At its 391st meeting, on 1 April, the Commission took note of its schedule of meetings for the session ([A/CN.10/2024/CRP.1](#)).
8. At its 393rd meeting, on 2 April, the Commission elected Katherine Sarah Jones (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) as Vice-Chair.
9. The Commission held its substantive session of 2024 at Headquarters from 1 to 19 April. In the course of its session, the Commission held six plenary meetings (see [A/CN.10/PV.391–396](#)). The Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, served as the secretariat of the Commission, and the Office for Disarmament Affairs represented the substantive secretariat.

10. During the session, the Bureau of the Commission was constituted as follows:

Chair:

Muhammad Usman Iqbal Jadoon (Pakistan)

Vice-Chairs:

Representatives of Egypt, Nigeria, Paraguay and the United Kingdom

11. At its 391st meeting, the Commission elected Akaki Dvali (Georgia) as Chair of Working Group I, on agenda item 4, and Julia Elizabeth Rodríguez Acosta (El Salvador) as Chair of Working Group II, on agenda item 5.

12. At its 391st to 394th meetings, on 1 and 2 April, the Commission held a general exchange of views on all agenda items. Representatives of the following countries made statements during the general exchange of views: Algeria, Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States), Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia (first on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and subsequently in its national capacity), Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati (also on behalf of Kazakhstan), Lao People's Democratic Republic (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Latvia (on behalf of the Baltic States), Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Qatar (on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council), Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia (first on behalf of the Group of Arab States and subsequently in its national capacity), Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe. Statements were also made by the Holy See, the State of Palestine, Arab States (League of) and the European Union, in its capacity as observer.

13. At its 391st meeting, the Commission heard a statement by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs.

14. The Commission entrusted Working Group I with the mandate of dealing with agenda item 4. Working Group I held eight meetings, from 3 to 19 April.

15. The Commission entrusted Working Group II with the mandate of dealing with agenda item 5. Working Group II held 10 meetings, from 3 to 18 April.

Chapter III

Documentation

A. Documents submitted by the Secretary-General

16. The Commission had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of documents submitted by the Secretary-General to the Commission for its substantive session of 2024 ([A/CN.10/215](#)).

B. Other documents, including documents submitted by Member States

17. In the course of the Commission's work, the document listed below, dealing with substantive questions, was submitted and considered:

Working paper submitted by the Non-Aligned Movement ([A/CN.10/2024/WG.I/WP.1](#)).

Chapter IV

Conclusions and recommendations

18. At its 395th meeting, on 19 April, the Commission adopted, ad referendum, the reports of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. No recommendations were put forward by the Commission. The Commission agreed to submit the texts of the reports, which are reproduced below, to the General Assembly.
19. At its 396th meeting, on 19 April, the Commission adopted, by consensus, the reports of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Chair, the Bureau, the Chairs of the Working Groups and the Secretariat.
20. The report of Working Group I reads as follows:

Report of Working Group I on agenda item 4

1. At its 390th meeting, on 1 April 2024, the Disarmament Commission adopted the agenda for its substantive session of 2024 (A/CN.10/L.92) and decided to allocate to Working Group I agenda item 4, entitled “Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons”.
2. The Working Group, chaired by Akaki Dvali (Georgia), held eight meetings, from 3 to 19 April 2024. The Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, served as the secretariat of the Working Group. The Office for Disarmament Affairs served as adviser to the Working Group.
3. The Working Group held extensive discussions on agenda item 4.
4. At the 1st meeting, on 3 April, 2024 delegations exchanged views and made various proposals on the Chair’s paper contained in document A/CN.10/2023/WG.I/CRP.1/Rev.2 of 19 April 2023.
5. At the 2nd meeting, on 8 April 2024, delegations exchanged views and made various proposals on the compilation of views by Member States on the Chair’s paper of 19 April 2023 (contained in A/CN.10/2023/WG.I/CRP.1/Rev.2), circulated on 5 April 2024.
6. At the 3rd, 4th and 5th meetings, on 11, 15 and 16 April 2024, delegations exchanged views and made various proposals on the Chair’s paper circulated on 9 April 2024.
7. At the 6th and 7th meetings, on 17 and 18 April 2024, delegations exchanged views and made various proposals on the Chair’s revised paper (A/CN.10/2024/WG.I/CRP.1/Rev.1), circulated on 16 April 2024.
8. At the 8th meeting, on 19 April 2024, delegations expressed initial positions and reflections on the Chair’s revised paper contained in document A/CN.10/2024/WG.I/CRP.1/Rev.2), circulated on 19 April 2024 under his responsibility and without prejudice to the positions of delegations.
9. At the same meeting, the Working Group considered and adopted by consensus its report on agenda item 4. The Working Group also recorded its appreciation to the Chair and the Secretariat.

21. The report of Working Group II reads as follows:

Report of Working Group II on agenda item 5

1. At its 390th meeting, on 1 April 2024, the Disarmament Commission adopted its agenda for the substantive session of 2024 ([A/CN.10/L.92](#)) and decided to allocate to Working Group II agenda item 5, entitled “Recommendations on common understandings related to emerging technologies in the context of international security”.
2. The Working Group, chaired by Julia Elizabeth Rodríguez Acosta (El Salvador), held 10 informal meetings, from 3 to 18 April 2024. The Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, served as the secretariat of the Working Group. The Office for Disarmament Affairs served as adviser to the Working Group.
3. The Working Group held extensive deliberations on agenda item 5 in accordance with the mandate of the Commission.
4. At its 1st meeting, on 3 April 2024, the Working Group held a general exchange of views on agenda item 5.
5. At its 2nd meeting, on 4 April 2024, the Working Group heard a presentation by the Office for Disarmament Affairs on the report of the Secretary-General on current developments in science and technology and their potential impact on international security and disarmament efforts ([A/78/268](#)) and exchanged views on the report.
6. At its 3rd meeting, on 5 April 2024, the Working Group exchanged views on the topic of artificial intelligence technologies in the military domain and heard presentations from Jimena Viveros of the High-Level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence, who addressed artificial intelligence and Sarah Grand-Clément of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, who addressed uncrewed systems.
7. At its 4th meeting, on 8 April 2024, the Working Group exchanged views on the topic of digital technologies and heard presentations from Elina Noor of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and Pavel Karasev of the National Association for International Information Security.
8. At its 5th meeting, on 9 April 2024 the Working Group exchanged views on the topic of biology and chemistry and heard presentations from James Revill of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, who addressed biology, and Peter Hotchkiss of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, who addressed chemistry.
9. At its 6th meeting, on 11 April 2024, the Working Group exchanged views on the topic of space and aerospace technologies and heard presentations from Rajeswari Pillai Rajagopalan of the Observer Research Foundation, who addressed international security implications of new technologies in space, and Timothy Wright of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, who addressed missiles.
10. At its 7th meeting, on 12 April 2024, the Working Group exchanged views on the topic of electromagnetic technologies and materials technologies and heard presentations from Thomas Withington of the Royal United Services Institute, who addressed electronic warfare, and Frank Grosspietsch of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, who addressed additive manufacturing.

11. At its 8th meeting, on 15 April 2024, the Working Group heard presentations by the Chair of the open-ended working group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025 established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 75/240, the Chair of the Group of Governmental Experts of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems and the Chair of the Group of Governmental Experts on Further Practical Measures for the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space. The Working Group exchanged views on the presentations.

12. At the same meeting, the Working Group heard presentations on State-led initiatives related to emerging technologies in the context of international security by representatives of the United States, China, the Republic of Korea and Austria and exchanged views thereon.

13. At its 9th meeting, on 16 April 2024, the Working Group held an exchange of views related to emerging technologies in the context of international security.

14. Following discussions by the Working Group, the Chair introduced a paper dated 16 April 2024 under her own responsibility, and without prejudice to the position of any delegation. At its 10th meeting, on 18 April 2024, the Working Group discussed the Chair's paper.

15. At the same meeting, the Working Group considered and adopted by consensus its report on agenda item 5. The Working Group recorded its appreciation to the Chair and the Secretariat.

