

# Conference on Disarmament

English

---

**Final record of the one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eighth plenary meeting**

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Thursday, 13 June 2024, at 3.10 p.m.

*President:* Mr. Abdul-Karim Hashim Mostafa .....(Iraq)



**The President** (*spoke in Arabic*): I call to order the 1728th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

Distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for participating in today's meeting. I would like to propose that we now consider the adoption of document CD/WP.657, containing the draft decision on the work of the Conference for 2024, which was circulated electronically by the secretariat on Tuesday, 11 June. In this regard, I propose that we follow past practice and, as was done in 2018, adopt the decision on the mandates of the subsidiary bodies now. The presidency will circulate a second draft decision with the names of the coordinators and the schedule of meetings based on the informal document distributed by the secretariat on Tuesday, 11 June; it will take the form of a draft decision for consideration by the Conference as soon as possible.

For now, I can share with you what has been agreed with regard to the coordinators of the subsidiary bodies: Peru for subsidiary body 1 on cessation of the arms race and nuclear disarmament; Switzerland for subsidiary body 2 on prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters; Egypt for subsidiary body 4 on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons; and Bulgaria for subsidiary body 5 on new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons. We are now working to confirm the final coordinator for subsidiary body 3 on prevention of an arms race in outer space.

The presidency will circulate a second draft decision with the names of the coordinators once they have been finalized and the schedule of meetings based on the informal document distributed by the secretariat on Tuesday, 11 June; it will take the form of a draft decision for consideration by the Conference next week.

I would now like to ask if I may take it that the Conference wishes to adopt the draft decision contained in document CD/WP.657.

*It was so decided.*

**The President** (*spoke in Arabic*): Ladies and gentlemen, before I turn to the delegations that wish to take the floor, allow me to thank all delegations for their flexibility and engagement. My special thanks go to former Presidents Ambassador Ray, Permanent Representative of India to the Conference on Disarmament; the Permanent Representative of Indonesia, Ambassador Ruddyard; and the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ambassador Bahreini. Without your continued efforts, which we have built upon, the Conference would not have been able to reach a consensus on the decision on the programme of work. The adoption of the decision was the result of cooperation and collective efforts. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament for its commitment and professionalism in helping to organize our work and providing support to our presidency. I cannot fail to thank all the interpreters and technicians, and all those who have contributed to the success of the Conference. I would also like to thank the team of representatives who accompanied me. I would like to ask if any delegation would like to take the floor at this stage? I give the floor to the Ambassador of the United States of America.

**Mr. Turner** (United States of America): Thank you, Mr. President. My delegation is pleased to join the consensus on the draft decision on the work of the Conference on Disarmament for 2024. My delegation would also like to commend the excellent leadership of the four presidencies thus far, beginning with India and culminating with Iraq, in reaching such a consensus decision. It is fair to say that each presidency brought us a step closer to the decision we are adopting today. My delegation has endeavoured to remain constructive and flexible throughout the process of negotiating this decision, and it is gratifying to note that many other delegations approached the negotiations in the same spirit.

At the start of 2024, one of the Conference's main objectives, following its failure to agree on a decision on its work in 2023, was for the Conference to send a more positive signal in 2024 about its determination to move forward. This became even more critical following the blocking of a large number of requests for observer status earlier in 2024.

This draft decision sends such a positive signal, although it needs to be followed quickly by a subsequent decision naming the coordinators of the respective subsidiary bodies.

This positive outcome should greatly facilitate the Conference's ability to reach an early consensus on the annual report and pass a consensus resolution at the forthcoming session of the First Committee in 2024.

The delegation of the United States would have preferred the decision to have been more ambitious, although it acknowledges that the process of achieving consensus requires compromise, and, as is often said, the best compromise is one that leaves everyone dissatisfied. My delegation regrets that the negotiations were more drawn out and difficult than was truly necessary.

The language in paragraphs 5 and, in particular, 6 should allow the Conference to make up for lost time in 2024 by enabling it to agree at the start of 2025 that work started in 2024 can continue throughout the remainder of 2025. This is especially important, as each of the subsidiary bodies will be able to meet only once between now and the end of 2024.

The Italian presidency is strongly encouraged to submit a decision to that effect as early as possible in 2025, on the understanding that such a decision would be applicable only for 2025, without prejudice to any decisions that the Conference might take in 2026.

Lastly, as the delegation of the United States noted in its note verbale of 8 February 2024, it will continue to urge all interested States that are not members of the Conference to attend the Conference's meetings, including those of the subsidiary bodies, once they are established, and to submit proposals or working documents for consideration in accordance with rule 33 of the Conference's rules of procedure.

Thank you, Mr. President.

**The President** (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank Ambassador Bruce Turner for his valuable statement. The representative of the Russian Federation now has the floor.

**Mr. Belousov** (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Mr. President, I would like to join those who have thanked you and, for my part, to thank the Iraqi team for its work on the decision that we have adopted today. I would also like to thank all the previous Presidents for the constructive spirit that they showed during the weeks that are now behind us.

I believe that the decision that was adopted today is the result of our joint work, the result of serious compromises and, most importantly, a demonstration of the willingness of all delegations to commence the substantive work of the Conference on Disarmament both before the end of this session and during the next session. In my view, the decision is an important step towards an in-depth study of the issues on the Conference agenda.

At the same time, I would like to address a few points that I believe are crucial to our future work in the subsidiary bodies. I think that these points should be clarified now, so that there is a common understanding of them and no excessive and unnecessary discussion later.

First, it is clear to all of us that the subsidiary bodies will not be able to finish their work, by which I mean that they will not be able to effectively and fully explore the issues that are on the agenda. Therefore, the Russian delegation considers the first meetings of all subsidiary bodies to be preparatory meetings for further substantive work during the 2025 session.

We believe that the coordinators – a full list of whom will be presented next week – will have serious preparatory work to do in cooperation with the delegations and in accordance with the final part of paragraph 3 of the document that we have adopted today, in which it is stated that the subsidiary bodies should agree on the specific topics to be considered. Such work was done by the coordinators in 2022. We hope that similar work will be done this year.

As for the first meetings, the timetable for which we have in front of us, we also see them as preparatory: as an exchange of views on organizational modalities, on the possible scope of the topics to be considered in the subsidiary bodies and on the elaboration of recommendations regarding the organization of work for the next session. I hope that these views of the work of the subsidiary bodies this year are shared by the rest of the delegations of the States members of the Conference.

Another important issue is the preparation of the reports of the subsidiary bodies. Obviously, if we consider the first meetings of the subsidiary bodies this year to be preparatory, it would be neither appropriate nor reasonable to talk about reports on their activities this year. At the same time, in our view, the coordinators should prepare documents on the results of their work this year before the end of this year's session.

We believe that such documents should be purely factual, containing an illustrative list of issues to be discussed in the following year at the plenary meetings of each of the subsidiary bodies, as well as an explicit recommendation for the continuation of the work of the subsidiary bodies during the 2025 session with an agreed number of plenary meetings. I think that such documents – to be prepared by the coordinators following the first meetings and their consultations with interested delegations – will enable the first presidency of 2025 to prepare draft decisions conducive to prompt resumption of work of the subsidiary bodies during the 2025 session.

Another important point is the continuity of the work of the coordinators. It is our deep conviction that the coordinators whose nomination is confirmed by the Conference this year will have to continue their work next year. Furthermore, as I have already mentioned, those coordinators will do quite serious preparatory work. I think that it would be in the interest of all delegations for this work to be continued by the same coordinators. Of course, no one is immune to circumstances beyond his or her control. However, I believe that we will be well positioned to ensure continuity of coordination if we ensure that the work that we do this year is done by the same coordinators next year.

Another important issue is the schedule of meetings for next year. I would like to state the position of our delegation forthwith. Our delegation expects that a technical decision on the resumption and continuation of the work of the subsidiary bodies will be adopted as early in 2025 as possible, immediately following the adoption of the Conference agenda. On that basis, we believe that a minimum of six plenary meetings should be scheduled for each subsidiary body next year, so that four of those plenary meetings can be devoted to substantive discussion and consideration of the agenda items or the list of issues to be agreed upon this year during the preparatory phase, and two plenary meetings can be devoted to the preparation of the final reports of the subsidiary bodies.

The experience of 2022 shows that the matter of preparing final reports is extremely important and extremely sensitive for delegations, so we believe that in order to avoid a repeat of the 2022 experience – when the coordinators were pressed for time and had to continue working in various modes on the final reports – we could adopt a decision on the number of such meetings next year. Once again, we believe that we can make plans for six plenary meetings for each subsidiary body over next year's session.

I would like to leave it there. Once again, I would like to thank all the delegations and all the presidencies that took part in the active search for a compromise on the draft decision that we have adopted today and to assure you that the Russian delegation is ready to engage with all States members of the Conference on Disarmament, with observer States and with the presidency and secretariat to organize substantive work on the issues on the Conference agenda.

**The President** (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank the representative of the Russian Federation for his valuable statement. I now give the floor to the Ambassador of India.

**Mr. Ray** (India): Thank you, Mr. President. Let me begin by congratulating you and your team for successfully guiding the Conference on Disarmament to an agreement on a draft decision on the work of the Conference for 2024. The last mile is often the most difficult. You and your team completed the last and most difficult mile on behalf of the Conference and you deserve our collective gratitude. The delegation of India also appreciates the efforts that you and your team are making to reach an agreement on a decision on implementation. Please be assured of my delegation's fullest support for your work in that regard.

This decision is all the more noteworthy because agreement was reached in the midst of geopolitical stress and conflict. It reflects the importance that is accorded to the work of this Conference by its members. I would like to thank the other Presidents of the 2024 session, together with the last President of the 2023 session and the first of the 2025 session,

particularly the presidencies of Indonesia and Iraq, for the persistence and skill with which they pursued a consensus. It is gratifying to note the unity of purpose displayed by the first four presidencies of 2024, all of which represent States members of the Group of 21 and the Non-Aligned Movement. We thank all the delegations that contributed to this consensus decision and made compromises.

The decision on the work of the Conference is less than ideal. It does not meet the expectations of the delegation of India, which has gone along with it in the spirit of compromise. That is the very basis of multilateralism. My delegation believes that the Conference, which is the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, should commence negotiations on the issues on its agenda and advance the process of negotiating legally binding instruments. In this context, the delegation of India calls for the immediate commencement of negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty on the basis of the Shannon report and the mandate contained therein. Thank you, Mr. President.

**The President** (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank Ambassador Ray for his valuable statement. I now give the floor to the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

**Mr. Ali Abadi** (Islamic Republic of Iran): Mr. President, allow me to join the previous speakers in congratulating you on the adoption of the draft decision on the work of the Conference on Disarmament for 2024, thereby bringing our collective efforts to a conclusion. It is also commendable that you did not halt this collective process. The dual approach that you took to your presidency and the business of the Conference enabled it to continue its efforts to reach consensus on a decision for a programme of work. The draft decision is a success for the Conference and its machinery, since it is now possible to say that, even in very tough situations, the Conference is continuing to fulfil its mandate under the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. Although it has taken almost 15 weeks, we are pleased to note that, under your presidency, some delegations dropped their maximalist approach and joined the consensus which the Conference was very close to reaching. It would be gratifying if the Conference could reach decisions on the establishment of its subsidiary bodies, engage in in-depth and detailed discussions and fulfil its negotiating mandate under its agenda.

My delegation would like to express its readiness and openness to working with all the delegations to help the Conference to fulfil its mandate in advancing international and regional peace and stability. Thank you.

**The President** (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran for his valuable statement. I now give the floor to the Ambassador of Indonesia.

**Mr. Ruddyard** (Indonesia): Thank you, Mr. President. On behalf of the delegation of Indonesia, I would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Iraqi presidency for its exemplary efforts in navigating the discussion and achieving consensus on the decision on the programme of work.

This achievement is a testament to the dedication and skilful diplomacy of the Iraqi team. Gratitude is also due to all the representatives of the member States for their flexibility and constructive engagement throughout the process. Their willingness to collaborate and find common ground has been instrumental in reaching this important agreement.

The success that we welcome today is the result not just of recent efforts but also of the good coordination and spirit of continuity seen throughout the successive presidencies of the Conference on Disarmament. Each of the presidencies in 2024 has built upon the work of its predecessor, contributing to the progressive realization of our shared goal. In this regard, the delegation of Indonesia would like to extend its gratitude to the six Presidents of the 2024 session, together with the last President of the 2023 session and the first of the 2025 session. My delegation remains committed to the objective of the Conference and will continue to support this endeavour with unwavering dedication.

To conclude, the delegation of Indonesia wishes to assure the Conference of its full support as the Conference moves towards the next phase of its work with the subsidiary bodies, pending the agreement on the schedule and the coordinators. Together, we can continue to make meaningful progress towards our common aspiration: creating a more secure and peaceful world. Thank you, Mr. President.

**The President** (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank Ambassador Ruddyard of Indonesia for his valuable statement. I now give the floor to the representative of Belgium.

**Mr. Kucer** (Belgium): Thank you, Mr. President. On behalf of the European Union, I would like to thank you for your commendable efforts, which have led to the establishment of the subsidiary bodies this year. Your dedication to finding common ground to enable the substantive work of the Conference on Disarmament to advance is remarkable. Thanks are also due to the previous presidencies for laying the foundations for this decision.

While the European Union delegation is ready to engage with all the issues on the Conference's agenda, it believes that negotiations should immediately begin on a fissile material cut-off treaty. The urgency and relevance of this issue has been confirmed in previous sessions. In the light of this situation, we wish to put on record that, in our understanding, subsidiary body 2 will primarily focus on advancing discussions on the fissile material cut-off treaty, building on the previous work of the Conference and the respective groups of governmental experts.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to make a final point about the continuity of the Conference's work. It is the understanding of my delegation that this decision will serve as a guiding framework not only for the current session but also into 2025. Ensuring this continuity will help to avoid unnecessary procedural delays at the start of 2025. Once again, Mr. President, we commend Iraq for its leadership and we thank all those who made compromises in order to find solutions. We look forward to actively participating in the substantive discussions. Thank you, Mr. President.

**The President** (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank the representative of Belgium for his valuable statement on behalf of the European Union. I now give the floor to the Ambassador of Italy.

**Mr. Bencini** (Italy): Thank you, Mr. President. We would like to thank you for the excellent work that you have conducted to bring to a successful conclusion the work previously carried out by the presidencies of India, Indonesia and Iran, which we also warmly thank. This has been a truly collective effort, and my delegation commends you on the transparent and constructive manner in which you and the previous three Presidents have carried out your duties, working together with all interested delegations and the six Presidents of the 2024 session, together with the last President of the 2023 session and the first of the 2025 session.

Gratitude is due to all the delegations that have shown the necessary level of flexibility to bring about this result. The result that we have achieved today responds to the need for continuity, the importance of which we have stressed many times. Promoting continuity is a means of ensuring greater efficiency and coherence in the work of the Conference on Disarmament. Continuity between the different presidencies, and continuity in our substantive work. The delegation of Italy would have liked these concepts to have been more clearly emphasized in the texts, but it is happy to join the consensus. A new formal decision will have to be taken at the start of the 2025 session, when Italy will hold the presidency. Everyone is aware of this and it is my delegation's hope and expectation that the very valuable work that has been collectively carried out in 2024 will not go to waste, and that the Conference will begin the next session by expeditiously focusing on issues of substance rather than procedural issues. Irrespective of the number of meetings that the subsidiary bodies will be able to hold, it is hoped that their work will be seamlessly resumed in 2025, preferably under the guidance of the same coordinators. If this can be accomplished, the Conference will finally have made concrete progress on its methods of work and its revitalization. Thank you once again, Mr. President. We look forward to the next decision concerning the coordinators of the subsidiary bodies and the meetings of these bodies.

**The President** (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank the Ambassador of Italy for his valuable statement. I now give the floor to the Ambassador of Japan.

**Ms. Ichikawa** (Japan): Thank you, Mr. President. First of all, my delegation would like to join the delegations that took the floor before me in commending you and all the previous presidencies in 2024 – those of India, Indonesia and Iran – for your efforts in formulating this decision on the work of the Conference on Disarmament. My delegation

particularly welcomes the adoption of the decision, which, in paragraph 6, includes clear language about continuity.

The delegation of Japan would also like to express its appreciation for your ongoing efforts to finalize the appointment of the coordinators and the timetable for the subsidiary bodies. It hopes and trusts that a decision on this matter can be made quite soon. The decision that the Conference has just adopted, and the subsequent decision on the appointment of the coordinators, which we hope will be adopted soon, will be carried forward into 2025 so that continuity can be ensured in reality and in practice. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

**The President** (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank the Ambassador of Japan for her valuable statement. I now give the floor to the representative of China.

**Mr. Ji Zhaoyu** (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): Thank you, Mr. President. First of all, the Chinese delegation would like to express its deep appreciation and heartfelt congratulations to you and your team.

Despite the fact that the Conference on Disarmament is halfway through this year's session, you and your team have been working tirelessly to actively advance consultations on the programme of work in an open and transparent manner and, on the basis of in-depth communication with all parties, to finally facilitate the adoption of today's decision by the Conference. This was no easy feat. At the same time, China would also like to express its gratitude to the previous Presidents of the Conference, including the Indian, Indonesian and Iranian presidencies, for their efforts to reach consensus on this year's programme of work. I also thank the secretariat for its tremendous work.

My delegation would like to share some of its views and proposals for the continuation of the Conference's work this year.

First, we must adhere to the principle of comprehensive balance. Judging from the discussions over the years in the Conference, the parties have different views on priorities, which are all closely related to the international security situation, security relations among States and their respective security interests. In order to advance the work of the Conference, including in discussions in the subsidiary bodies, it is essential to uphold the principle of comprehensive balance, to build on consensus, to respect each other's legitimate security interests and to take into account the concerns of all parties in a balanced manner, properly addressing differences. At the same time, we hope that all parties will learn from past experience and lessons and work together to ensure that the discussions in the subsidiary bodies will remain professional and will avoid politicization.

Secondly, we must properly address the question of continuity. My delegation has taken note of the views expressed by various parties on enhancing the continuity of the work of the Conference and supports the efforts to make appropriate arrangements to ensure the continuity of its work, in strict accordance with the rules of procedure. It should be noted that continuity in the work of the Conference should be effectively reflected in its substantive work. China believes that the Conference must build on its previous work and advance substantive discussions on various agenda items. Specifically, it should negotiate and conclude a legal instrument on negative security assurances for non-nuclear-weapon States, the Conference's lowest hanging fruit, at an early date.

Thirdly, we should organize the work of the subsidiary bodies in a rational manner. China expects the Conference to put in place suitable plans as soon as possible for the coordinators and timetables of its subsidiary bodies. The aim of such an arrangement should be to rationalize the use of the remaining time of the Conference and ensure equal, full and effective participation by all parties in the deliberations of the subsidiary bodies. China looks forward to working with all parties by actively participating in all this year's remaining work, so as to ensure that the Conference can make steady progress.

I thank you, Mr. President.

**The President** (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank the representative of China for his valuable statement. I now give the floor to the Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

**Mr. Hernández** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): Thank you, Mr. President. My delegation extends its greetings to the delegations of the States members

of the Conference on Disarmament and expresses its thanks to Ambassador Abdul-Karim Hashim Mostafa, Permanent Representative of Iraq, for preparing this plenary meeting.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela attaches great importance to the work of the Conference, which it considers a fundamental component of the global disarmament machinery. We must not only preserve this institution but also strengthen it if we are to make headway towards the objectives of disarmament and non-proliferation. To do so, we must overcome the current impasse and implement the mandate set out in the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament by adopting a broad, balanced and comprehensive programme of work that is based on the Conference agenda and that takes into account the security interests of all States and disarmament priorities. It is essential to preserve the negotiating mandate of this Conference, whose purpose is to serve as more than simply a forum for debate and deliberation. The Conference is the only multilateral forum with a full negotiating mandate in this field.

We cannot settle for protracted and often unproductive discussions. We must aspire to move forward and achieve concrete, tangible progress. In this context, Venezuela reaffirms its commitment to the resumption of negotiations of legally binding instruments on the substantive items on the agenda of the Conference, as provided for in the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

My delegation is ready to go along with the consensus on the draft decision that the Iraqi presidency has submitted for the consideration of the Conference. Although this document does not meet all our expectations, we believe that it represents a pragmatic means of gradually building an environment of trust serving to pave the way towards consensus.

Mr. President, we commend your leadership and your tireless efforts to reach agreements and find common ground on issues of great relevance to this institution. Your constructive, transparent and inclusive approach has been the key to achieving consensus on this draft decision on the work of the Conference.

We would also like to express our sincere thanks to the previous Presidents of the Conference, Ambassador Anupam Ray of India, Ambassador Febrian Ruddyard of Indonesia and, especially, Ambassador Ali Bahreini of Iran, and his delegation, whose tremendous efforts have enabled us to move towards this consensus.

Lastly, we reiterate our readiness to participate constructively in future debates with the aim of moving the substantive discussions of the Conference forward through inclusive, transparent and participatory dialogue. Thank you very much.

**The President** (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for his valuable statement. I now give the floor to the Ambassador of Pakistan.

**Mr. Ahmad** (Pakistan): Thank you, Mr. President, for convening this meeting to take action on the decision on the work of the Conference on Disarmament for 2024.

My delegation would like to thank you and your team for your hard work and leadership and for the wisdom that you have shown in guiding the work of the Conference on Disarmament.

The previous presidencies of the Conference – including those of Iran and Indonesia – also deserve our appreciation for steering the Conference's work on the decision in the right direction.

Under your leadership, the members of the Conference showed flexibility and engaged with each other constructively. Your efforts, combined with the pragmatic approach of the members of the Conference, were instrumental and eventually led to the presentation of a proposal that met with the Conference's approval.

This was certainly the spirit in which my delegation engaged with you and the other members to build a common pathway to take the Conference forward.

The adoption of the decision on the work of the Conference today is indeed a significant achievement. While we agree with the general sentiment that circumstances outside the Conference room have a bearing on what takes place within it, this should not be an excuse for failing to conduct our work. By undertaking substantive work in the subsidiary



bodies, the Conference will have an opportunity to address the key aspects of arms control and security associated with these circumstances.

Like several other delegations, the delegation of Pakistan has been calling since the start of 2024 for the adoption of a text identical to that of the decision adopted in 2022, which is contained in document CD/2229. This preference was based on the recognition that, irrespective of individual positions or priorities, the mandate contained in that text, with its delicate balance, remains the least common denominator on which the member States of the Conference last agreed to conduct substantive work. While precious time has been lost in attempting to find new language, we note that, aside from a few minor changes to parts of the text, the Conference has essentially adopted the same mandate for the subsidiary bodies that was adopted in 2022.

During the negotiations, we exercised maximum flexibility in respect of the proposals put forward by various delegations. The fifth preambular paragraph now also refers to the previous efforts made in the Conference, which include proposals and ideas presented by different delegations in the past.

Since it has not been possible to adopt this decision until June, it is unlikely that the work in the subsidiary bodies will be completed in 2024. The language in paragraph 6 gives the Conference the opportunity to resume its work in 2025 without losing precious time again at the start of that year. However, the Conference will need to adopt another decision for that purpose at the start of the 2025 session in accordance with the rules of the procedure.

My delegation also acknowledges that this is an exceptional arrangement that is intended only to facilitate the Conference's work in 2025 and make up for the six months lost in 2024, while remaining true to the rules of procedure, which provide for the annual adoption of the Conference's decision.

For my delegation, an international convention on negative security assurances and a treaty on prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space will continue to remain the priority areas to be pursued in the work of subsidiary bodies 4 and 3.

My delegation has also submitted a proposal to include a new item on the Conference's agenda, entitled "addressing the security and stability implications of military applications of artificial intelligence". While no consensus was reached on this proposal during the adoption of the Conference's agenda earlier in 2024, we stated that it would continue to take up this issue within the existing agenda of the Conference and in subsidiary body 5.

Furthermore, my delegation supports calls for the commencement of negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention, which would be discussed in subsidiary body 1.

In subsidiary body 2, my delegation looks forward to discussing any initiative or proposal that could contribute to the prevention of nuclear war. The issue of fissile material is also very important for many delegations. We are looking forward to having in-depth discussions on the huge number of stockpiles of fissile material that are not subject to safeguards in different regions and the measures that are needed to address this issue in a comprehensive manner.

Lastly, my delegation notes that the Conference's decision specifies neither the exact dates of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies nor the names of the coordinators. We understand the constraints in this regard and are satisfied by your statement that these details will be agreed at a later date.

Nonetheless, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who have already stepped forward to take on the role of coordinator. We assure them of our full support and look forward to working with them.

Going forward, it will be equally important for the Conference to bear the key ingredients for success in mind, that is, taking a comprehensive and balanced approach and adhering to the cardinal principle of equal security for all States.

These elements remain fundamental in tackling the urgent security and disarmament questions that face us at the global, regional and subregional levels.

Once again, Mr. President, we would like to commend you and your team for your sterling work.

**The President** (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank Ambassador Ahmad, the Permanent Representative of Pakistan, for his valuable statement. I now give the floor to the Ambassador of Germany.

**Mr. Göbel** (Germany): Thank you, Mr. President. Like the previous speakers, I would first like to express our sincere appreciation for you, Mr. President, as well as your team and your predecessors for your tireless efforts in working towards a consensus decision on the work of the Conference on Disarmament. Your dedication and commitment are commendable. I would also like to thank all the delegations for their valuable contributions and the flexibility that they have shown in this process. It is through such a collaborative spirit that we can achieve meaningful progress in our shared goals of disarmament and non-proliferation.

As my delegation has pointed out in the past, at this late stage in the year, the greatest merit of this programme of work is the emphasis that it places on continuity. The persistent and consistent pursuit of our objectives is essential to producing the momentum necessary for substantial and lasting results. Spending months negotiating a programme of work at the start of each year does not leave much room for substantial work, as we have seen again this year. The Conference is bound by its rules of procedure, but the delegation of Germany joined the consensus on the decision on the work of the Conference for 2024 on the clear understanding that this decision also constitutes the decision on the work of the Conference for 2025. Therefore, it is our understanding that this programme of work will swiftly be adopted and implemented again at the start of 2025.

The decision reached will enable the Conference to engage in substantive work on all its key priorities, particularly the negotiation of a fissile material cut-off treaty. This critical area has significant implications for global security, and the negotiation of such a treaty forms part of the mandate given to the Conference by the General Assembly. In that regard, my delegation is eager to contribute constructively to these discussions. The fissile material cut-off treaty is a high priority for us. Other delegations might have other priorities. My delegation is ready to engage with work on other subjects, such as negative security assurances.

Mr. President, I would also like to thank the delegations of Peru, Switzerland, Egypt and Bulgaria for expressing their willingness to take on the important role of coordinator. We trust that you will be able to finalize the list of coordinators for the meeting next week.

Once again, we thank you, Mr. President, and all the delegations for their unwavering efforts and we look forward to the substantive work ahead of us. Thank you, Mr. President.

**The President** (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank Ambassador Göbel for his valuable statement. I now give the floor to Ambassador Camille Petit of France.

**Ms. Petit** (France) (*spoke in French*): Mr. President, France aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union. I would like to make a few additional comments in a national capacity.

First of all, I would like to thank you and your team for all your efforts to reach an agreement on a programme of work for 2024 that fully reflects the progress we made at the start of the year under the Indian and Indonesian presidencies, which laid the groundwork for the consensus we have reached today on the draft decision you brought before us.

As I have already said, my delegation has shown a very strong spirit of compromise in these discussions and has made major concessions to enable the Conference on Disarmament to resume its substantive work without further delay. We are therefore pleased to proceed – or, rather, to have proceeded – with the adoption of a text that is, to our mind, stronger than the 2022 version and that explicitly mentions the objective of resuming negotiations in the Conference while fully reflecting our past work. For France, it is very clear that this body of work includes the decisions already adopted by the Conference on its

various programmes of work and on negotiating mandates such as the Shannon mandate, which, I would remind you, was adopted by consensus. The work of subsidiary body 2 must therefore take this fully into account.

What is more, my delegation is pleased that we have been able to ensure an element of continuity in our work, which must enable us to renew the same programme of work without delay when the Conference begins its 2025 session, given the little time we have left now to convene the subsidiary bodies. We will therefore support the renewal of this programme of work in early 2025 under the Italian presidency.

Mr. President, France reaffirms its full confidence in you to confirm the appointment of the coordinators, to whom we extend our warmest thanks, who will be tasked with steering the work of the subsidiary bodies. It is important that these bodies be set up without further delay, so that they can meet before the second part of the Conference draws to a close in July. We therefore hope that we can adopt the decisions concerning the nomination of the coordinators and the timetable for each subsidiary body next week, as you have suggested.

I thank you.

**The President** (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank Ambassador Petit for her valuable statement. I now give the floor to the Ambassador of Nigeria.

**Mr. Damazio** (Nigeria): Thank you for giving me the floor. Firstly, my delegation would like to commend the delegation of Iraq and the three previous presidencies – the presidencies of India, Indonesia and Iran – for all the hard work done to facilitate the adoption of a programme of work this year. We are also glad to see the enthusiasm displayed by the member States as we attempt to chart a progressive path for the Conference on Disarmament.

In this same spirit, my delegation urges member States to view the progress made today not only as a step in the right direction but also as a call for constructive dialogue and the utmost flexibility, particularly in the adoption of the final reports of the subsidiary bodies.

Given the limited time available for convening the meetings of the subsidiary bodies this year, it is essential for member States to be cognizant of what is at stake. It is pertinent to point out that nuclear disarmament is the key focus of this body and that, without political will, it will remain a myth. My delegation wishes to place on record that the establishment of subsidiary bodies within the Conference is not a new initiative. However, the outcome of the work of the subsidiary bodies this year depends solely on the positions held by each member State throughout the process. Failure to realize this will result in another failed attempt to achieve meaningful progress.

While we do not consider the adopted programme of work to be ideal, we will remain open to engaging with the process throughout its duration in a spirit of flexibility. In conclusion, my delegation would like to reiterate its call for substantive negotiations to commence on all the items of the Conference's agenda, including negative security assurances. Thank you.

**The President** (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank the representative of Nigeria for his valuable statement. I now give the floor to the Ambassador of the United Kingdom.

**Mr. Liddle** (United Kingdom): Thank you, Mr. President. I will be brief. I wanted to add my voice to those congratulating you for your work on this decision. Evidently, the faith that we expressed in your abilities at the start of your presidency was well placed. You are building on the excellent work of your predecessors as President of the Conference on Disarmament this year. The delegation of the United Kingdom trusts that the final details relating to the subsidiary bodies can be finalized quickly so that this decision can be implemented and their work can begin soon. My delegation believes that this decision, while imperfect, is nevertheless an improvement on the lowest common denominator decision reached in 2022, particularly in respect of the pragmatic and sensible introduction of a provision relating to continuity in 2025. It is hoped that this will allow the first presidency of the 2025 session to put in place the arrangements for the continued work of the subsidiary bodies at the start of that session.

Ultimately, the question of whether this decision is a success or not will be determined by the work carried out in the subsidiary bodies themselves. It is not enough to adopt a

procedural decision and to congratulate ourselves. The Conference must resist the urge to continually tinker with the procedure governing the subsidiary bodies, or to haggle endlessly over the modalities. We must spend the time that we have in 2024 and 2025 on substantive work on nuclear disarmament, the prevention of an arms race in outer space and the other issues that delegations want to bring to the table. We must use our time wisely, and we must try to get the Conference back to negotiating substantive agreements on these important issues. With that, Mr. President, I thank you and I look forward to the subsequent decision on implementation that, I hope, will be taken next week.

**The President** (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank Ambassador Aidan Liddle for his valuable statement. I now give the floor to the representative of Cuba.

**Ms. Paumier López** (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): Thank you, Mr. President. We will be very brief. We are grateful to you and your team for your efforts and diligence, thanks to which we will be able, with the support and flexibility of all members, to reach consensus and adopt a decision today. We join others in commending the three Presidents who preceded you and who laid the groundwork for where we are today. Our sincere thanks go to the Presidents and members of the Group of 21 and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, Ambassador Anupam Ray of India, Ambassador Febrian Ruddyard of Indonesia and Ambassador Ali Bahreini of Iran. Our delegation will participate in a constructive and positive manner in the subsidiary bodies, particularly those related to nuclear disarmament and the negotiation of a universal convention on negative security assurances, which is our number one priority in the field of disarmament.

We will also focus on work on prevention of an arms race in outer space. We welcome the decisions of the delegations of Peru, Egypt, Bulgaria and Switzerland to coordinate these subsidiary bodies. We look forward to hearing what work you have planned for this year and, possibly, beyond.

As others have pointed out, we should ensure that due consideration is given at all times to the broad and balanced nature of the Conference on Disarmament and the different priorities of delegations. We are confident that the momentum created by this positive outcome can be carried through to the work of the subsidiary bodies. Thank you again.

**The President** (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank the representative of Cuba for her valuable statement. The representative of Australia now has the floor.

**Ms. Hill** (Australia): Thank you very much, President. The delegation of Australia would like to join the other delegations in thanking you and each of the presidencies this year for all the work that has brought us to this decision on the work of the Conference on Disarmament today. We commend the very intensive efforts that have gone into this achievement and the great collaboration that we have seen across the presidencies this year. We would also like to thank the delegations of Peru, Switzerland, Egypt and Bulgaria for indicating their willingness to serve as coordinators for the subsidiary bodies. We can assure you of our willingness to work with you and support you in these efforts. One issue that is very important for my delegation, as it is for other delegations, is the issue of continuity, which is a key aspect of the decision. We welcome in particular the language in paragraph 6, which sends a very clear signal about the Conference's expectations and intentions in this regard. It is certainly our expectation that the subsidiary bodies will swiftly resume their work in 2025. We can therefore use the time that we have to get on with the very pressing substantive work facing the Conference. We look forward to a swift decision on finalizing the names of the coordinators and we hope that, to the extent possible, the coordinators will remain the same from this year to the next.

With regard to the work, my delegation continues to believe that a fissile material cut-off treaty remains the most pressing priority on the Conference's agenda and this will certainly be our focus in subsidiary body 2. Obviously, we are also ready to engage substantively and constructively with all the work taking place across the subsidiary bodies in 2024 and 2025. Thank you again, President.

**The President** (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank the representative of Australia for her valuable statement. I now give the floor to the representative of South Africa.

**Ms. Saran** (South Africa): Mr. President, my delegation wishes to express our appreciation for your stewardship of the Conference on Disarmament and for arriving at a consensus decision on the work of the Conference for 2024. The current difficult geopolitical context intensifies the need for the Conference to take urgent concrete action. Accordingly, my delegation once again reiterates the importance of the role of the Conference, as the international community's single multilateral negotiating body on disarmament, in addressing these prevailing realities and calls for the urgent resumption of its function in accordance with the mandate recognized by the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

My delegation reiterates its deep concern about the Conference's failure to resume substantive work through a programme of work with a negotiating mandate. This failure undermines the Conference's credibility and raises concerns about its continued relevance. It is imperative that the international community work together to address our shared international security interests. Collectively, the members of the Conference hold the key to unlocking the true potential of this body.

The longer we delay in addressing the threats posed by nuclear weapons, the greater the risk to humanity. Making measurable progress in the area of nuclear disarmament must therefore remain our core goal and is a major determinant in achieving and sustaining international peace and security. One of the main concerns for my delegation in this process is that the Conference has adopted a decision to create subsidiary bodies with a deliberative mandate, as opposed to a negotiating mandate, which draws us away from the end goal of negotiating legally binding instruments. Repeatedly undertaking certain activities, such as adopting decisions with no mandate, will not lead to the adoption of a programme of work. My delegation hopes that some progress will be made that will bring us closer to the resumption of substantive work in the Conference.

The delegation of South Africa also hopes that the manner in which the consultations on the draft decision on the programme of work have been conducted since the start of the Conference's 2024 session will not be repeated in the future. We call for an inclusive and transparent dialogue on future engagements on this important issue. South Africa stands ready to contribute to exploring options to unlock the potential of this institution. We will remain actively and constructively engaged with the Conference and other multilateral forums with a view to seeking solutions. These solutions will inevitably require compromise to strengthen the multilateral system and the efforts being made to achieve a world without nuclear weapons. Thank you.

**The President** (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank the representative of South Africa for her valuable statement. I now give the floor to the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Israel.

**Ms. Eilon Shahar** (Israel): Thank you very much, Mr. President. I will be brief. I wanted to join the other delegations in thanking you, your team and the secretariat for all the efforts that you have invested in the open dialogue conducted among the six member States that have occupied the presidency of this session and the other delegations of the Conference on Disarmament. They are very much appreciated. We are also pleased that the Conference has reached a consensus on the decision and the subsidiary bodies in the programme of work. We particularly welcome the paragraph in the decision relating to continuity. We look forward to working with all of you in what remains of 2024 and in 2025. Thank you very much.

**The President** (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Israel for her valuable statement. The representative of Tunisia now has the floor.

**Mr. Ben Cheikh** (Tunisia) (*spoke in Arabic*): Mr. President, just briefly, I wanted to thank you and congratulate you on the good results we have achieved today, thanks to your wise management of the work of the Conference on Disarmament. You are no stranger to this, having previously chaired many meetings in the field of disarmament, all of which have managed to achieve the desired results.

Of course, we also congratulate ourselves on reaching a decision that takes into account all the concerns and positions of member States. I would also like to thank all the delegations that have participated in the consultations over the past weeks and have shown understanding and flexibility in the negotiations. In addition, we thank the Ambassadors of India, Indonesia and Iran for their important and crucial roles in achieving this outcome. At the same time, I express my appreciation to the colleagues who volunteered to chair the subsidiary bodies, namely the representatives of Peru, Egypt, Bulgaria and Switzerland. I would like to express to them our wish to benefit from their expertise in this field and our determination to support their work during the coming period, especially since the draft decision guarantees the continuation of the discussion until next year and does not commit it to very limited periods of time that could prevent us from reaching an agreement in this regard.

Again, thank you, Mr. President, and also thank you to the secretariat, of course, for its recent efforts.

**The President** (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank the representative of Tunisia for his valuable statement. The representative of Argentina now has the floor.

**Mr. Montani Cazabat** (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): We wish to thank you, above all, Mr. President, for your leadership and efforts to reach this consensus on the programme of work of the Conference on Disarmament. We are also grateful to the previous presidencies and all the delegations that have made this adoption possible by demonstrating flexibility in pursuit of a common goal.

This is a very important step towards breaking the current deadlock and initiating substantive discussions on the agenda items without further delay. We agree with other delegations that it is important to ensure the continuity of the work of the Conference and its subsidiary bodies.

Although we would have preferred to include stronger language to ensure that the arrangements will remain in place for the next session, we join the consensus in a constructive spirit and on the understanding that this programme will enable us to move our work forward over the coming year.

We hope that the subsidiary bodies can, with a view to achieving tangible results, commence their work as soon as possible. Thank you very much.

**The President** (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank the representative of Argentina for his valuable statement. I now give the floor to the representative of Brazil.

**Ms. Bêlkior de Souza e Silva** (Brazil): Thank you, Mr. President. Your leadership as the President of the Conference on Disarmament has been commendable in advancing our work. The adoption of the draft decision to establish subsidiary bodies shows a strong commitment to making progress and builds upon the valuable groundwork laid by your predecessors from India, Indonesia, and Iran, whose contributions paved the way. As the current coordinators of the Group of 21, my delegation is especially grateful to the delegations of Peru and Egypt for volunteering to act as the coordinators of subsidiary bodies 1 and 4, respectively. In offering their expertise and insights, these two delegations, which are both members of the Group of 21, are making another generous contribution to an important disarmament process. We also wish the best of luck to the representatives of Switzerland and Bulgaria in coordinating subsidiary bodies 2 and 5. Please count on the support of my delegation in undertaking the substantive work that we are about to start. We hope that it may continue in 2025. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

**The President** (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank the representative of Brazil for her valuable statement. I now give the floor to the last speaker, the representative of Algeria.

**Mr. Benaouda** (Algeria) (*spoke in Arabic*): Thank you, Mr. President, for giving me the floor. At the outset, I would like to thank you very much for your efforts to enable the Conference on Disarmament to reach agreement on a comprehensive and balanced programme of work. Thanks also to the first three presidencies of India, Indonesia and Iran for their efforts and coordination of the positions of the various members of the Conference on Disarmament.

Certainly, the adoption of a programme of work is a very important step because it allows the Conference to begin its mandated work of negotiating binding international instruments in the field of disarmament, which is normally done through the subsidiary bodies, which have had difficulty doing their work during this year. That is why you have made this important proposal, which is to continue the work of the subsidiary bodies through the next year, 2025. We hope that during the substantive and thematic discussion in the subsidiary bodies, we will all have the opportunity to make progress in order to strengthen negotiations with the ultimate goal of agreeing on binding international instruments, because we all know that international relations are governed by agreements and treaties, and we believe that the field of disarmament is in urgent need of this type of binding agreement.

We also hope that an international environment conducive to negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament will prevail and that all delegations will demonstrate the political will necessary for achieving any progress in this field.

Once again, Mr. President, thank you very much.

**The President** (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank the representative of Algeria for his statement. Now, dear colleagues, before concluding this meeting, I would once again like to thank you all for your kind words, encouragement and cooperation with us to achieve this result. In this connection, I would like to recall that the secretariat will distribute a copy of the decision adopted today as document CD/2390.

Once again, thank you all for your active participation in the discussions. Finally, the secretariat will contact you to communicate the logistics regarding our next meeting next week. Thank you.

The meeting is adjourned.

*The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.*