

DRAFT DECISION

Measures for Improving the Effectiveness of the Methods of Work of the Disarmament Commission

The Disarmament Commission, having met (at the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York) from 10 to 28 April 2006 for its substantive session and considered the issue of measures for improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the Commission,

Reaffirming the important role of the Commission within the disarmament mechanisms of the United Nations as the only body with universal membership for in-depth deliberations on relevant disarmament issues,

Emphasizing that the review of the methods of work of the Commission should be carried out with a view to strengthening the role of the Commission,

Recognizing the Commission's previous efforts to streamline and rationalize its working methods,

Reaffirming that General Assembly decision 52/492, adopted on 8 September 1998, concerning the efficient functioning of the Commission, should continue to be the basis of methods of work for the Commission,

Recognizing, at the same time, the need to consider further ways to improve the effectiveness of its methods of work, in addition to the elements contained in decision 52/492,

Recalling that General Assembly resolution 60/91 requested the Commission to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items of its agenda,

Having in mind, in this regard, that the following issues have been discussed during this session:

- methods of work in general;
- the agenda, with a specific emphasis on the cycle of deliberations and the number of agenda items, were appropriate;
- organizational issues, in particular the early election of the Chair-person, the composition of the bureau and its early formation, and the advance issuance of documentation, working papers to facilitate the work of the Commission;

- the rules of procedure and decision-making process, including the question of consensus;
- the relationship between the Commission and other disarmament-related bodies, such as the First Committee (Disarmament and International Security) and the Conference on Disarmament

Decides to recommend to the First Committee for its consideration and adoption the following measures for improving the effectiveness of the Commission's methods of work:

- The Chair-persons and Vice Chair-persons of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies should be elected at an organizational session of the Commission, at least three months before the beginning of the substantive session. The regional groups should present their candidates early enough to make such elections possible.
- The Chairs of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies are encouraged to conduct inter-sessional consultations to improve the efficiency of the Commission's work.
- Member States are also encouraged to present their national working documents to the Commission as early as possible before the beginning of the substantive session, to serve as a basis for deliberations in the meetings ahead.
- The Commission should make an effort to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with other disarmament machinery of the United Nations such as the First Committee of the General Assembly and the Conference of Disarmament, including through the participation of the Chair or President of each body at the meetings of the others.
- The Commission is encouraged to invite experts on disarmament from within and outside the United Nations system, including experts at the UNIDIR, for thematic discussions at its plenary or subsidiary meetings.
- The Commission should consider adopting by consensus, on an ad hoc basis, the durations for consideration of each agenda item, as called for in paragraph (d) of decision 52/492.