



Permanent Representation  
of the Federal Republic of Germany  
to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva

**Statement**  
**by the Permanent Representative of Germany**  
**to the Conference on Disarmament,**  
**Ambassador Peter Beerwerth,**  
**on 4 February 2021**

Mr. President,

First of all I would like to express my full support of the statement just delivered by the European Union.

Mr. President,

It was with great satisfaction and relief that we received the news about the successful extension of the New START treaty. Against the negative trend of the last years this is a positive development which we very much welcome and support. This sends out an important signal for the year 2021 which I described in my opening remarks in the CD 2 weeks ago as a watershed year for international security, arms control and disarmament.

With its extension New START remains a crucial pillar in the global arms control and disarmament architecture. It also paves the way for its further development which is very much needed, notably in light of growing arsenals by some nuclear powers. As such, we see the extension rather as an important first step but not the end of a process but we feel encouraged by the return of a new and positive dynamic. In light of the upcoming NPT review conference this all the more important as it clearly demonstrates that negative trends can be reversed through political goodwill.

This political goodwill can also be demonstrated in the CD as we are about to discuss the draft program of work for this year, an exercise which in the past 24 years ended in endless but fruitless discussions without the desired outcome. Let us break this vicious circle this time and show that progress is possible also in this august body. Let me reassure you that my delegation will not stand in the way for its adaptation also in its recently updated version.

Thank you, Mr. President.