

**Statement by H.E. the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cyprus**

**Ms. Olympia Neocleous**

**at the Conference on Disarmament**

**Geneva, 8 February 2022**

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Mr. President,

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you on the assumption of the Presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. We align with the Statement delivered by France on behalf of the EU and its Member States at the first Meeting of this year’s Conference and I would like to add a few remarks in our national capacity.

Cyprus welcomes the decision taken at the previous Meeting by which the Conference approved the requests submitted by all UN Member States to participate as Observers at the 2022 Conference on Disarmament. Cyprus is pleased and honoured to resume its long-served position as an Observer of the CD. I wish to express appreciation to the efforts undertaken by P6 and personally to you, Ambassador Li Song of China, for your personal involvement in arriving to a positive outcome regarding the participation by Observers.

Cyprus is convinced that the CD must remain open for participation by all UN Member States. Inclusivity and openness at CD are essential elements towards achieving progress at this instrumental body, thus promoting international peace and security.

I wish in this respect to add our voice to those pointing to the pressing need not to allow bilateral issues inflict at the decision-making process of the CD. Such approaches unnecessarily politicize and intoxicate the discussions at the CD and can never be conducive to our endeavours to fulfil our shared agenda.

It is our hope that this year’s positive spirit is preserved to ensure the participation of all UN Member States at future Sessions of the CD and be the driving force to further advance the work of the CD.

Mr. President,

Cyprus attaches great value at the role of the CD as the world’s only multilateral disarmament treaty negotiating body. We support efforts aiming at revitalising the work at CD in order to retain its primary mandate, that is to address international security challenges and negotiate disarmament and arms control Agreements. We share the view that trust and confidence are indispensable as we strive to galvanise political will and show flexibility towards a functional and results-oriented work at CD.

Cyprus has always been constructively engaged in the various processes of the disarmament machinery and we remain determined to continue working closely and positively with all Members and Observers to achieve our common goals at CD.

I thank you.