

**Statement of the European Union on
"The revitalization of the CD"**

**Conference on Disarmament
Geneva, 14 June 2012**

Mr President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Acceding Country Croatia*, the Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*¹, Iceland+² and Serbia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, align themselves with this declaration.

We welcome the possibility of exchanging views on the issue of the revitalization of the CD in the context of the approved schedule of activities.

We strongly believe that a multilateral approach to security, disarmament and non-proliferation is the best means of maintaining international peace and security. We are a staunch supporter of the United Nations and of effective multilateralism

The existence of new threats to international security makes it more important than ever to have a properly functioning system. Indeed, now is the time to reinforce and revitalize multilateral efforts, since we all recognize that today's global security problems require co-operative and multilateral solutions.

We remain deeply troubled by the on-going stalemate in the Conference on Disarmament. The CD in accordance with its mandate has a crucial role to negotiate multilateral treaties. Its revitalization is more urgent than ever.

We heard the UN Secretary General's urgent appeal on 24 January 2012 to all members of this Conference to support the immediate commencement of negotiations in the CD. We fully support and endorse this appeal. All CD members bear the responsibility of making the CD deliver according to its mandate. It is indeed in our hands to restore the CD to the central role it can play in strengthening the rule of law in the field of disarmament.

Indeed, last autumn the UN General Assembly's First Committee heard once again the overwhelming call for the commencement of substantive work in the Conference on Disarmament. The CD should heed this call and we would like to see effective follow-up to it. All EU Member States together with other UN Member States cosponsored the resolution on

¹ * Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

² + Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

Revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations.

We also noted with interest the suggestions of the Secretary General of the CD, Mr Tokayev.

Mr President,

We would like to reiterate our longstanding attachment to the enlargement of the Conference on Disarmament. We underline the importance of continuation of consultations on the expansion of the membership as expressed in the operative paragraphs of Resolution A66/59 on the Report of last year's session and strongly support appointing a special co-ordinator on the expansion of the CD membership.

We also strongly value close and continuous coordination of the six presidencies, which could considerably contribute to our work. The joint effort to provide some useful order to the CD's proceedings which resulted in a "schedule of activities" going beyond the four weeks term of a single presidency are a welcome step in the right direction.

Consistent with our engagement with civil society, we are also keen to explore ways to strengthen the voice of NGOs and to associate research institutions in the work of the CD.

Mr President,

Our commitment to the CD has not diminished. At the same time, we are aware that the adoption of a Programme of Work will require sustained political effort. If the CD's stand-still continues, the international community will increasingly reflect on options and other ways to ensure progress in multilateral non-proliferation and disarmament.

We acknowledge the security concerns of all states, but at the same time we firmly believe that the consensus rule must not be subject to abuse. We therefore appeal to all delegations to the Conference on Disarmament to show the flexibility, which is needed by all of us, if we want to overcome the longstanding stalemate.

Mr President,

As we stated in our previous statements, for us the immediate commencement of substantive work through the adoption and implementation of a Programme of Work, building on the document CD/1864 is the highest priority. The CD needs to resume its work without delay. We urgently need multilateral progress on the crucial issues that have been on our agenda for such a long time and for the CD to do what it was created to do.

Thank you, Mr President.