

## ADDRESS TO CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

<b>Time and Place</b>  Tuesday 28 February, 15:30-16:00 Room XVIII, Palais des Nations	<b>Key attendees</b>  Ms Amanda Gorely, Australian Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN and the Conference on Disarmament  <b>s22(1)(a)(ii)</b> Counsellor (Disarmament)
<b>Minister's role, objectives, context and sensitivities</b>  Your statement to the Conference on Disarmament (CD) provides an opportunity to register our concerns regarding the deteriorating international security environment, and reinforce Australia's commitment to the global non-proliferation and disarmament regime and the international rules and norms which underpin it.  Around 40 of the 65 CD member states are expected to participate in the High-Level Segment. A number of non-member States also usually participate as observers, <b>s 33(a)(iii)</b>  Many Australian foreign ministers have addressed the CD, including Gareth Evans and most recently former Foreign Minister Marise Payne (virtually) in 2022.	
<b>Handling note</b>  On your arrival in-country, Geneva Post will provide you with the final statement.  You will be introduced by the President of the Conference on Disarmament, currently Ethiopia, and will be invited to deliver your statement. There are no time limits on statements in the CD. The CD is not broadcast on UN Web TV but the audio is live streamed online. <b>s 33(a)(iii)</b>	

Conference on Disarmament

Statement by Australia to the High-Level Segment

Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Tim Watts MP

28 February 2023

- Placeholder – this will be shared with you on the ground.

## Background

The CD is the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, but it has been unable to agree on a negotiating agenda since 1997. Its consensus decision-making principle, while important in protecting members' vital security interests, **s 33(a)(iii)**

In lieu of substantive negotiations, and despite having no formal 'deliberative' role, the CD continues to provide an important forum for debate on key disarmament matters.

The CD was established as a limited-membership body of 65 states in order to facilitate its negotiating mandate, but other UN Member States can apply to participate as observers on an annual basis. It is the only forum on nuclear weapons in which all possessor states are represented. The CD sits for 24 weeks each year and began its 2023 session on 23 January. The CD presidency rotates every four weeks based on an alphabetical order of member states' names. Ethiopia is the current President.

Australia's highest priority in the CD is the commencement of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT), **s 33(a)(iii)**

The CD is also an important venue for our advocacy on other practical measures on disarmament, including entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), measures on nuclear risk reduction, transparency and verification, as well as on our space security priorities.

The 65 members of the CD are the five nuclear weapon states plus Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, DPRK, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, ROK, Romania, Senegal, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

**Assistant Foreign Minister – the Hon Tim Watts MP**  
**EVENT BRIEF**

<b>Event</b>	MEDIA BRIEF GENEVA VISIT
<b>Time</b>	27 February – 2 March 2023

s22(1)(a)(ii)

**3. VISIT FRAMING – DISARMAMENT ..... 3**

s22(1)(a)(ii)



### 3. VISIT FRAMING – DISARMAMENT

- The world is facing the most challenging strategic circumstances since the Second World War – the rules and norms that have underpinned our peace and security are increasingly under threat.
- The Australian Government will continue Australia's proud history of championing practical disarmament efforts, including through the Conference on Disarmament.
- Australia has always pursued a world without nuclear weapons. We will redouble our efforts towards this goal and to strengthening the non-proliferation regime.
- The Conference on Disarmament can play a crucial developing the international rules that underwrite our stability, prosperity and sovereignty – this will require political will of all member states.
- Australia condemns Russia's desperate and reckless nuclear threats which undermine global efforts on non-proliferation and disarmament, including in the Conference on Disarmament.

#### IF RAISED: Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

- The Australian Government shares the TPNW's ambition of a world without nuclear weapons.
- We will consider the TPNW systematically and methodically as a part of our ambitious agenda to advance nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

s22(1)(a)(ii)

