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Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons

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Item 5 of the agenda

Develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons

List of ideas, elements and proposals raised during the May meetings of the Open-ended Working Group on Taking Forward Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament Negotiations

Submitted by the Chairperson

I. Introduction

1. This listing of ideas, elements and proposals drawn from the presentations, statements and interventions made during the 14-24 May meetings of the group, was prepared by the Chairperson under his own responsibility and initiative. This listing has no status and it is submitted in order to assist delegations in their preparations for the 19-30 August meetings of the open-ended Working Group in its consideration of “developing proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons”¹.

II. Ideas and elements

- Achieving a world without nuclear weapons – one objective, but different avenues
- How to build bridges: Identify and elaborate **building blocks for the establishment and maintenance of a world free of nuclear weapons**.

¹ A/RES/67/56, paragraph 1.

- The humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons.
- The developmental, economic and environmental implications of any use of nuclear weapons.
- Nuclear weapons in current security concepts; new security paradigms; human security versus traditional security concepts.
- The role of nuclear weapons in security and military doctrines.
- Legal aspects, including International Humanitarian Law, related to the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.
- Potential of initiatives to delegitimizing and devaluing nuclear weapons.
- Relationship between nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.
- The potential contribution of nuclear weapon free zones to a world without nuclear weapons.
- Nuclear disarmament and the achievement of a nuclear weapons free world – the time factor.
- Promoting and enhancing existing instruments for nuclear disarmament (Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)).
- Banning the production of fissile material.
- Transparency.
- Verification.
- Addressing all components of nuclear weapons.
- De-alerting.
- Confidence building measures and possible instruments for such.
- Prohibition of nuclear weapons and possible legal instruments for such.
- Reduction of nuclear arsenals.
- Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education.
- High-level awareness raising for nuclear disarmament.
- Engaging nuclear weapons possessing states inside and outside established multilateral fora.
- Options for non-nuclear-weapon States to facilitate nuclear disarmament.
- Actors network and the role of various actors in nuclear disarmament, including civil society, parliamentarians, academia etc.

III. Proposals

2. The following list of proposals was drawn from the panels and discussions held during the May segment of the Open-ended Working Group. It is not exhaustive and delegations are invited to notify the chairperson if a proposal was not reflected.

- Given the devastating global consequences of nuclear weapons and nuclear detonation, the existential threat to all mankind that nuclear weapons represent should not be handled as a national security matter by a handful of States.

- Given that there are no formal historical proofs that nuclear deterrence has prevented an armed conflict, change perception of nuclear weapons and review the **deterrence role of nuclear weapons** in the military doctrines of the nuclear weapon possessing States.
- Reduction of the salience of nuclear weapons in the security doctrines.
- Devise new strategic concepts recognizing that nuclear deterrence is not a viable security doctrine. New security paradigms can holistically address three nuclear dangers-existing arsenals, non-proliferation and the risk of nuclear terrorism - and shift commitments and security arrangements toward nuclear disarmament.
- Re-conceptualization of the nuclear disarmament debate: increasing focus on the humanitarian dimension of nuclear disarmament instead of the traditional security aspect.
- Initiation of a legal debate on nuclear disarmament in the International Humanitarian Law context.
- **Abolition** of nuclear weapons, as a step towards nuclear disarmament and nuclear weapon free world. Historically, legal prohibitions generally precede and facilitate the processes of stockpile elimination, not the other way around. History and experience also show that weapons that have been outlawed become delegitimized. They lose their political status, and no money and resources are invested in their production, modernization, proliferation and perpetuation.
- **Delegitimizing and devaluing** nuclear weapons as a significant first partial norm-setting step by non-nuclear-weapon States.
- Negotiation of a legally-binding instrument committing all States to a world without nuclear weapons and containing elements that need to be covered.
- Unequivocal commitment of all nuclear-weapon States to the goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons.
- Given that nuclear disarmament should not be held hostage to non-proliferation objectives, pursue unconditional nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation on parallel tracks.
- Develop a clear time bound internationally verifiable road map for nuclear disarmament.
- Based on a thorough and comprehensive assessment of all elements necessary to achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons, develop and adopt a **building blocks approach** as an alternative to the step-by-step or the comprehensive approaches. Such an approach must be legally binding with clearly defined benchmarks and timelines and backed by a strong verification system.
- Clearly identify the elements (treaty negotiation, implementation and universalization) of the **step-by-step approach**.
- Agree on an universal commitment and agreed multilateral framework for a global and non-discriminatory step-by-step approach to nuclear disarmament and achieving and maintaining a nuclear weapon free world.
- Agree on a **building blocks approach** that could include, in parallel, elements, such as:
 - negotiation of fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT);

- Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) entry into force; achieving the universality of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT);
 - achieving the universality of the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT);
 - strengthening the nuclear-weapon-free zones and establishing new nuclear-weapon-free zones;
 - transparency;
 - legally binding instrument on negative security assurances;
 - identifying baseline data for verification;
 - reviewing the role of nuclear weapons in military doctrines;
 - strengthening the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA);
 - negotiating a nuclear weapon convention(s) which may be a set of treaties on stockpiles destruction, verification, etc.
- Address nuclear weapons in their totality with nuclear warheads being the units of account. Disaggregation of tactical and strategic nuclear weapons.
 - Adoption of **measures** by nuclear-weapon States to **reduce nuclear danger**, including the risks of accidental nuclear war, de-alerting of nuclear weapons to prevent unintentional and accidental use of nuclear weapons.
 - Negotiation of a **global agreement among nuclear weapon States on “no-first-use”** of nuclear-weapons.
 - Negotiation of a universal and legally-binding agreement on **non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon States**.
 - Negotiation of a **Convention on the complete prohibition of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons**.
 - Negotiation of a **nuclear weapons convention** prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and on their destruction, leading to the global, non-discriminatory and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified timeframe.
 - Gradual reduction of **nuclear arsenals** to lowest possible level on the basis of an agreed timetable.
 - Action plan for a nuclear-weapons-free and non-violent world order for attaining the goal of a nuclear disarmament in a time-bound, universal, non-discriminatory, phased and verifiable manner.
 - Develop nuclear disarmament and non proliferation **education programmes**.
 - Commence immediate negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a non-discriminatory, comprehensive and internationally verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices (FMCT).
 - Include the threat of the use of nuclear weapons as a core international crime that can be investigated and prosecuted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) along with genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression.
 - Examine how existing **transparency and verification** institutions and mechanisms at our disposal could be used for confidence building and nuclear disarmament.

- An intergovernmental forum, such as the Open-ended Working Group, to hold substantive discussions and clarify all the aspects of the elements, which would be part of the road towards nuclear disarmament, such as definitions, fissile materials, stockpiles destruction, verification and confidence building, etc.
 - Increase transparency (complexities in interpreting the purpose of many technologies and activities are central for any disarmament activities).
 - The example set by France is one to be emulated by the nuclear-weapon States and other nuclear weapon-possessing States (NWPS). France has verifiably dismantled its nuclear-weapon testing sites as well as production facilities for the manufacture of weapon-usable nuclear material.
 - Reinstitution of traditional verification functions, development of new verification tools and procedures, and restauration of the principle of non-exceptionalism.
 - Immediate resumption of substantive work at the Conference on Disarmament.
 - Countries which support multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament should pursue this objective in the Conference on Disarmament which brings together all the relevant countries and avoid setting up alternative forums or processes parallel to the Conference on Disarmament.
 - Convene a global nuclear summit at which all States should solemnly pledge to cooperate and work together on an agenda and timetable for nuclear disarmament.
 - Engage nuclear weapon-possessing States (NWPS) outside current nuclear disarmament and arms control arrangements in the conceptualization and formulation of nuclear disarmament initiatives such as this Open-ended Working Group.
 - Campaign to create conditions for disarmament without linkages. Disarmament should be regarded as a process, not an unachievable end-state.
 - Establish an expert group to address all policy and specific legal, technical and other aspects of nuclear disarmament, such as reducing nuclear arsenals, verification, transparency, etc.
 - Integration of parliamentarians in national delegations.
 - Engage nuclear weapon-possessing States (NWPS) outside current nuclear disarmament and arms control arrangements in the conceptualization and formulation of nuclear disarmament initiatives - this Open-ended Working Group could be a good beginning.
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