



General Assembly

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Open-ended Working Group taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations¹

Geneva 2016

Item 5 (b) (iii) of the agenda

**Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations
additional measures to increase awareness and understanding of
the complexity of and interrelationship between the wide range
of humanitarian consequences that would result from any nuclear detonation**

Panel III on additional measures to increase awareness and understanding of the complexity of and interrelationship between the wide range of humanitarian consequences that would result from any nuclear detonation

Submitted by the Chairperson

Mandate

1. Pursuant to United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/33, entitled “Taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations”, adopted in December 2015, the United Nations General Assembly decided to convene an open-ended working group in Geneva to “substantively address concrete effective legal measures, legal provisions and norms that will need to be concluded to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons”(operative paragraph 2).
2. The open-ended working group “shall also substantively address recommendations on other measures that could contribute to taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, including but not limited to (a) transparency measures related to the risks associated with existing nuclear weapons; (b) measures to reduce and eliminate the risk of accidental, mistaken, unauthorized or intentional nuclear weapon detonations; and (c) additional measures to increase awareness and understanding of the complexity of and interrelationship between the wide range of humanitarian consequences that would result from any nuclear detonation” (operative paragraph 3).

¹ Established pursuant to resolution 70/33 of the General Assembly of the United Nations.



Objectives

3. This panel will focus on operative paragraph 3 (c) of resolution 70/33. The objective is to identify additional measures to increase awareness and understanding of the complexity of and interrelationship between the wide range of humanitarian consequences that would result from any nuclear detonation.
4. During discussions at the first meetings of the Group in February as well as drawing upon working papers submitted, all States were called upon to, inter alia, promote disarmament and non-proliferation education, including on humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons, especially in States that possess nuclear weapons.
5. Delegations also called upon Member States, the United Nations system and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, academia, parliamentarians, the mass media and individuals to enhance public awareness about the threat of nuclear weapons, its impact on health and gender, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), climate change and environment, protection of cultural heritage and human rights, including through observance of 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.
6. A more detailed list of possible additional measures proposed to increase awareness of humanitarian consequences can be found in annex IV of the Chair's Synthesis Paper.

Guiding questions

- What would be the likely overall impact (human, economic, social and environmental consequences) of a nuclear detonation?
- How would implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development be affected by a nuclear detonation?
- What measures can be undertaken to better sensitize the public, in particular the younger generation, on the reality of the use of nuclear weapons and its humanitarian consequences?

Panellists

Mr. Ira Helfand, Dr., Co-President, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW);

Ms. Sara Sekkenes, Adviser, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
