



General Assembly

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Open-ended Working Group taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations¹

Geneva 2016

Item 5 (a) of the agenda

**Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations
concrete effective legal measures, legal provisions and norms that
will need to be concluded to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons**

Panel IV on essential elements that could form part of effective legal measures, legal provisions and norms that will need to be concluded to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons

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).

Objectives

2. This panel will focus on further identifying essential elements that could form part of effective legal measures, legal provisions and norms that will need to be concluded to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons.

3. During discussions at the first meeting of the Group in February as well as drawing upon working papers submitted, many possible elements were identified that could form part of a legal instrument or set of instruments. It was noted that many of these elements coincide with obligations undertaken by several States pursuant to their existing treaty-

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



based commitments, including through the NPT and the various nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties. They are also analogous to a number of the core provisions contained within the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention.

4. While not prejudging which approach (a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention, a nuclear weapon ban treaty, a framework agreement, a progressive approach based upon building blocks or other pathways) would be pursued to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations or the sequencing by which they would be undertaken, some elements would be relevant for certain approaches while others could be pursued across more than one. Elements would also vary in their connection to the process of disarmament and in their potential impact on efforts to achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons.

5. Some possible essential elements already identified appear in annex 1 of the Chair's Synthesis Paper².

Guiding questions

- What elements should be included in an instrument or a set of instruments on nuclear disarmament?
- What lessons could be drawn from other disarmament conventions on elements of an instrument or a set of instruments on nuclear disarmament?

Panellists

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² A/AC.286/2.