United Nations A_{/AC.286/WP.32}



Distr.: General 28 April 2016

Original: English

Open-ended Working Group taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations¹

Geneva 2016

Item 5 of the agenda

Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations

Panel V on possible pathways to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations

Submitted by the Chairperson

Mandate

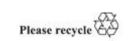
1. Pursuant to United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/33, entitled "Taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations", adopted in December 2015, the United Nations General Assembly decided to convene an open-ended working group in Geneva to "substantively address concrete effective legal measures, 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 further address possible pathways or approaches to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations.
- 3. During discussions at the first meeting of the Group in February as well as drawing upon working papers submitted, four possible approaches for the pursuit of a world without nuclear weapons were identified-- a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention, a nuclear weapon ban treaty, a framework agreement and a progressive approach based upon building blocks. It was noted that these approaches are not necessarily mutually exclusive and in certain cases may differ mainly in term of sequencing.
- 4. A brief description of the main pathways identified is summarized in the Chair's Synthesis Paper².

GE.16-06952(E)







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

² A/AC.286/2.

Guiding questions

- What are the pros and cons of the possible pathways or approaches in taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, and under what circumstances could they be pursued?
- What would be the best modality or process to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations?

Panellists

Mr. Nick Ritchie, Dr., Lecturer (International Security), University of York.

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