



General Assembly

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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.

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

² A/AC.286/2.

GE.16-06952(E)



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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.
