



# General Assembly

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## Open-ended Working Group taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations<sup>1</sup>

Item 5 of the agenda

**Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations**

### **Panel VI on other measures that could contribute to taking 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).
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).

#### **Objectives**

3. This panel will focus on OP3 of resolution 70/33. The objective is to identify other measures that could contribute to taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations.
4. During discussions at the first meetings of the Group in February as well as drawing upon working papers submitted, measures considered include trust and confidence-building

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



measures to create conditions necessary to facilitate further major reductions in nuclear arsenals, as well as the consolidation and strengthening of existing nuclear-weapon-free zones and the establishment of new zones.

5. The establishment of a robust and reliable international verification regime that would become necessary when the world engages into the complete elimination of nuclear weapons was also considered. Other proposals mentioned include the call for negotiation and adoption of a universal and legally binding instrument on negative security assurances.

6. A detailed list of other measures proposed can be found in annex V of the Chair's Synthesis Paper<sup>2</sup>.

7. The Group also discussed the perceived effectiveness of nuclear deterrence in the current international security environment.

8. Under this panel, a discussion will therefore also be held on reviewing the role of nuclear weapons in the security and other contexts of the twenty-first century.

### **Guiding questions**

- What other measures would take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations?
- What role do nuclear weapons play in the security and other contexts of the twenty-first century?

### **Panellists**

Mr. James Cartwright, General(Ret.),Chair of the Global Zero Commission on Nuclear Risk Reduction;

Mr. Paul Ingram,Executive Director, British American Security Information Council (BASIC).

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<sup>2</sup>A/AC.286/2