
Conference on Disarmament

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Nigeria on behalf of member States of G-21

Working paper

Nuclear Disarmament

1. The Group of 21 maintains that the Conference on Disarmament remains the single multilateral negotiating body on disarmament, and in that context, the Group stresses that its highest priority continues to be nuclear disarmament.
2. The Group reiterates its deep concern at the greatest danger both to mankind and to the survival of civilization by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible use or threat of use. As long as nuclear weapons exist, the risk of their use and proliferation will remain.
3. We would like to recall, in this regard, that the very first resolution of the United Nations General Assembly 1(1) of 1946, adopted unanimously, called for the elimination of nuclear weapons from national arsenals.
4. Furthermore, the International Court of Justice, in its advisory opinion of 1996, concluded that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.
5. The Millennium Declaration in 2000 also reaffirmed the commitment of member States of the United Nations to strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons.
6. The Group, while noting, the steps taken by nuclear-weapon States for the reduction of their arsenals, reiterates its deep concern over the slow pace of progress towards nuclear disarmament and the lack of progress by the nuclear weapon states towards accomplishing the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals. The Group stresses the importance of effective implementation of concrete measures leading to a nuclear weapons free world.
7. The Group, stressing its strong commitment to nuclear disarmament, underscores the urgent need to commence negotiations on nuclear disarmament, in the CD, without delay. In this context, the Group reaffirms its full readiness to start negotiations on a phased program for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, including a nuclear-weapons convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and on their destruction, leading to the global, non-discriminatory and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons, with a specified framework of time.

8. In this regard, the Group emphasizes that fundamental principles of transparency, verification and irreversibility shall be applied to all nuclear disarmament measures.
9. The Group reaffirms that nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are substantively interrelated and mutually reinforcing.
10. The G-21 emphasizes that progress in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, in all its aspects, is essential to strengthening international peace and security. The Group reaffirms that efforts toward nuclear disarmament, global and regional approaches and confidence building measures complement each other and should, wherever possible, be pursued simultaneously to promote regional and international peace and security.
11. The Group expresses its concerns about strategic defence doctrines of NWS and a group of States which set out rationales for the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and in this regard, there is therefore a genuine and urgent need to eliminate the role of nuclear weapons in strategic doctrines and security policies to minimize the risk that these weapons will ever be used and to facilitate the process of their elimination. In this regard, the Group recalls its strong support of the objectives of the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/65/71 of 8 December 2010 on "Decreasing the operational readiness of nuclear weapons Systems", as well as the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/65/60 of 8 December 2010 entitled "Reducing Nuclear Danger".
12. The Group reaffirms that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Pending the achievement of the complete elimination of such weapons, the Group reaffirms the urgent need to reach an early agreement on a universal, unconditional and, legally binding instrument to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.
13. The G-21 stresses the significance of achieving universal adherence to the CTBT, including by all nuclear weapon States, which, inter alia, should contribute to the process of nuclear disarmament. The Group reiterates that if the objectives of the Treaty were to be fully realized the continued commitment of all States signatories, especially the nuclear weapon States, to nuclear disarmament would be essential.
14. The Group reaffirms the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, and expresses its determination to promote multilateralism as the core principle of negotiations in these areas. In this regard, the Group strongly supports the objectives of the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/65/64 of 8 December 2010 on the "Promotion of Multilateralism in the Area of Disarmament and Non-proliferation".
15. The Group recalls the Final Documents of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly—the First Special Session on Disarmament— and the 2009 Sharm-el-Sheikh Summit Declaration and Final Document of the Non-Aligned Movement, and the Final Document of the 16th Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Bali, in May 2011, and reiterates its positions as conveyed in its previous statements to the CD.
16. The G21 State Parties to the NPT note with satisfaction the successful outcome of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, and call for the implementation of its Plan of Action on all the three pillars of the Treaty and the Middle East, particularly on the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East (deleted: "including the endorsement of"), and express deep concern over the lack of momentum since its adoption towards convening a conference in 2012, to be attended by all States of the Middle East, on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and urge the UN Secretary General and cosponsors of the 1995 resolution to immediately take all necessary steps for that purpose, as well as recalling in this context the reaffirmation of

the importance of Israel's accession to the Treaty and the placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards. The G21 State Parties to the NPT are encouraged with the commitment of Nuclear Weapons States to accelerate concrete progress on the steps leading to nuclear disarmament contained in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference and take note of the fact that Nuclear Weapons States agreed to report on their undertakings related to nuclear disarmament to the 2014 Preparatory Committee, and that the 2015 Review Conference would take stock and consider next steps for the full implementation of article VI of the Treaty.

17. I would like to reiterate the Group's readiness to make constructive contributions to the work of the Conference, and in this regard I recall the contents of documents CD/36/Rev.1; CD/116; CD/341; CD/819; CD/1388; CD/1462; CD/1570; CD/1571, presented by the G-21 towards this end.

18. In view of the Group's strong commitment to nuclear disarmament, the G-21 reiterates the following concrete steps to promote the goal of nuclear disarmament:

- (a) Reaffirmation of the unequivocal commitment of nuclear weapon States to the goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons;
 - (b) Elimination of the role of nuclear weapons in the security doctrines;
 - (c) Adoption of measures by nuclear-weapon States to reduce nuclear danger, such as de-alerting of nuclear-weapons and decreasing the operational readiness of nuclear-weapons Systems;
 - (d) Negotiation of a universal, unconditional and legally-binding instrument to assure non-nuclear weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;
 - (e) Negotiation of a Convention on the complete prohibition of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;
 - (f) Negotiation of a Nuclear Weapons Convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and on their destruction, leading to the global, non-discriminatory and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time.
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