

# Third Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

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English only

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## Review process of the mandate and terms of reference of the Scientific Advisory Group

Working paper submitted by Mexico

### I. Scientific Advisory Group

1. The first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons established the Scientific Advisory Group. The roles, functions, composition, finances and duration of the Group are set out in document [TPNW/MSP/2022/WP.6](#).
2. The Scientific Advisory Group is the first international scientific body created under a multilateral treaty related to nuclear weapons to support the objectives of the Treaty.
3. It has also been instrumental in building and maintaining a network with the wider scientific community to reinforce awareness and promote universalization of the Treaty.
4. As States Parties continue their commitment to implementing the Non-Proliferation Treaty, there is an increasing demand for up-to-date scientific and technical expertise in support of this effort. The Scientific Advisory Group serves a crucial role in providing expert, science-based advice to the implementation bodies of the Treaty. As global nuclear disarmament efforts grow in complexity, it is vital to ensure that the Group is adequately positioned to address emerging challenges and contribute to the successful achievement of the Treaty's goals.

### II. Reviewing the mandate and terms of reference of the Scientific Advisory Group

5. Regarding the duration and review of the Scientific Advisory Group, the following is stated in document [TPNW/MSP/2022/WP.6](#):
  10. The Group is established for an initial period that will run until the First Review Conference of the Treaty.
  11. The second Meeting of States Parties and the First Review Conference will review the Group's role, functions and membership and decide on any revision.



12. The First Review Conference will also decide the renewal of its mandate on a possible longer-term basis, as well as the renewal of the terms of reference.
6. The first Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons will focus on assessing the operation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the progress made toward its objectives, which could encompass a wide range of issues for States Parties to consider.
7. Consequently, in the intersessional period between the third Meeting of States Parties and the first Review Conference, it will be particularly important for States Parties to reflect on the mandate of the Scientific Advisory Group and appraise the work done by the Group.
8. States Parties should assess the role, functions, composition, meetings and duration of the Scientific Advisory Group, as well as the terms of reference and possible renewal thereof. Other important issues to consider are the sustainability of the Group and possible financing.
9. Focused discussions should incorporate lessons learned from the day-to-day operations of the Scientific Advisory Group, its interactions with States Parties and the intersessional structure.
10. Dedicated sessions for direct exchanges with current members of the Scientific Advisory Group should form part of this consultative process, thereby enriching the deliberations.
11. It is thus recommended that the third Meeting of States Parties establish an informal intersessional consultative process between the third Meeting of States Parties and the first Review Conference. This process should involve States Parties and signatories, with the participation of the Scientific Advisory Group, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, and other relevant stakeholders and experts.
12. These consultations should result in a report to the first Review Conference, assessing the mandate and terms of reference of the Scientific Advisory Group and providing recommendations for future actions.

### **III. Proposed draft decision on the review of the mandate and terms of reference of the Scientific Advisory Group**

13. The following draft decision is proposed for consideration by the third Meeting of States Parties:

The Meeting of States Parties decides:

- (a) To establish an intersessional consultative process, between the third Meeting of States Parties and the first Review Conference, among States Parties and signatories, with the involvement of the Scientific Advisory Group, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons and other stakeholders and experts, to consult and submit a report to the first Review Conference on the mandate and terms of reference of the Scientific Advisory Group and recommendations thereto;
- (b) That [State Party] will be appointed as coordinator for the consultative process on the review of the mandate and terms of reference of the Scientific Advisory Group.