



General Assembly

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Open-ended working group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons

Geneva 2013

Agenda item 5

Develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons

Proposal for practical actions to achieve nuclear disarmament

Submitted by Cuba

1. The existence of more than 19,000 nuclear weapons — of which 4,400 are in operational status and 2,000 are ready for immediate use — and the dangers that this implies, are one of the main challenges to the survival of the human species.
2. There is growing global concern about the threat to humanity posed by the existence of nuclear weapons and their possible use or the threat of their use. The only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of such weapons is their prohibition and complete elimination.
3. Given their disastrous effects, the use of nuclear weapons would involve the flagrant violation of international standards, including those related to the prevention of genocide and environmental protection. The use of nuclear weapons cannot be justified under any security doctrine or concept.
4. Although there is very broad international support for the prohibition and complete elimination of nuclear weapons, little progress has been made towards achieving this goal.
5. Multilateralism and multilaterally agreed solutions, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, are the only sustainable method of addressing the issues related to disarmament and international security, including nuclear disarmament.
6. In December 2012, the United Nations General Assembly adopted an important resolution (resolution 67/39) in which it decided to convene, for the first time in the history of the United Nations, a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament. The meeting will be held in New York on 26 September 2013.

7. The input and support of the international community is needed to ensure that this meeting is a concrete step towards the necessary prohibition and total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Cuba proposes the following non-exhaustive list of 20 practical actions to move towards the goal of nuclear disarmament without further delay:

(a) As a follow-up to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament on 26 September 2013, Cuba proposes the holding of regular meetings in various settings and formats to keep the topic under continuous review, with the aim of building up the support of the international community for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons;

(b) Immediate establishment of an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament, with a negotiating mandate, within the Conference on Disarmament;

(c) Uninterrupted progress in reducing all types of global nuclear-weapon stockpiles;

(d) Adoption of measures to prevent the use of new technologies for upgrading existing nuclear-weapon systems, including the prohibition of nuclear-weapon research and development;

(e) Immediate and permanent cessation of nuclear-weapon testing of any kind, including that carried out by supercomputers and subcritical testing, and the closure of all nuclear-weapon test sites;

(f) Effective and urgent implementation of article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which establishes the commitment to pursue negotiations on effective measures relating to nuclear disarmament and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control;

(g) Full implementation of the 13 practical steps to advance systematically and progressively towards a nuclear-weapon-free world, as agreed at the 2000 NPT Review Conference;

(h) Implementation of the action plan on nuclear disarmament, as agreed at the 2010 NPT Review Conference;

(i) Application of the principles of transparency and irreversibility by the nuclear-weapon States in all measures relating to compliance with nuclear disarmament obligations;

(j) Elimination of the role of nuclear weapons in military and security doctrines;

(k) Gradual reduction of the operational status of nuclear-weapon systems until they have been totally eliminated;

(l) Adoption of measures to reduce the risk of accidental use of nuclear weapons;

(m) Cessation by the nuclear-weapon States of the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery and related infrastructure;

(n) Implementation of practical measures that impede the development and deployment of anti-ballistic missile defence systems;

(o) Withdrawal, by the nuclear Powers, of all reservations and interpretative declarations to the protocols of the treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones which are contrary to the nuclear-free status of such areas;

(p) Creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East;

(q) Urgent adoption of a treaty that provides universal, unconditional and legally binding security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States;

(r) Adoption of a non-discriminatory, multilateral and effectively verifiable treaty that bans the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices and also covers issues of stockpiles, as a step towards the achievement of the main objective of nuclear disarmament;

(s) Establishment of a mechanism for verifying the elimination of nuclear weapons;

(t) Initiation of negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, including the negotiation of a convention on nuclear weapons that prohibits the development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and that stipulates their destruction within a given period.
