



# 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

Item 5 of the agenda

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

## **Matters concerning the Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations**

### **Submitted by Pakistan**

1. Pakistan had abstained on resolution 67/56 in view of its consistent position that the Conference on Disarmament is the appropriate forum to negotiate nuclear disarmament. Nevertheless Pakistan decided to engage with the Open-ended Working Group in line with its continued commitment to the goal of nuclear disarmament.
2. Pakistan congratulates the Open-ended Working Group for successfully adopting its final report. Pakistan has taken note of the report of the Open-ended Working Group contained in document (A/AC.281/L.1/Rev.1), which includes a summary of the “discussions held and proposals made” during the meetings of the Open-ended Working Group. Pakistan emphasizes that these views and proposals have been prepared by the Chair and are neither comprehensive nor exhaustive. Furthermore they are without prejudice to the national positions of Member States and do not constitute agreement on any of the issues.
3. The very first resolution adopted by the General Assembly in 1946 called for “the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and of all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction.” After nearly seven decades, this call is even more compelling today.
4. The first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (SSOD I) clearly attaches priority to nuclear disarmament, by stating that “the ultimate goal in this context is the complete elimination of nuclear weapons”. The first special session of the

General Assembly devoted to disarmament (SSOD I) continues to serve as the only benchmark for States to assess their commitments and obligations towards this ultimate goal of general and complete disarmament. Pakistan hopes that any future negotiations on nuclear disarmament as well as the recommendations of this group would be consistent with The first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (SSOD I).

5. The highest priority attached by the international community to nuclear disarmament has been re-affirmed by the milestone advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice in 1996 as well as by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in his five point proposal of October 2008.

6. Pakistan believes that nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation should be pursued simultaneously and not sequentially. Credible steps by nuclear weapon States within a specified timeframe are essential for restoring a genuine balance between disarmament and non-proliferation. At the same time partial non-proliferation measures should not be confused with nuclear disarmament.

7. There exists no hierarchy or ripeness as claimed by some regarding the so called fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT) as a building block for nuclear disarmament. This would make progress on nuclear disarmament hostage to the conclusion of such a treaty.

8. In Pakistan's view, a treaty on fissile material, which would only ban the future production of fissile material is not sufficient and would merely be a non-proliferation measure. Pakistan favours a treaty on fissile material that bans future production of fissile materials as well as reduces the existing stocks.

9. Pending the achievement of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified timeframe, Pakistan believes that a practical and achievable goal is negotiation for a treaty on negative security assurances (NSAs).

10. Pakistan was compelled by development of nuclear weapons in the region to pursue nuclear deterrent capability. However, as long as these weapons pose a threat to Pakistan's security, Pakistan has to maintain a minimum credible deterrence. Joining the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as a non-nuclear weapon State, as some have called for, is therefore not an option for Pakistan.

11. Total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only guarantee to secure durable peace and security for all. Some nuclear-weapon States pay only lip service to the goal of nuclear disarmament while opposing negotiations on nuclear disarmament in the Conference on Disarmament.

12. At the same time, these nuclear powers continue to pursue policies of exceptionalism and discrimination in the field of nuclear cooperation for reasons of commerce and narrow self interests.

13. Apart from undermining the international non-proliferation regime, such discriminatory policies have and will continue to derail efforts towards non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament. Under these circumstances, it is unrealistic to expect Pakistan to agree to fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT) negotiations.

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