



# 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 6 of the agenda

Report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session

### **Draft**

## **Report of the 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**

### **I. Introduction**

1. Deeply concerned about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, the General Assembly adopted resolution 67/56 entitled “Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations”. By paragraphs 1 and 2 of its resolution 67/56, the General Assembly decided to establish an Open-ended Working Group, to convene in Geneva in 2013 for up to 15 working days, within available timeframes, with the contribution of international organizations and civil society, in accordance with established practice, to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.

2. By paragraph 3 of its resolution 67/56, the General Assembly further decided that the Open-ended Working Group would submit a report on its work, reflecting discussions held and all proposals made, to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session, which will assess its work, taking into account developments in other relevant forums.

### **II. Organizational matters**

#### **A. Opening and duration of the sessions**

3. Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 2 of resolution 67/56 of the General Assembly, the 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, held an organizational meeting on 14 March and substantive meetings from 14 to 24 May, on 27 June and from 19 to 30 August 2013.

4. The Geneva Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs provided the Secretary and substantive support to the Open-ended Working Group.

5. The organizational meeting was opened by the Director of the Geneva Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs who conducted the election of the Chairperson of the Open-ended Working Group.

## **B. Officers**

6. At its organizational session, on 14 March, the Open-ended Working Group elected by acclamation H.E. Mr. Manuel B. Dengo, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations Office in Geneva as Chairperson of the Working Group. He was assisted by Friends of the Chair from Austria, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, Finland, Ghana, Kenya, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand and Switzerland.

## **C. Adoption of the agenda and participation**

7. At its organizational meeting, on 14 March, the Open-ended Working Group adopted its agenda (A/AC.281/1), as follows:

1. Opening of the Session.
2. Election of the Chairperson.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Organization of Work.
5. Develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.
6. Report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session.
7. Any other business.

8. At its organizational meeting, the Open-ended Working Group also decided on the modalities for the broad participation of the representatives of the international organizations and civil society in the work of the Working Group.

## **D. Documentation**

9. The Open-ended Working Group had before it the following documents:

- (a) Agenda (A/AC.281/1)
- (b) Perceptions and views on nuclear disarmament: addressing differences and bridging gaps (A/AC.281/WP.1)
- (c) Proposal for practical actions to achieve nuclear disarmament (A/AC.281/WP.2)

- (d) List of ideas, elements and proposals raised during the May meetings of the Open-ended Working Group on Taking Forward Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament Negotiations (A/AC.281/WP.3)
- (e) Building Blocks for a world without nuclear weapons (A/AC.281/WP.4)
- (f) An exploration of some contributions that also non-nuclear weapon States could engage in to take multilateral nuclear disarmament forward (A/AC.281/WP.5)
- (g) Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations (A/AC.281/WP.6)
- (h) Model Nuclear Weapons Convention (A/AC.281/WP.7)
- (i) Identifying the essential elements for achieving and maintaining a world without nuclear weapons (A/AC.281/WP.8)
- (j) Organizing ideas to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations (A/AC.281/WP.9)
- (k) Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations (A/AC.281/WP.10)
- (l) Timetable for the meetings in May 2013 (A/AC.281/INF/1)
- (m) Summary by the Moderator of Panel I entitled “existing multilateral treaty-based obligations and commitments” (A/AC.281/INF/2)
- (n) Summary by the Moderator of Panel II entitled “towards a world free of nuclear weapons” (A/AC.281/INF/3)
- (o) Summary by the Moderator of Panel VII entitled “roles and responsibilities for nuclear disarmament” (A/AC.281/INF/4)
- (p) Summary by the Moderator of Panel V entitled “a conversation on international law relevant to the use of nuclear weapons” (A/AC.281/INF/5)
- (q) Summary by the Moderator of Panel V entitled “exploring new approaches to nuclear disarmament” (A/AC.281/INF/6)
- (r) Achieving a nuclear weapon free world (A/AC.281/NGO/1)
- (s) Bridging the gaps - building the framework - ensuring success (A/AC.281/NGO/2)
- (t) [...]

### III. Proceedings of the Open-ended Working Group

#### A. General

10. In accordance with its mandate as contained in resolution 67/56 of the General Assembly and pursuant to its agenda, the Open-ended Working Group addressed, in an open, constructive and transparent manner, various issues related to nuclear disarmament, including *inter alia*, the status and role of nuclear weapons in the current security context, the elements and approaches to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, possible ways to achieve and maintain a world free of nuclear weapons and complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

11. In a series of meetings of the Open-ended Working Group, participants expressed their points of view on a range of issues, including current status of and future prospects for nuclear disarmament and multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, existing commitments and initiatives, elements to consider in and the possible approaches to multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, the respective roles and responsibilities of all actors, and other aspects to be addressed for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.

12. As mandated by the General Assembly, the work of the Open-ended Working Group was conducted in a deliberative and inclusive manner and, without prejudice to the eventual outcome and national positions, allowed for frank and constructive discussion on ways to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations.

**B. Taking stock of the existing unilateral, bilateral and multilateral nuclear disarmament commitments as well as of nuclear disarmament proposals that have already been put forward; and aspects, perspectives and challenges that pertain to nuclear disarmament and multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations.**

13. In order to take stock of the existing unilateral, bilateral and multilateral nuclear disarmament commitments and proposals that had already been put forward, as well as of the aspects, perspectives and challenges that pertain to nuclear disarmament and multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, the Open-ended Working Group held informal thematic discussions moderated by the Friends of the Chair, as follows:

(a) **Multilateral Treaty Based Obligations and Commitments**

Moderator: H.E. Mr. Peter Woolcott (Australia)

Panelists: Ms. Theresa Hitchens (UNIDIR), Ms. Beatrice Fihn (Reaching Critical Will), Mr. Ward Wilson (James Martin Centre for Non-Proliferation Studies)

(b) **Towards a world free of nuclear weapons**

Moderator: Mr. Paul Wilson, (Australia)

Panelists: Ms. Gaukhar Mukhatzhanova (James Martin Centre for Non-Proliferation Studies), H.E. Ms. Gioconda Ubeda (OPANAL)

(c) **Other initiatives and proposals**

Moderator: H.E. Ms. Elissa Golberg (Canada)

Panelists: Mr. Jarmo Sareva (UNODA), Mr. Thomas Nash (Article 36)

(d) **Lessons learned: Transparency, confidence building and verification**

Moderator: Mr. Mark Verstedden (Netherlands)

Panelists: Mr. Anders Persbo (VERTIC), Mr. Pavel Podvig (UNIDIR), Mr. Jean Pascal Zanders (EUISS)

(e) **Perspectives on the necessary framework to achieve and maintain a nuclear weapons free world**

Moderator: H.E. Mr. Anthony Andanje (Kenya)

Panelist: Ms. Rebecca Johnson (Acronym Institute for Disarmament)

**(f) A conversation on International Law relevant to the use of nuclear weapons**

Moderator: H.E. Ms. Dell Higgie (New Zealand)

Panelists: Mr. Andrew Clapham (Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights), Ms. Louise Doswald-Beck

**(g) Approaching nuclear disarmament from different angles**

Moderator: H.E. Mr. Urs Schmid (Switzerland)

Panelists: Ms. Patricia Lewis (Chatham House), Mr. John Borrie (UNIDIR), Mr. Neil Buhne (UNDP)

**(h) Roles and responsibilities for nuclear disarmament**

Moderator: H.E. Mr. Antonio Jose Vallim Guerreiro (Brazil)

Panelist: Mr. Tarik Rauf

**(i) The role of parliamentarians in advancing nuclear disarmament**

Moderator: H.E. Mr. Ulises Canchola Gutierrez (Mexico)

Panelists: The Honorable Mr. Martin Chungong (IPU), Mr. Saber Chowdhury (IPU), Baroness Sue Miller (Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament), Mr. Alyn Ware (Basel Peace Office)

**(j) Nuclear Disarmament Education**

Moderator: Mr. Jyri Jarviaho (Finland)

Panelists: Mr. William Potter (Monterey Institute), Ms. Kerstin Vignard (UNIDIR), Mr. Hiro Yamamoto (Japan), Mr. Christian Ciobanu (Nuclear Age Peace Foundation)

**C. General Exchange of Views**

14. At its meetings on 14 and 15 May, the Open-ended Working Group held a general exchange of views. Statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, Austria, Belarus, Brazil (on behalf of the New Agenda Coalition), Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, Germany, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Madagascar, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, and Turkey. Statements were also made by Mayors for Peace and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (on behalf of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, ICAN).

15. At the meeting on 27 June, the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs delivered a statement.

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

16. At the meetings of the Open-ended Working Group on 27 June and 19 and 20 August, working papers containing proposals were introduced by Austria, Cuba, Egypt (on behalf of the New Agenda Coalition – Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand and South Africa), Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan (on behalf of Australia, Belgium, Canada,

Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia and Sweden), Malaysia (on behalf of Costa Rica and Malaysia), Mexico, and jointly by Ireland and Switzerland. A list of ideas, elements and proposals raised during the meetings of the Open-ended Working Group was also compiled and introduced by the Chairperson. Papers containing proposals were also submitted by Reaching Critical Will, Basel Peace Office, and Nuclear Age Peace Foundation.

17 In addressing the proposals submitted for consideration in accordance with its mandate, the Open-ended Working Group focussed, in particular, on the following topics:

- (a) Approaches on how to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons, moderated by the Chairperson;
- (b) Elements to consider in taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons, moderated by Mr. Mohamed Hatem El-Atawy (Egypt);
- (c) Reviewing the role of nuclear weapons in the security context of the twenty first century in order to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons, moderated by Ms Kelly Anderson (Canada);
- (d) The role of International Law to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons, moderated by Mr. Roland Sturm (Austria);
- (e) The role of States and other actors in taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons, moderated by Mr. Laurent Masméjean (Switzerland);
- (f) Other practical action that could contribute to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons, moderated by Mr. Alexander Ben-Acquaah (Ghana).

#### **IV. Discussions held and proposals made**

18. [...]

#### **V. Adoption of the report**

50. At its meetings on 22, 28, 29 and 30 August, the Open-ended Working Group considered agenda item 6 entitled "Report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session".

51. At its final meeting on 30 August, the Open-ended Working Group adopted its report as contained in (A/AC.281/L.1/Rev.1).

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