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General and complete disarmament: nuclear disarmament verification

Angola, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Eswatini, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution

Nuclear disarmament verification

The General Assembly,

Recalling the fundamental principles for disarmament negotiations set forth in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament,¹ and the general principles of verification set forth in the United Nations Disarmament Commission principles of verification of 1988,² without prejudice to the mandate of the Conference on Disarmament,

Recalling also its resolution [71/67](#) of 5 December 2016, in which it, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States and to establish a group of governmental experts to consider the role of verification in advancing nuclear disarmament,

Reaffirming the shared commitment to further progress in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation,

Convinced that, while verification is not an aim in itself, further development of the multilateral disarmament verification capabilities will be required to provide assurance of compliance with multilateral nuclear disarmament agreements for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General,³

¹ Resolution [S-10/2](#).

² See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifteenth Special Session, Supplement No. 3* ([A/S-15/3](#)), para. 60 (para. 6, sect. I, of the quoted text).

³ [A/72/304](#).



Recognizing the pioneering nature of the work of the Group of Governmental Experts on Nuclear Disarmament Verification, as this represents the first time that the General Assembly established a body specifically to discuss nuclear disarmament verification, and recognizing also the need for further work related to the role of verification in advancing nuclear disarmament, taking into account the report of the Group,⁴

Noting that a credible multilateral verification regime in which all States have confidence will also be essential for achieving and maintaining a world without nuclear weapons,

Noting also that capacity-building on nuclear disarmament verification is a valuable component in the nuclear disarmament process and also one of the fundamental factors determining whether the goal of verification could be effectively upheld, and noting further that building capacity on nuclear disarmament verification in a sustainable manner is not only of great significance, but also faced with practical challenges,

Recognizing that nuclear disarmament verification must be balanced against legitimate sovereignty-, security-, safety- and proliferation-related concerns of the parties to or participants in an agreement or arrangement in this area,

Noting the contribution of representatives of civil society from the non-governmental, academic and research communities,

1. *Welcomes* the adoption by consensus of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Nuclear Disarmament Verification, mandated in resolution 71/67,⁴ and takes note with satisfaction of the conclusions and recommendations contained therein, adopted by consensus;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the substantive views of Member States on the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Nuclear Disarmament Verification and to report back to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session;

3. *Encourages* the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission to address nuclear disarmament verification, including through substantive consideration of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Nuclear Disarmament Verification;

4. *Welcomes* efforts for capacity-building on nuclear disarmament verification;

5. *Encourages* further work on nuclear disarmament verification, taking into account the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Nuclear Disarmament Verification;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to establish a group of governmental experts of up to 25 participants, chosen on the basis of equitable geographical representation and equitable representation of women and men, which will meet in Geneva for four sessions of one week each in 2021 and 2022, to further consider nuclear disarmament verification issues, including, inter alia, the concept of a Group of Scientific and Technical Experts, building on the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Nuclear Disarmament Verification⁴ and the views of Member States referred to in paragraph 2 above;

7. *Requests* the Chair of the group of governmental experts to organize, in New York, two informal intersessional consultative meetings, open-ended so that all

⁴ A/74/90.

Member States can engage in interactive discussions and share their views, which the Chair shall convey to the group of governmental experts for its consideration;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to render all necessary assistance to the group of governmental experts and its Chair, including the provision of relevant documents;

9. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to transmit the report of the group of governmental experts to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session and to the Conference on Disarmament;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fifth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Nuclear disarmament verification”.
