

2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Nuclear disarmament verification: recommendations for the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Working paper submitted by Norway

Introduction

1. The Group of Governmental Experts to consider the role of verification in advancing nuclear disarmament was established by the General Assembly in its resolution [71/67](#). The Group operated by consensus and held three sessions in 2018 and 2019 at the United Nations Office at Geneva.
2. As the Chair of the Group, Norway would like to share the main findings of the Group, including its conclusions and recommendations, for the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.¹

Identification of possible points of convergence by the Group

3. In identifying possible points of convergence, the Group suggested the following principles for nuclear disarmament verification. In elaborating these principles, it was recognized that they were indicative and not exhaustive.
 - Nuclear disarmament verification should conform with international law and the principles laid out in the final document of the first special session devoted to disarmament (1978) and in the United Nations Disarmament Commission principles of verification (1988).
 - Nuclear disarmament verification measures should be decided by the parties to specific treaties, and all the parties to such treaties should have equal rights to establish and take part in verification activities.
 - Nuclear disarmament verification must conform to applicable international legal non-proliferation obligations, national safety and security requirements, and the need to protect otherwise sensitive information.

¹ The full report of the Group is contained in document [A/74/90](#).



- Nuclear disarmament verification must be effective in ensuring compliance by the parties with obligations under the relevant treaty, while also being mindful of the need for efficiency in the application of financial, human and other resources.
- Nuclear disarmament verification provisions in the context of a specific treaty should be clear as to the obligations of the parties concerned.
- A future nuclear disarmament verification regime must be non-discriminatory to the parties of the treaty.
- Verification arrangements, satisfactory to all parties involved, should correspond to the purposes, scope and nature of the agreement(s) reached on nuclear disarmament.

Conclusions of the Group

4. The Group offered the following consensus conclusions in considering the role of verification in advancing nuclear disarmament:

- Advancing nuclear disarmament is an ongoing undertaking, and there is need for a continued international examination of the issue in all its aspects, including verification.
- Verification is essential in the process of nuclear disarmament and to achieving a world without nuclear weapons.
- The role of verification in advancing nuclear disarmament will be determined on a case-by-case basis in the context of the negotiations of legally binding agreements in the area of nuclear disarmament.
- A credible verification regime in which all States have confidence will be essential for maintaining a world without nuclear weapons.
- Confidence-building measures may complement nuclear disarmament verification arrangements between the implementing parties of a specific treaty.
- Engagement in nuclear disarmament verification must be strictly in line with applicable international legal non-proliferation obligations as well as other legal requirements.
- All States could contribute to aspects of nuclear disarmament verification, and no State is restricted from developing verification techniques and methodologies.

Recommendations of the Group

5. The Group recommended:

- That States Members of the United Nations, as well as relevant parts of the international disarmament machinery, in accordance with their respective mandates, consider its report.
- To consider further work related to the role of verification in advancing nuclear disarmament, taking into account the report of the Group of Governmental Experts.

Recommendations for the Review Conference

6. Norway recommends that the Review Conference:

- Welcome the work of the Group of Governmental Experts to consider the role of verification in advancing nuclear disarmament, and the adoption by consensus of the report of the Group.
 - Consider and support the main findings, including the conclusions and the recommendations, contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts.
 - Welcome the Group of Governmental Experts established by the General Assembly in its resolution [74/50](#) to further consider nuclear disarmament verification issues.
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