

Working group on further strengthening the review process of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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English only

First session

Vienna, 24–28 July 2023

Information for non-governmental organizations

Summary

The present document provides information for non-governmental organization participants at the first session of the working group on further strengthening the review process of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Additional information that takes into account future decisions made by States parties may necessitate updates to the information contained in the document. Documentation and other information will be posted, as it becomes available, on the website of the working group (<https://meetings.unoda.org/npt-/treaty-on-the-non-proliferation-of-nuclear-weapons-working-group-on-further-strengthening-the-review-process-2023>).



I. Dates and venue

1. States parties have provisionally agreed that the meetings of the working group will be held in private. States parties have also provisionally agreed that a two-hour period within one meeting of the working group, to be held on Tuesday, 25 July 2023, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., will be dedicated to presentations by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on the substance of the working group. That two-hour period will be webcast. NGOs making presentations will be selected according to past practice related to NGO participation in the review cycle of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

II. Restrictions related to the coronavirus disease pandemic

2. As at 1 July 2023, there were no restrictions related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in place in the host country and host city. Participants are strongly encouraged to consult official Austrian sources for any restrictions that may be in place, including those that apply to travellers entering Austria, at the following webpage: www.austria.info/en/service-and-facts/coronavirus-information.

3. All participants, including vaccinated participants, are encouraged to take all feasible precautions to ensure the safe conduct of the meetings of the working group. Participants are also asked not to attend the meetings if they feel ill or have respiratory or other symptoms.

III. Practical arrangements for accreditation, registration and issuance of grounds passes

Accreditation

4. All requests for accreditation were required to have been submitted to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs no later than 2 June 2023. In addition, NGOs must have submitted to Diane Barnes (diane.barnes@un.org) a separate, written accreditation request on the official letterhead of the organization, listing the full names and titles of the representatives who will attend. NGOs that have not attended a meeting of the Non-Proliferation Treaty in the past should have indicated previous interactions between the organization and the United Nations in relation to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation issues. A mission statement or summary of work of the organization should also have been provided.

Registration and issuance of grounds passes

5. Owing to the decision by States parties to hold the meetings of the working in private, only NGOs sending representatives to make presentations during the session on Tuesday, 25 July, will receive grounds passes valid for access to the meeting. All such NGOs must be accredited. NGOs interested in having representatives make presentations should send nominations to the NGO point of contact (Emma Bjertén, emma.bjerten@wilpf.org).

IV. Documentation

6. All documents and statements for the working group will be available on its website (<https://meetings.unoda.org/npt/-treaty-on-the-non-proliferation-of-nuclear-weapons-working-group-on-further-strengthening-the-review-process-2023>).

7. Pending a decision by the working group, NGOs may be allowed to display their documents and other information materials on a designated table. One copy of each document should be provided to the Secretariat through the NGO Coordinator prior to its being publicly displayed.

V. Presentations by non-governmental organizations

8. As noted above, States parties have provisionally agreed that a meeting dedicated to NGO presentations will be held on Tuesday, 25 July 2023, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. As in the past, NGOs are requested to coordinate among themselves in deciding which representatives would address the Review Conference during the session allocated for presentations by NGOs. NGOs wishing to take part in the dedicated session should communicate with the NGO point of contact (Emma Bjertén, emma.bjerten@wilpf.org).

VI. Side events and exhibitions

9. There are no rooms available for holding side events during the meetings of the working group. NGOs are encouraged to consider the possibility of organizing virtual side events.

10. There will also be no space available for exhibitions during the meetings of the working group.

VII. Point of contact

11. The Secretariat has been informed that the designated NGO point of contact in connection with participation by NGOs in the working group is as follows:

Emma Bjertén
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
777 UN Plaza, 6th floor
New York, NY 10017
United States of America
Email: emma.bjerten@wilpf.org

VIII. Letters of invitation and visas

12. The United Nations is not in a position to provide letters of invitation or letters to consulates requesting that representatives of NGOs be provided visas for travelling to Vienna in order to attend the meetings of the working group. It is the responsibility of such representatives to make their own arrangements for visas, travel and related costs. Organizations with delegates requiring host country visas are therefore encouraged to complete all necessary remaining steps as soon as possible.
