Submission by India pursuant to OP6 of UNGA Resolution 71/67
“Nuclear Disarmament Verification”

India had voted in favour of UNGA Resolution 71/67 in view of the importance of increasing common understanding on international and effective verification in multilateral legal instruments for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, which would also be an essential element of a Comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention.

2. We acknowledge the utility of technical work on verification as proposed in Resolution 71/67, which can build upon past work done in the UNDC on the subject and keeping in mind the principles enshrined in SSOD-I. At the same time such work cannot prejudge the nature and scope of any eventual nuclear disarmament instrument, which would in turn impact on the verification elements to be agreed specific to that instrument. Work on verification in the proposed GGE cannot be a substitute for the established disarmament machinery – the CD and the UNDC – addressing the issue of nuclear disarmament verification in line with the scope of a future comprehensive instrument on nuclear disarmament.

3. In India’s view, the context for the resolution is global and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. In this regard, any role for the IAEA would be limited to what is specified in the IAEA Statute. Relevant verification experience from a treaty banning an entire category of weapons of mass destruction and providing for their internationally verifiable elimination, namely the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), could also be usefully studied in this context. International and effective verification is also an important aspect of the agreed mandate for a future Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT).

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