Geneva, 23 April 2013

Excellency,

I refer to the Open-ended Working Group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/56 entitled “Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations”.

I am pleased to inform you that following our organizational meeting on 14 March 2013 I have engaged in active bilateral consultations with several interested delegations on the ideas and topics to be addressed under the scope of the Open-ended Working Group.

Based on these consultations, I would like to propose a preliminary list of items and questions for your feedback by the end of this week in order to prepare the provisional agenda for the Open-ended Working Group.

I propose to divide the work of the OEWG into the following 3 segments:

A) Taking stock of existing commitments and proposals for nuclear disarmament (approx. 2 days)

This segment is intended to provide an opportunity to take stock on existing uni-, bi- and multilateral nuclear disarmament commitments as well as multilateral nuclear disarmament proposals that have already been put forward, such as:

- Multilateral Treaty based obligations and commitments. For example:
  . NPT
  . NWFFZ
  . Other*

- Other initiatives and proposals. For example:
  . UNSG 5 Point Plan
  . Nuclear Weapons Convention
  . Convention on the Prohibition of Use of Nuclear Weapons
  . UNSC-Res 1887
  . Other*
- Impact of unilateral and bilateral nuclear disarmament commitments and measures

- Transparency in nuclear disarmament.

- Confidence building measures and Verification

Delegations could prepare their contributions to the discussion by addressing i.e. the following questions:

- How do delegations assess the progress achieved and prospects of the various commitments and proposals for further advancing multilateral nuclear disarmament?

- What priorities have delegations followed in the past in the area of multilateral nuclear disarmament – and why?

* List is only Indicative.

B) Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations: Context and different perspectives (approx. 6 days)

Discussions and reflexions could address and cover aspects and perspectives beyond the ones presented under agenda item A) as they pertain to the challenge of taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations. For example:

- Perspectives on the necessary framework to achieve and maintain a nuclear weapons free world, including a framework of separate, mutually reinforcing instruments or a comprehensive approach to nuclear disarmament
- Prevention of a nuclear detonation
- The roles and responsibilities of nuclear weapons possessing states
- The roles and responsibilities of non-nuclear weapon states
- Approach to nuclear disarmament from a broader perspective: development, humanitarian, economic, legal, etc.
- Comprehensive or step by step approaches towards nuclear disarmament.

C) Developing of proposals for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons (approx. 5 days)

In this segment, the OEWG would discuss proposals for taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations taking into account the discussions and deliberations under the A) and B) and in accordance with the mandate established by resolution A/67/56.
Excellency, I wish to reiterate my intention to continue to consult with all interested delegations on the above topics. Please feel free to contact the Secretariat and fix a date/time for such bilateral consultations by phone at 022 917 2281 or by mail at oewg-ndn@unog.ch.

Based on these consultations, an updated list of topics will be circulated by the end of next week.

Looking forward to an effective cooperation to advance the objectives of the Open-ended Working Group

Chairperson of the Open-ended Working Group

[Signature]
Manuel B. Dengó
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Costa Rica