Geneva, 20 June 2013

Excellency,

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

You will recall that the meetings of the OEWG held from 14 to 24 May produced a very fruitful interactive debate among the representatives of States, interested organizations and civil society. You will also recall that at the end of the meetings we had a preliminary discussion on the way ahead, and that I stated my intention to use the meeting(s) in June for collecting and submitting proposals from delegations that could serve as the basis for our deliberations in August.

Against this background, I am currently working in the preparation of a list of proposals, ideas and recommendations that were put forward during the meetings in May. I intend to submit this list on 27 June for your attention and consideration. I would also like to reiterate my invitation to all of you to consider preparing papers containing your views and proposals on taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations that could inspire our work in August.

My impression is that in June we will not need more than one or two meetings and it is my intention to retain only the day of 27 June for this purpose. As usual, we will start at 10.00 in the morning in conference room XVIII. The meeting(s) will be devoted entirely to allow delegations to introduce their papers containing possible ideas and proposals in accordance with the mandate of the group, as well as to possible initial reactions to these proposals. Then
we will have July and the first half of August to study the ideas and proposals before discussing them during the August meetings of the group. By that time all proposals submitted in June or July will be translated and available in all UN languages to facilitate their consideration.

Excellency, I wish to reiterate my intention to continue to consult with all interested delegations on the issues relating to the mandate and the possible outcome of the OEWG. 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.

I look forward to working with you to advance the objectives of the Open-ended Working Group.

Manuel B. Dengó
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Costa Rica
Chairperson of the Open-ended Working Group