

Informal open-ended briefing on the preparations for the open-ended
working group on taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament
negotiations

Tuesday, 7 March 2013, 3:00 p.m.
Room XVIII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Chair: Jarmo Sareva, Director, UNODA Geneva

Excellencies,
Distinguished colleagues,

You will recall that on 3 December 2012 the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 67/56 entitled “Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations”. By this resolution the General Assembly decided to establish an open-ended working group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons. (OP 1).

The General Assembly also decided that the working group shall convene in Geneva in 2013 for up to fifteen working days [...] and shall hold its organizational session as soon as possible (OP 2).

The UN Secretary-General was requested to provide, within the available resources, the support necessary to convene the working group (OP 4).

This meeting has been convened to inform you about the preparations undertaken by UNODA Geneva to set-up the open-ended working group. I will proceed first with the briefing on the steps undertaken by the Secretariat and then open the floor for questions or announcements in relation with the open-ended group.

First, you certainly know already that, as requested by UNGA resolution 67/56 the organisational session of the open-ended working group “Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations” will take place on 14 March 2013 at 15.00 hours in this same Conference Room XVIII of the Palais des Nations, United Nations Office at Geneva.

Second, I am pleased to advise you that a note verbale by the Secretary-General informing on the date and venue of the organizational session

and inviting all United Nations Member States and Observers to participate in it was circulated earlier last month in New York. A copy of the note verbal was also attached for your information to my invitation letter for this briefing and will also be posted on the website of the group. A similar letter was sent by the High Representative on Disarmament Affairs to the interested international organizations and civil society as per established practice.

Third, on the registration. As you have noticed from the SG note verbal, each delegation has to notify the composition its delegation to the open-ended working group by note verbale [or official letter in the case of the organizations] by email (oewg-ndn@unog.ch) or fax at +41 22-917-0034 to the attention of the Secretariat of the open-ended working group. This should be done as early as possible.

Please note that, as usual, delegates not based in Geneva who are not accredited to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) should fill out the standard UNOG Conference Registration Form which will also be available at the website of the open-ended working group. These Conference Registration Forms should be enclosed to the note verbale on the composition of delegations.

Please also note that the accreditation and registration on-line tool developed by DESA and used in New York for the representatives of the NGOs participating in similar UN meetings in the disarmament or other fields will be applied.

Fourth, UNODA Geneva is in the process of building a dedicated website for the open-ended working group which will be part of the disarmament section of the UNOG website. Its address is: <http://www.unog.ch/oewg-ndn>. Details on registration as well as organisational details will be reflected on the webpage soon. This website will constitute the main communication tool on all issues in relation with the work of the group, for all announcements, placement of documents and statements, etc., as required. A special email address was also established for this group, as announced in the Secretary-General note verbal. This email address is oewg-ndn@unog.ch .

Fifth, the secretariat for the group will be UNODA Geneva and Peter Kolarov and Yuriy Kryvonos have been assigned to this function. I am sure most of you know them well. All queries and requests in relation with the group should be forwarded to them.

Sixth, you will recall that pursuant to GA resolution 67/56 the “group shall convene in Geneva in 2013 for up to fifteen working days, within available timeframes” and “within available resources”. Let me further add that in accordance with the oral statement by the Secretariat in connection with the draft resolution’s adoption in the First Committee, the up to 15 working days during which the working group will convene will fall under the 24-week-long session of the Conference on Disarmament. It is further understood that any such meetings of the working group would not be convened in parallel to meetings of the Conference on Disarmament.

The Secretariat has identified the following possible periods in which the meetings of the open-ended working group can be held: 13 to 24 May (please note that 20 May is an official UN holiday), 27 and 28 June, and 29 July to 30 August. The calendar of the meetings shall be decided at the organisational meeting on 14 March 2013.

Seventh, this brings me to the organisational meeting of the group that will take place exactly a week from now in this same Conference room – on 14 March at 15.00 hours. This organisational meeting is planned to last half a day. It shall adopt the agenda of the OEWG. The provisional agenda will be circulated.

Eighth, the group will use the Rules of Procedure of the UN General Assembly applied *mutatis mutandis*.

Ninth, this group is entitled to conference services, interpretation in all UN languages, as well as official documentation in the six UN languages. All documents that the Member States may wish to submit for translation and distribution as official document of the group should be submitted to the secretariat through the email address of the group, or directly to its Secretary.

Last, but not least, let me remind you that the Group according to its mandate shall submit a report on its work to the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly “reflecting discussions held and all proposals made”. This report will also be forwarded to the CD and the UNDC for their information.

This concludes our short introduction on the organisational aspects of the group and the floor is now open for questions or additional information you would like to share. The floor is open.