Comments by Pakistan: (Resolution 71/67, para. 6, entitled “Nuclear disarmament verification”)

Pakistan is committed to the vision of a nuclear weapon free world. This shared objective can best be realized through a universal, verifiable, non-discriminatory, and a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons.

Verification would be an essential and extremely vital element for ensuring adherence to and compliance with any future agreement(s) on nuclear disarmament. Verification would be indispensable for building confidence among the parties concerned regarding the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons. Nuclear disarmament verification would have to be undertaken by an independent and representative international treaty body, under adequate oversight of the concerned States Parties, in a transparent, non-discriminatory, objective and technically sound manner.

The Final Document of SSOD-I provides an overarching framework to pursue disarmament measures in an equitable and balanced manner in order to ensure the right of each State to equal and undiminished security at the lowest possible level of armaments and military forces, ensuring that no individual State or group of States may obtain any advantage over others. It provides adequate guidance regarding provision of satisfactory measures of verification in negotiations of disarmament and arms limitation agreements in order to create the necessary confidence and ensure that they are being observed by all parties. SSOD-I further notes that the form and modalities of the verification to be provided for in any specific agreement depend upon and should be determined by the purposes, scope and nature of the agreement. Agreements should provide for the participation of parties directly or through the United Nations system in the verification process. Where appropriate, a combination of several methods of verification as well as other compliance procedures should be employed.

The question of disarmament verification can be best addressed in the context of a specific treaty regime as opposed to a generic and abstract manner. At the same time, maintaining an appropriate balance between the needs of verification on the one hand and legitimate national security concerns on the other would be essential.

The Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) mandated by this resolution (Nuclear Disarmament Verification - 71/67) can contribute towards advancing, understanding and addressing technical challenges of nuclear disarmament verification and monitoring, including tools, solutions and methods and capacity-building issues. This would provide Member States with a compendium or list of approaches and technical issues to be taken into consideration when discussing nuclear disarmament and arms control measures.