Note No. 297/2017

The Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and, with reference to the Note Verbale ODA/16-2017/NDV from 20 February 2017 on Nuclear Disarmament Verification, has the honour to transmit the view of the Federal Republic of Germany on the development and strengthening of practical and effective nuclear disarmament and verification measures in the attached annex.

The Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 12 May 2017

United Nations
Office for Disarmament Affairs
NEW YORK, NY 10017

Views of Germany on the development and strengthening of practical and effective nuclear disarmament verification measures and on the importance of such measures in achieving and maintaining a world without nuclear weapons.

Nuclear disarmament verification is an essential element of the step-by-step approach towards a world without nuclear weapons. The principle of irreversibility, as it was reaffirmed in the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), necessitates that nuclear disarmament be accompanied by a robust verification regime in order to ensure that commitments made under a disarmament treaty are effectively met.

Germany advocates a multilateral approach to nuclear disarmament verification. Capacities should be built among states with and without nuclear weapons to develop solutions for monitoring and verification challenges across the whole nuclear weapons lifecycle – from material production and control, warhead storage, dismantlement and disposition. Germany believes that future arms control treaties and agreements will need to provide for new and intrusive provisions, effective on-site inspections and new items subject to inspection, all this notwithstanding the provisions of Article I and II of the NPT. Germany has the technical expertise and experience to strengthen effective nuclear disarmament verification. As a non-nuclear weapons state, Germany can provide particular input to a GGE on nuclear disarmament verification by (1) furthering academic education in the field of nuclear disarmament verification, addressing both political and technical issues, for postgraduate students, (2) increasing technical expertise through training of experts and scientists, (3) developing innovative systems concepts for verification regimes in multilateral nuclear disarmament approaches, (4) conducting research and development projects for improving nuclear verification techniques and procedures, such as surveillance technologies, sealing systems, environmental sampling, nuclear measurement equipment, geospatial information analysis, statistical methodologies, and sample planning, (5) co-organizing and participating in exercises aimed at testing and, where necessary, improving on-site inspection procedures as well as (6) applying technical knowledge, competences and experiences in nuclear verification gained through the German IAEA Safeguards Support Programme since 1978, including development of nuclear verification equipment, field tests and training of inspectors, and (7) growing national and international networking of technical experts.

For Germany, the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification (IPNDV) plays a focal role for developing practical verification measures. The IPNDV’s objective is to promote increased international understanding of, and confidence in, the monitoring and verification of future nuclear arms control and disarmament agreements by strengthening cooperative work between nuclear weapons states and non-nuclear weapons states. Germany supports the Partnership with three external technical experts and has hosted the IPNDV Working Group Meetings in March 2017.