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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE: ODA/ODDHR/OEWG/NDN

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representatives of Member and Observer States to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to resolution 70/33 entitled “Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations”, adopted by the General Assembly on 7 December 2015.

By operative paragraphs 2, 3 and 5 of the resolution, the General Assembly:

“2. [...] decides to convene an open-ended working group to substantively address concrete effective legal measures, legal provisions and norms that will need to be concluded to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons;

3. Decides that the open-ended working group shall also substantively address recommendations on other measures that could contribute to taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, including but not limited to (a) transparency measures related to the risks associated with existing nuclear weapons; (b) measures to reduce and eliminate the risk of accidental, mistaken, unauthorized or intentional nuclear weapon detonations; and (c) additional measures to increase awareness and understanding of the complexity of and interrelationship between the wide range of humanitarian consequences that would result from any nuclear detonation;

[...]

5. Decides that the open-ended working group shall convene in Geneva, in 2016, as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly and under its rules of procedure, for up to 15 working days, within available time frames, with the participation and contribution of international organizations and civil society representatives, in accordance with established practice, and shall hold its organizational session as soon as possible.”

Against this background, the Secretary-General has the honour to inform that the organizational session of the open-ended working group will take place on 28 January 2016 at 10 a.m. in Conference Room XIX of the Palais des Nations, United Nations Office at Geneva, and to invite all United Nations Member States and Observers to participate in it.

The names of delegates not based in Geneva who are not accredited to the United Nations Office at Geneva should be notified as soon as possible to the secretariat of the group, at the following address:

Secretariat of the open-ended working group to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations
Office for Disarmament Affairs, Geneva Branch
United Nations Office at Geneva, Palais des Nations, room C-113
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Fax: (+011-41) 22-917-0054
E-mail: oewg-ndn@unog.ch
Website: www.unog.ch/oewg-ndn

The Secretary-General also wishes to remind that all participants who need a visa to enter the Schengen area are recommended to apply for a visa as early as possible before their planned departure. Information on criteria, requirements and the visa application process for Switzerland can be found on:
http://www.bfm.admin.ch/content/bfm/en/home/themen/einreise/merkblatt_einreise.html.

Further information on the arrangements for the open-ended working group will be communicated to the Permanent Missions by the secretariat in due course. All information will be available at the website of the open-ended working group.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Representatives of Member and Observer States to the United Nations the assurances of his highest consideration.

14 January 2016