Draft Elements of an UNGA 66 First Committee Resolution
"Taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations"

submitted by
Austria, Mexico and Norway

The General Assembly,

Deeply concerned at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons,

Recalling the declaration of the first special session on disarmament, that “all the peoples of the world have a vital interest in the success of disarmament negotiations”, and that “all states have the right to participate in disarmament negotiations”,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which states, inter alia, that the responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social development, as well as threats to international peace and security, must be shared among the nations of the world and should be exercised multilaterally and that, as the most universal and most representative organization in the world, the United Nations must play the central role,

Reaffirming multilateralism as a core and fundamental principle in negotiations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation with a view to maintaining and strengthening universal norms and enlarging their scope,

Recognizing the importance of disarmament in strengthening global security and promoting international stability,

Recognizing that prevention of an arms race in outer space would avert a grave danger for international peace and security,

Recalling the contribution made in the past by the Conference on Disarmament in successfully negotiating arms control and disarmament instruments,

Mindful of the continuing requirement for a single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, as expressed during the first special session devoted to disarmament,

Concerned at the continuing impasse in the Conference on Disarmament,

Taking into account all efforts to foster agreement on a Programme of Work in the Conference on Disarmament and recalling in this context the most recent agreement reached in the CD,

Recognizing the increased political attention to disarmament and non-proliferation issues and that the international political climate is more conducive to the promotion of multilateral disarmament and moving towards the goal of a world without nuclear weapons,
Recalling the strong support of the Secretary-General with regards to revitalizing the multilateral disarmament machinery, as well as the continuous efforts by Member States to secure progress in multilateral disarmament, including the five permanent members of the Security Council to facilitate progress with respect to a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, and also recalling in this context, inter alia, Resolution 1887 (2009) adopted by the Security Council at its 6191st meeting on 24 September 2009, and the 2010 NPT Review Conference Action Plan,

Recalling the High-Level meeting on revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations, held in New York on 24 September 2010 and the Resolution A/RES/65/93 “Follow-up to the high-level meeting held on 24 September 2010: revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations”,

Emphasizing the importance of substantive progress on priority disarmament and non-proliferation issues,

Recognizing the important contribution that civil society can make to multilateral disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control processes,

Mindful of Article 11 of the United Nations Charter, concerning the functions and powers of the General Assembly to consider and make recommendations, inter alia with regard to disarmament,

1. Urges all members States of the CD to do their utmost during the 2011/2012 inter-sessional period to overcome outstanding differences regarding the adoption and implementation of a program of work and calls upon the CD to adopt and implement a program of work during the 2012 session of the CD, to enable the immediate commencement of negotiations;

2. Should the decision on a program of work not have been reached and such program of work not been implemented as stipulated in OP1, resolves to consider in its sixty-seventh session alternative ways of taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations, including

   i) through the establishment of open ended working groups on the issues of nuclear disarmament to deal with, inter alia,

   • nuclear disarmament and the achievement of a world without nuclear weapons,
   • effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,
   • the elaboration of elements of a non-discriminatory multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices,
as well as on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space;

ii) that the work of such open ended working groups would take place in Geneva and take into consideration all relevant views and proposals past, present and future, not excluding the possibility of initiating negotiations on legally binding instruments on any of the aforementioned issues, as deemed appropriate;

iii) that such open ended working groups would seek to develop recommendations and submit a consolidated report on their work to the sixty-eight General Assembly, which would assess their progress and decide on extending their mandates, taking into consideration progress on the adoption and implementation of a Programme of Work in the Conference on Disarmament.

3. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session an item entitled “Taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations”. 