



Norway in Geneva
Permanent Missions to the UN and WTO/EFTA

Informal meeting to present a draft UNGA resolution on a Group of Scientific and Technical Experts on nuclear disarmament verification (GSTE-NDV)

Co-hosted by Norway and Brazil

June 4, 2024, 1pm to 3pm

Palais des Nations, Geneva - Room III

CONCEPT NOTE

At the meeting on 4 June, Brazil and Norway will present a draft resolution to be tabled at the 1st Committee of the 79th Session of the UN General Assembly on a Group of Scientific and Technical Experts on nuclear disarmament verification (GSTE-NDV), which builds on the work of the two Groups of Governmental Experts (GGE) on nuclear disarmament verification¹ and relevant resolutions from UNGA².

Brazil and Norway are convinced that a GSTE-NDV would provide unique practical benefits in support of the long-term goal of nuclear disarmament. A GSTE-NDV would enable States to work collaboratively on NDV in a multilateral setting. Future nuclear disarmament arrangements will need to be underpinned by effective verification to ensure its long-term sustainability, both in reaching and then maintaining a world free of nuclear weapons.

The more States that get involved with work on disarmament verification, the better prepared all States would be for future negotiations, and the more effective the relevant technologies, methodologies and procedures will be. Capacity building is therefore central to the work on nuclear disarmament verification.

Importantly, verification should never be used as an excuse for not progressing disarmament. If there is political will, such progress can be achieved.

Central to establishing a GSTE-NDV is to agree on objective, mandate and modalities. The new draft resolution will establish an inclusive consultative process to define these three

¹ A/74/90, A/78/120

² A/71/67, A/74/50, A/78/239

elements, which will include a request to the Secretary General to seek the views of Member States, through written submissions and in-person informal meetings to be convened in New York and Geneva.

Without any prejudice to conclusions that will be drawn by the UNGA after this consultative process, the drafters would like to already now set out some ideas – based on the comprehensive work of Brazil in the two GGEs on NDV:

In the view of the drafters, the objective for a GSTE-NDV *could* be twofold:

- to make sure states are prepared for future negotiations on disarmament and its verification arrangements; and
- to ensure the technologies, methodologies and procedures exist such that verification can be as effective and sustainable as possible. Effective verification includes the need for producing high confidence that States are fulfilling their obligations, as well as in protecting proliferative- and other sensitive information.

In the view of the drafters, the mandate for a GSTE-NDV *could* be to:

(i) appraise knowledge on NDV, derived from past and ongoing initiatives on NDV or related areas;

(ii) consider technical challenges in NDV in terms of tools, techniques, processes and procedures;

(iii) enable States to participate in technical NDV discussions on a voluntary basis;

(iv) incorporate and preserve knowledge on NDV within the UN system and provide assurance to the international community that States are focused on this matter.

On the modalities, the drafters believe that the GSTE-NDV *should* be part of the disarmament machinery. Its work should be deliberative, focusing on scientific and technical exchanges that enhance knowledge of NDV options and their benefits and challenges. The group would be open to nuclear-weapon States, non-nuclear-weapon States and States not party to the NPT, in an inclusive and voluntary manner. Its deliberations will not be legally-binding. It will not be tasked to negotiate any treaty on nuclear disarmament. Its establishment will not be a prerequisite for such negotiations nor prejudice their possible outcome.