Statement by Dr. Mohammad Hassan Daryaei
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on the Open-ended Working Group on
“Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations”
(established pursuant to UNGA Resolution A/67/56)

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset allow me to congratulate you for your appointment as the Chair of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on “Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations” established pursuant to UNGA Resolution A/67/56. I am sure that under your able leadership this working group will have major contribution to the cause of forwarding multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations. The establishment of the OEWG underscores the importance that the international community gives to nuclear disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

I support the procedural comments made by the distinguished Ambassador of India on the working methods of the OEWG especially the comment that the pursued working method in this working group should not constitute any precedent for other such bodies that the UNGA may establish.

The mandate of the OEWG is to “develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons” (…) and “to submit a report on its work, reflecting discussions held and all proposals made, to the General Assembly at its 68th session (…)” and to the CD. We have to stick to this mandate by focusing only on the ways and means for advancing multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiation and avoid anything that might divert us from this important issue or wouldn’t fit well in this mandate. The important elements of this mandate are composed of:

1- Multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations

2- Reflection of all proposals made in the nuclear disarmament negotiation.

I believe that the OEWG can provide good opportunity for substantive and comprehensive nuclear disarmament discussions if
we organize our work in a systematic manner around these 2 main elements. Thus It is vital to concentrate the discussions on multilateral nuclear disarmament by taking stock of all current proposals in this regard and also encouraging creative ideas that help taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiation. It would be essential to reflect all proposals made in the report of the OEWG. In this regard I would like to recall that the NAM presented many working papers on nuclear disarmament in the 2010 NPT Review Conference and its subsequent Preparatory Committees in 2012 and 2013 including the proposal for the start of the negotiation of a nuclear weapon convention that totally prohibit the development, production possession, transfer and use of nuclear weapons and on their destruction and also the proposal for the plan of action for the elimination of nuclear weapons through a phased program and within a specified framework of time namely by 2025 and in a transparent, verifiable and irreversible manner. In addition to the NAM proposals, the G21 tabled many Working Papers on Nuclear disarmament the last of which was in 2012 that asks for the adoption of following concrete steps:

• Reaffirmation of the unequivocal commitment of the NWS to accomplish the complete elimination of nuclear weapons;
• Elimination of the role of nuclear weapons in the security doctrines;
• Adoption of measures by nuclear-weapon States to reduce nuclear danger, such as de-alerting of nuclear-weapons and decreasing the operational readiness of nuclear-weapons systems;
• Negotiation of a universal, unconditional and legally-binding instrument to assure NNWS against the use or threat 'of use of nuclear weapons;
• Negotiation of a Convention on the complete prohibition of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;
• Negotiation of a Nuclear Weapons Convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and on their destruction, leading to the global, non-discriminatory and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time.

These proposals should be among the main proposals that would be fully discussed in the OEWG and reflected in its final report.
This working group should not in any way undermine the credibility, role and responsibility of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole disarmament negotiation body. To the contrary the OEWG can provide important contribution to the CD and help this body to start the long overdue negotiation on nuclear disarmament by agreeing on a balanced and comprehensive Program of work which includes negotiation mandate for the nuclear disarmament.

We welcome the fact that the OEWG provides this opportunity for the active civil society participation and engagement with the professional NGOs in the field of nuclear disarmament. We look forward to an interactive debate on ways of taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations; an issue that is the high priority for this delegation and the whole international community. We are sure that under your able leadership all proposals in forwarding multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations would be reflected in the report and we can advance discussion on this issue.

I thank you Mr. Chairman