



## **Role of nuclear weapons in security doctrines**

*Intervention to the Open Ended Working Group – Friday 26 February*

Thank you Mr Chair. UNFOLD ZERO would like to make an intervention regarding the role of nuclear weapons in security doctrines.

A number of government and civil society delegations have indicated the need to eliminate the role of nuclear weapons from security doctrines in order to facilitate agreement on legal measures to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world.

However, other delegations, most notably those from governments under extended nuclear deterrence relationships, have indicated that nuclear weapons continue to have a role in maintaining security.

UNFOLD ZERO approaches nuclear disarmament in two ways. The first is to highlight United Nations initiatives and forums for promoting, negotiating and implementing nuclear disarmament measures. The second is to highlight United Nations approaches and mechanisms for resolving international conflicts and achieving security without recourse to the threat or use of force including nuclear deterrence.

In 2013 there was an informal proposal to the Open Ended Working Group that specific roles ascribed to nuclear weapons by nuclear armed and allied States be outlined, and that alternative, cooperative security approaches be explored or identified to fulfill these roles.

Civil society organisations, inter-parliamentary bodies and academic think-tanks – in addition to UNFOLD ZERO – have been undertaking such an exploratory process. One example is the study undertaken by the Geneva Centre for Security Policy - [\*Security in a World without Nuclear Weapons: Visions and Challenges\*](#).

We encourage governments to also undertake such an exercise – either in the context of the OEWG or in some other form – in order to facilitate the phased elimination of the role of nuclear weapons in security doctrines. Those states who have abandoned reliance on nuclear weapons, or who have never relied on nuclear deterrence, may be able to assist those countries relying on nuclear deterrence to find and build confidence in such alternatives.

Thank you