

The Ad Hoc Group in hindsight

Jez Littlewood

December 5, 2023

Third Session of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the BWC
Panel session on compliance and verification

Bottom Line up Front

- 1) A decade of effort: from 3RC to AHG the process was long and challenging.
- 2) That experience is a point of reference going forward: not a starting point.
- 3) Hybrid, evolutionary and incremental approaches to strengthening the Convention are viable options.
- 4) Task is not binary: try to avoid a mindset of only legally binding verification versus anything but legally binding verification.

The past

A lost decade?

- Process with at least 4 decision spaces: 3RC; VEREX; SPCONF; AHG.
- None were simple or easy decisions.
- Investment in time, money, and effort.

20+ years after

- Some concepts are still valid, but the content needs significant attention.
- Cannot ignore experiences in other areas.
- Compliance and Cooperation are not in competition .

Going forward

	Voluntary	Politically Binding (Bio-disarmament regime)	Politically Binding (Convention)	Legal (Bio-disarmament regime)	Legally binding (Convention)
States					
Inter-governmental / International Organizations					
Regional					
National					
Private Sector					
Individuals / Groups					