



Views of Switzerland pursuant to resolution 79/240 "Group of Scientific and Technical Experts on Nuclear Disarmament Verification (GSTE-NDV)" adopted by the General Assembly on 24 December 2024, in accordance with the request of the UN Secretary-General contained in Note Verbale ODA/2025-00037/ NDV

General Position

Switzerland supports the establishment of a Group of Scientific and Technical Experts on Nuclear Disarmament Verification (GSTE-NDV), as referenced by General Assembly Resolution 79/240. Such a Group would offer a timely and practical opportunity to advance nuclear disarmament verification (NDV) through structured, multilateral, and technical dialogue. Switzerland considers the establishment of such a Group consistent with the UN Secretary-General's recommendations to expand participation in NDV discussions and promote inclusive technical engagement. Switzerland emphasizes the importance of strengthening technical cooperation across fora, including between the UN framework, the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification (IPNDV), and regional initiatives. Coordinated technical work is key to preparing for future disarmament agreements and ensuring that verification serves as an enabler, not an obstacle.

Added Value of a GSTE-NDV

Switzerland considers the establishment of a GSTE-NDV as a valuable step in advancing multilateral engagement in NDV and strengthening the international verification architecture. Its added value would lie in:

- Providing a dedicated technical platform for enhancing knowledge, methods, and procedures relevant to NDV;
- Contributing to the disarmament efforts under multilateral instrument, including the NPT, by addressing verification as a key principle for sustainable progress;
- Facilitating problem-solving on outstanding verification challenges that have hindered past disarmament discussions;
- Supporting future disarmament negotiations through the preparation of practical toolkits, techniques, and procedures for monitoring and inspections;
- Advancing a shared understanding among nuclear-weapon states, other nuclear-armed states, and non-nuclear-weapon states.

Building on and Broadening NDV Efforts

Switzerland emphasizes the importance of building upon past and ongoing NDV initiatives, including the IPNDV and previous UN Groups of Governmental Experts (GGEs). A GSTE-NDV, under a UN mandate, would offer opportunities to:

- Broaden participation, particularly from developing states, thereby enhancing legitimacy and multilateral ownership;
- Reinforce continuity in technical work while fostering innovation and adaptation to new challenges;



- Strengthen international technical capacity, including through capacity-building and knowledge-sharing;
- Take account of emerging technologies, including digital tools, AI, and remote sensing, in shaping future verification strategies.

Mandate

Switzerland supports a clear and inclusive mandate for the GSTE-NDV that would enable it to:

- Serve as a multilateral platform for all states to contribute to the technical basis for future disarmament agreements, ensuring geographically broad and inclusive participation;
- Build upon and synthesize ongoing technical work, facilitating continuity and innovation;
- Address key verification challenges across the full disarmament lifecycle, including declarations, warhead removal, dismantlement, material conversion, safeguards, delivery systems, diversion risks, information protection, verification strategy and verification confidence;
- Promote capacity-building, especially for developing countries, to ensure that all states are able to effectively contribute to NDV work.

Modalities and Implementation

Switzerland considers the following modalities and parameters to be appropriate for a GSTE on NDV:

- A group, or a panel, of 20-25 experts, with equitable geographic and gender representation, consisting of nuclear-weapon states, other nuclear-armed states, and non-nuclear-weapon states;
- One-week sessions, held predominantly in Geneva to engage arms control and disarmament expertise, and in New York to reflect the global nature of this effort, with additional sessions in Vienna to draw on technical expertise;
- UNODA as the secretariat and UNIDIR as the provider of substantive support;
- Submission of the Group's reports to the UNGA with dissemination to other relevant bodies;
- Consideration of accessibility measures, including support for non-English-speaking participants through multilingual working documents, while acknowledging budgetary constraints.
- Switzerland supports a sustained effort over several years, while emphasizing the need for a flexible mandate that can adapt to evolving circumstances—for instance, if negotiations were to begin that could benefit from the GSTE's work.

Conclusion

Switzerland reaffirms its strong support for the establishment of a GSTE-NDV and sees such a development as an important milestone in reinforcing the technical foundations for future nuclear disarmament efforts. We are committed to engaging constructively in its work and contributing to a robust, inclusive, and forward-looking nuclear disarmament verification regime.