

# Follow the weasel...



...on a **magical** journey through reason and logic, in pursuit of our mutual goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.



Hello there! We weasels are **sincerely** committed to nuclear disarmament. Our **genuine** concern about the **humanitarian** consequences of nuclear weapons underpins everything we do to advance this goal.

On the other hand, we have to take **security** considerations and the international situation into account – which is our **weaselly** way of saying that we rely on nuclear weapons for our national security, and don't want anything that might oblige us to **change** that, while at the same time we don't want to give the impression that it's OK for other states to decide that they need nuclear weapons for their national security, as obviously that would **undermine** the NPT.

The NPT is the **cornerstone** of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. There is, however, no international legal regime for the **prohibition** and **elimination** of nuclear weapons. Such a regime does not exist. On the other hand, there is no **legal gap** with respect to the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons. Everything is just fine as it is, and we must move forward **together** to achieve that.



What does this mean for the **OEWG report**? We believe that any legal measure recommendation arising from this OEWG should not **replicate** what is already in existence. Why proceed with a legal measure, which will not have any prospect of engaging possessor states, but which we know duplicates binding legal commitments for the 185 other states party to the NPT – and which also may inconveniently **close** the NPT **loopholes** that allow us to rely on the nuclear weapons of others?

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Instead of replicating legal measures, we advocate replicating **recommendations**. The recommendations made at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 NPT review conferences have been proved to be **safe** and **convenient** over many years. Why not start with them?

Given the existing **polarization** in the disarmament community, as well as the dysfunctional CD and Disarmament Commission, we need to focus now more than ever on what is **effective** and **achievable**. Replicating old recommendations for things like early entry-into-force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and commencement of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty is **effective**, because it looks like progress while avoiding the need for us to do anything about our reliance on nuclear weapons, or to start difficult conversations with our allies. And it's obviously **achievable**, because it's been achieved several times already.



We are not talking of **recycled** ideas, but rather ideas that have a good chance of **succeeding**, and will still have just as a good a chance of succeeding after another **20 years**. We are not talking of maintaining the status quo, but of finding ways that avoid moving forward when we know the path is **difficult** and uneven.

We have a **road map** – so walk with us, walk with the **weasels**, towards creating the conditions for a world free of nuclear weapons, in full accordance with the NPT, including Article VI, in a **step-by-step** and **verifiable** way that promotes international **stability**, and is based on the principle of undiminished **security** for all.

Text taken from statements in the OEWG on 5 August 2016 by Germany and Australia, and from the Warsaw NATO summit. Additional text by Wildfire>\_.