



**United Nations Office  
for Disarmament Affairs**

**Remarks at Side Event on the  
International Group of Eminent Persons (IGEP)  
for a World without Nuclear Weapons**

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As delivered



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Your Excellency, State Minister Kunimitsu,

Your Excellency, Ambassador Viet,

Distinguished panelists

Ladies and gentlemen,

My sincere thanks to Japan for organizing this event. The Secretary-General and I have followed the work of the International Group of Eminent Persons (IGEP) with great interest, and I am pleased to offer a few words at the outset.

We are meeting at the opening of an NPT Review Conference that carries profound implications for our shared future. Nuclear risks are at their highest in decades. Trust between States continues to erode. Investments in nuclear arsenals are rising and stockpiles are growing. The tools we have built over generations to manage these risks – multilateral treaties, arms control agreements, transparency measures and sustained dialogue – are under serious pressure, as are the norms and principles they represent.

The NPT remains our most critical bulwark against the spread of nuclear weapons. Its credibility, however, depends on the commitment and political will of States, particularly in these challenging and turbulent times.

It is in precisely this context that the International Group of Eminent Persons (IGEP) report makes a direct and timely contribution. Rather than dealing in abstractions, it names the risks, underscores who bears primary responsibility, and sets out concrete steps across the full range of challenges, from crisis prevention and strategic dialogue to nuclear transparency and emerging technologies. That seriousness is exactly what this moment demands of States.

It is essential that the Review Conference enables concrete, flexible and good-faith engagement. The International Group has laid a solid foundation for such engagement and a path to meaningful progress.

I look forward to the discussion.

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