



2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Main Committee 1

4 May 2015

Statement by Mr. Sten Arne Rosnes
Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway

Mr. Chairman,

The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is the foundation for the global non-proliferation regime – and for our common goal of a world without nuclear weapons.

During this Review Conference, we must work constructively to produce a result that strengthens the NPT and its three pillars.

It is necessary to focus our attention on positive developments.

Five years ago, the 2010 NPT Review Conference expressed its deep concern with the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. The Oslo Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons in March 2013, and the two following conferences in Nayarit and Vienna, were successful; together they have raised awareness of the risks and consequences of a nuclear weapon detonation – intended as well as unintended.

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The Joint Statement on the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons is a clear manifestation of the importance of this perspective, with 160 states signing up to the statement delivered by Austria's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

We have also underlined our appreciation of the participation by the US and the UK at the Vienna Conference.

Norway has submitted a working paper on the Oslo Conference and its main findings, ref NPT/CONF.2015/WP27. In the summary of the chair of the Oslo conference, three main findings were identified:

- It is unlikely that any state or international body could address the immediate humanitarian emergency caused by a nuclear weapon detonation in an adequate manner and provide sufficient assistance to those affected. Moreover, it might not be possible to establish such capacities, even if it were attempted.
- The historical experience from the use and testing of nuclear weapons has demonstrated their devastating immediate and long-term effects. While political circumstances have changed, the destructive potential of nuclear weapons remains.
- The effects of a nuclear weapon detonation, irrespective of cause, will not be constrained by national borders, and will affect states and people in significant ways, regionally as well as globally.

Another important working paper on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons has also been submitted. This paper raises several important topics. One such topic is the fact based humanitarian perspective on nuclear weapons. The paper also underlines that: "the compelling body of evidence that has been represented to the international community since the last NPT Review Conference in 2010 has served to heighten awareness of the scale and

extent of the consequences and thus the risks that will persist until nuclear weapons are eliminated.”

We expect a clear commitment to the humanitarian perspective on nuclear weapons in the outcome of this conference. The outcome should also reflect the important contribution from civil society and NGOs, whose efforts we value greatly. The three conferences on humanitarian consequences will be presented at a side event on 6 May, co-hosted by Norway, Mexico and Austria.

Mr. Chairman,

The UK–Norway Initiative on Nuclear Warhead Dismantlement will continue as a crucial part of our efforts to fulfil Article 6. Hence, UK and Norway have submitted a working paper on the Initiative, and will be hosting two side events during this Rev Con.

We warmly welcome the launch of the International Partnership on Nuclear Disarmament Verification (IPNDV). Norway will chair the next plenary meeting of the partnership this autumn.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to a new working paper submitted by the five Nordic countries on nuclear disarmament, eloquently described by my Swedish colleague earlier today.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

