

„The Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons”, Oslo, 4-5 March 2013

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5. 3. 2013 - Session 4 – Conclusions

Thank you Madam State Secretary,

First of all, my delegation would like to thank the Norwegian Government for organizing this Conference.

We have greatly benefited from the presentations by the various experts and contributions made by other delegations.

We appreciate the positive role of Civil Society and the important efforts by ICAN that has been coordinating this input.

This Conference was an important milestone. It allowed us to have an objective discussion about the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, which was long overdue. It highlighted the anomaly that nuclear weapons are the only weapons of mass destruction that are not banned. And it further paved the way for progressively delegitimizing nuclear weapons.

This is an issue of a global dimension that concerns all of humanity. We all have a joint responsibility, in accordance with article VI of the NPT, to prevent any future use of nuclear weapons.

Existing mechanisms and initiatives have had significant success and will continue to be important. This Conference has underlined that there is a humanitarian imperative to redouble efforts to prevent any future intended or unintended nuclear detonations. Therefore it is of vital importance to continue these discussions. We thus welcome the offer by the Mexican Government to host a follow-up Conference.

An additional international instrument is needed to prohibit nuclear weapons. Such a treaty would be an important and much needed element to help prevent the future use of nuclear weapons and facilitate further concrete disarmament steps.

Switzerland will continue to actively participate in efforts to progressively delegitimize nuclear weapons and to advance preparatory steps leading us to a world without nuclear weapons.

This Conference has shown us how powerful the humanitarian dimension is as a driving force for action. With two thirds of the UN Membership present here in Oslo, this Conference has clearly been a success. And it sends a clear message to those States who have chosen not to participate that this issue is now firmly established on the international agenda.